HODGE, Alfred Verdun 1 April 1948

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Railway Bus Driver	Cardup Bridge (Byford)	Shunting operations

Alfred "Alf" Hodge was 29 years of age when the semi-trailer bus he was driving "jack-knifed" when the brakes were applied on a wet road near the Cardup bridge. The bus crashed through the bridge railing, Alfred was impaled by part of it and was fatally injured. Alfred lived in Bunbury with his wife and they were expecting their first child. Alfred is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (ANGLICAN/OA/0481).

DRIVER STAKED, EIGHT HURT IN BUS CRASH.
Byford April 1.
The driver of a Government-owned 10-ton semi-trailer bus was staked and eight of its 40 passengers were injured when the bus crashed through the Cardup Bridge, near Byford, and ran 14ft. down a steep embankment early today. The bus swept away part of the bridge railing. Ambulance men had to cut a tree away before the driver, with a 3ft. length of 4in. by 3in. jarrah still in his body, could be carried away on a stretcher. He is Alfred Hodge (29), of Samson Road, Bunbury. His wife is expecting their first child soon.

One of the first to reach the scene of the crash was Constable T. W. Smith, of Mundijong. He did not know until he got there that the driver of the bus was Hodge, his brother-in-law.

According to reports to the police the bus was travelling about 35 mph when approaching the bridge near Byford (about 24 miles from Perth). The driver noticed a utility on the bridge and applied his brakes. The bus skidded on the rain soaked road and the tractor section swung to the left almost at right angles to the bus body, making it impossible for the driver to control the bus. As it swept along the bridge, tearing off railings, the tractor section bore the main brunt of the impact, thus probably saving bus passengers from more serious injury.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Thursday 1 April 1948 Page 1.*