GIDNEY, William St.Clair 15 May 1948

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Fireman	Fremantle	Locomotive collision

William Gidney was 31 years of age when he was fatally injured as a result of jumping from the cab of his locomotive to avoid a head on collision with a runaway locomotive. William died from his injuries some time later in Fremantle Hospital. He lived at Armadale with his wife Beryl and daughter Julia and is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (ANGLICAN/LB/0106)

Runaway Loco Derails Train

Steaming out of Fremantle loco yard unattended this morning, after catapulting the fireman from the top of the tender while taking on coal a runaway engine crashed into a mixed goods train near the Fishmarkets jetty.

Driver of the oncoming train, Arthur Walter Weeks (59), of Railway ave. Armadale, saw the runaway approaching, yelled to his fire man, William Gidney (30), of Armadale, to jump. Weeks leaped to safety, suffered only abrasions and shock, but Gidney landed among the rocks of the retaining wall, was critically Injured. He sustained a fractured jaw, possible fracture of the skull and cerebral compression. ON DANGER LIST. He is on the danger list at Fremantle Hospital.

The impact of the crash smashed in the front of the goods train engine, threw the van behind it on top of the following truck, which was loaded with coal.

Gidney, as he lay sprawled among the rocks, was showered with coal dust.

The runaway loco picked up speed as it left Fremantle. It passed through Fremantle control centre before it could be diverted towards South Beach. Fireman Douglas Gordon (21), of Fremantle loco sheds, accompanied by a cleaner, jumped on to a motorcycle and chased after the bolting loco, Intending to intercept it at the Fishmarkets Jetty. But they were unable to catch it before the crash.

Source: *Trove/Mirror (Perth) Saturday 15 May 1948 Page 1.*