JAQUES, James John 24 February 1903

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Shunter	Millar's Siding Bunbury	Shunting operations

James Jaques was 27 years of age when he was run over and killed while shunting at Bunbury. James was single and lived with his parents at Gelorup. He was interred at Bunbury Cemetery. James' brother, Charles, would be killed in a shunting accident at West Perth in 1924.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT
Bunbury 25 February
A young man named James Jaques met with a sudden and horrible death at the local railway yard yesterday evening about. 5 o'clock. From information supplied us by the District Superintendent, Mr. Snell, it appears that the deceased, who was a Porter, was assisting shunter Vidler in the yard, as he had often done in the past, and was occupied in shunting operations , when he met with such a tragic death. An engine was engaged pushing a string of trucks on to another siding, the custom of shunters being to jump off and set the points before the trucks could reach them. Jaques was sitting on one of the trucks,the engine moving at the rate of about two miles an hour, and when nearing the points he attempted to jump off as usual, when his arm or portion of his clothing apparently caught the side or end of the truck which caused him to lose his balance and fall. The wheels of the truck passed over the unfortunate man's chest, and death must have been almost instantaneous. The engine was immediately stopped, and the body taken from beneath the wheels and conveyed to the morgue. The deceased was a single man of 27 years, and was a well known resident of Bunbury, his mother and sister residing at Gelorup. There are two brothers also, William, residing at Midland Junction, and an elder brother, Charles, who has been employed in the railway yards at Bunbury for the past seven years. The deceased had been stationed at Bunbury since November 1900, and was regarded by his fellow workers as a very cautious and steady man. A formal inquest was commenced at the morgue this morning, but was adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday morning. The deceased was a member of the A. O. Foresters, the members of which body, draped with black sashes, marched to the place of interment, at the Bunbury Cemetery, this afternoon, the Rev H. Darling conducting the burial service. The C.R. (Bro. H. W. Sharpe) conducted the Foresters' burial service, while Mr W. Brittain attended to the obsequies. A. touching token of esteem was shown by poor Jaques' comrades, who also marched in the procession, for they purchased a wreath, which was laid on the grave, at their request, by the District Superintendent, Mr Snell, and which bore the following inscription : — "A token of respect and esteem from his fellow workers."

Source: *Trove/Bunbury Herald (WA) Wednesday 25 February 1903 Page 2.*

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.
THE INQUEST.
An inquest was held this morning at the Court House touching the death of James Jaques, who was killed at the local railway yard on Tuesday last. The enquiry was conducted by the coroner, Mr W. H. Tiraperley, and a jury consisting of Messrs H. B. Erskine (foreman'), Aylett, and Crocker.

William Henry Williams, engine driver, stated that he was, driving engine No 6 at the jetty on the day of the accident, the fireman was Martin, the shunter A. Vidler, was also on the engine ; deceased, the assistant shunter, was standing in one of the trucks, which consisted of a train of six empty wagons. Jaques had just come on duty to assist Shunter Vidler; the accident happened near the points at Millar's siding ; the deceased was riding in the leading end, of the second truck on the right hand side ; about 50 yards from Millar's points witness saw the deceased climb out of the truck and rest, in between the second truck on the buffer planks ; immediately afterwards the deceased

jumped on to the ground ; witness then saw the truck jump and came to the conclusion that the truck had left the rails; witness immediately reversed the engine and stopped almost instantly; witness, with Shunter Vidler, jumped off. the engine and went to the truck, and found Jaques lying across the rail, face upwards; witness, with assistance, lifted the deceased, from off the rail and placed him in the truck and ran down to the railway station ; the trucks were of the high box class, each weighing about three and a half tons ; the rate of speed when deceased jumped off was about two or three miles an hour ; everybody was perfectly sober ; it was the usual thing for shunters to jump off moving trucks ; the points were on the opposite side to which deceased jumped off, which necessitated crossing the line to set them.

Robert Arthur Vidler, shunter, gave similar corroborative evidence, stating that as far as he could judge three trucks passed over the deceased ; witness had only been in the yard at Bunbury for about a week, but witness believed deceased understood his work ; Jaques had operated these points previously and knew their position quite well ; the place where deceased dropped off the truck was at a high grade curve, and had deceased dropped off on the inner Side there would not have been less risk of falling under the wheels ; deceased had no occasion to cross the line as he should have got off on the left hand side, on which side the points are situated.

Henry George Zeplin, a lad about eight years of age, said he was walking along the railway near Hislop's and saw an engine pushing some trucks along ; saw the deceased run along the side of the trucks and attempt to cross the line in front of the trucks when he slipped and fell, three trucks passing over him ; witness heard deceased scream once ; the engine then stopped and the man was pulled from under the trucks ; witness was only five or six yards from the trucks when the deceased was run over.

Charles Jaques, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification.

Mr Snell, the district superintendent, stated that the deceased had been in the service for three or four years and was thoroughly conversant with his duties ; he thought deceased was an apt and able man.

THE FINDING.
After a short, retirement a verdict of accidental death was returned, no blame being attachable to anybody.

Source: *Trove/Bunbury Herald (WA) Friday 27 February 1903 Page 2.*