GENDALL, John 19 January 1954

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Goods Porter	Walkaway	Shunting operations

John Gendall was 60 years of age when he died as the result of being crushed between two ballast hoppers while shunting at Walkaway. He was employed as a Goods Porter and acting as an assistant Guard at the time of the accident.

CRUSHED BY TRAIN, RAIL MAN DIES
GERALDTON, Tues.-While shunting at Walkaway this morning, a railway porter John Gendall (60), married, of Fitzgerald-street, Geraldton, was caught and crushed between two ballast hoppers. A private car sped him to the Victoria District Hospital but he was dead on arrival. At the time of the accident Mr. Gendall was acting as assistant guard on the ballast train.

Const. M. Davies is making inquiries.

Source: Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Wednesday 20 January 1954 Page 1.

Inquest
A SHUNTER DIES FROM CRUSHING
GERALDTON, Fri.
John Gendall (60)(sic.), married, of Fitzgerald-street, Geraldton died on January 19 from internal hemorrhage and shock received the same day when he was accidentally crushed between two railway trucks during shunting at Walkaway, the Coroner (Mr. K. H. Hogg, R.M.) found at an inquest here today.
Mr. Hogg added that no blame was attachable to the train crew.

Evidence was given that Gendall had been crushed between two ballast hoppers during railway shunting.

Source: Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 20 January 1954 Page 19.

Author's Note: *John Gendall' s age was over stated in the newspaper reports of the accident, he was in fact only 56.*

John lived in Geraldton and is interred at Geraldton Cemetery. John's wife Elizabeth Louisa (Tiny) Gendall lived a further 33 years and is also interred at Geraldton Cemetery.

GENDALL, Elizabeth Louisa (Tiny). 15 Jan 1987 aged 87
GENDALL, John. Husband of Tiny. 19 Jan 1954 aged 56

Source: Oz Burials/Geraldton Cemetery Records

GENDALL: On Tuesday, Jan. 19. 1954, accidentally killed at Walkaway, John, dearly beloved husband of Elizabeth Louisa (Tiny) Gendall, fond son-in-law of Herbert Wright, fond brother-in-law of Tom and Molly, dear uncle of Marie (East Chapman).

Source: Trove/ The West Australian Wednesday 20 January 1954 Page 1. Family Notices.

GENDALL: In loving memory of John, loving husband of our dear friend, Tiny. Elaine and family (Doodlakine).

Trove/ The West Australian Tuesday 26 January 1954 Page 1. Family notices.

Author's Note: The following is an email received from John Gendall's Niece Anna Wright 2 May 2016.

Hello Michael,
I have enclosed a couple of photos - neither is of good quality. [It looks as if I have chopped him off at the shoulders but that is not so!!]

I am also sending a few newspaper cuttings. You may need to scroll through all conversations to locate them.

RE:- JOHN GENDALL
I am, to my knowledge, his only living relative and was only 15 when he was killed - thus my knowledge is limited.
To me, as a young teenager, he was a kind man and very supportive of my aunt - she was crippled by polio at the age of 9.

To my knowledge John was his only Christian name. [One newspaper article suggested that he was also known as John Henry Gendall but that person was a different man.] He had grey-blue eyes, brown hair and was 5ft 4inches tall.

Other than the fact that it was limited, I know nil about his schooling.

He said he was born at Allendale, Victoria, the son of Thomas Henry Gendall, on December 4, 1897. His birth does not seem to have been registered.

He was seemingly in Western Australia by 1903.

His death certificate lists him as 50 years but that is incorrect for, if the birthdate he gave on entry to the AIF was correct, he was 56.

He said he had a half-sister - Ruby Pearl Bennetts, the daughter of Mary Ann Gendall. Additionally, his Army records name a brother - Samuel Henry Gendall. (Personally, I tend to think that he, along with John Thomas Gendall and Fanny Gendall [Mrs Simon Thornton] were, rather than siblings, his uncles and aunt.)

He served in France in WW1 and on Australian soil in WW2.
Prior to his first enlistment he was a horse trainer [seemingly trotters] and a labourer.

After he left the Army during WW2 he worked for the Tramways in Perth and then transferred to the railway in Geraldton.

He married Elizabeth Louisa Wright, known as Tiny, on December 24, 1942, in the Methodist Church, Victoria Park. She was the eldest of three children born [1899] to Joseph Herbert Wright and Elizabeth Ann Kirkup of *Durawah Farm,* East Chapman. Initially John and his wife lived in Sussex Street, Victoria Park, then at the Beach Cottages in Geraldton before moving to Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton.

There were no children.

John was buried in the Utakarra Cemetery, Geraldton.

I have no objection to you publishing any of the above and hope it is of some assistance with your project.
Anna M. Wright



