# LITTLETON, John Noah 8 February 1938

| Designation | Accident Location | Accident Due to |
|---|---|---|
| Driver | Fremantle | Struck by passing train |

John Littleton was 62 years of age when he died instantly as the result of being struck and run over by a train entering Fremantle Station. He was oiling his engine at the time. John lived at Mount Lawley with his wife and they had three adult children. He was interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (WESLEYAN/GA/0102).

**Engine Kills Driver at Fremantle**
While oiling his engine at Fremantle railway station today, 62-year-old engine driver John Littleton of 356 Lord-street, Mt. Lawley, was killed by an incoming passenger train. Littleton must have been killed instantly. He received shocking injuries. His right arm was severed at the shoulder and his head and body were crushed. Littleton's body was carried about 50 feet along the line before being thrown clear.

According to a report made to the Fremantle police station Littleton was the driver of a train which reached Fremantle from Perth at 7.32 a.m. today. The train was due to leave on the return trip at 7.57 a.m.

**Oiling**
His fireman, J. P. Higgins, of Southport-street, Leederville, told the police that he last saw Littleton a minute before he was killed. Littleton was then standing on the railway track oiling the engine, which was stationary at No. 1 platform. Littleton apparently did not hear the incoming train from Perth, which arrived at 7.50 a.m. As it entered the station to proceed to No. 2 platform the engine, which was travelling tender first, struck Littleton.

**Crouching?**
It was thought that at the time Littleton may have been in a crouching position examining his engine and the parts he had oiled. Inquiries were made at the scene of the accident by Constable Regan.

The driver of the train which struck Littleton was W. Anderson, of Midland Junction.

Littleton was a married man with three children.

An inquest will be held.

***Source:*** *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Tuesday 8 February 1938 Page 4.*

**Engine Drivers Death**
**CORONER EXONERATES TRAIN CREW**
Today, when the Acting Coroner (Mr. F. Samson, J.P.) conducted an inquiry into John Littleton's death, he returned an accidental death finding, with no blame attachable to the crew of the train, which killed Littleton. Both the driver and fireman of the train concerned in the tragedy told the Coroner that their vision was obscured by steam, which was blowing off from Littleton's engine.

Cecil Kay, loco fireman, of Newcastle Road, Midland Junction, said that he was fireman on the train which struck Littleton ' 'When we entered Fremantle railway station at 7.50 a.m. on February 8, he said "I noticed steam issuing from the engine at. No. .2. platform. The atmosphere was moist, making the steam curl back, and it was too thick for me to see through. When our engine got

through the steam I saw Littleton step in front of our engine. He had an oilcan in his hand. I called to the driver, who brought the train to a standstill. We struck Littleton, who was dead when we made an examination."

**"I KILLED YOUR MATE"**

The driver of Kay's engine, William Robert Anderson, of First Avenue, Midland Junction, confirmed the fireman's statement that their vision was obscured by steam. Apparently the deceased walked over on to the second set of rails to avoid, the steam. It was normal procedure for a railway man to adopt. That steam was blowing off from his engine was stated by James Patrick Higgins, loco, fireman of Southport Street, Leederville, who was working with the deceased. He said that Littleton had opened the blow-off cock himself. The last he saw of Littleton was when he was on the ground, apparently oiling the engine.

About 7.50 a.m. on February 8, 63-year-old engine driver John Littleton, of 366 Lord Street, Mt. Lawley, was killed by a train entering Fremantle railway Station Just before his death he had been oiling his engine, which was stationary at No. 1 platform and was struck by an incoming train drawing into No. 2 platform. The blowing off of steam caused some noise. Higgins said he did hot hear the other train approach, and the first he knew of the tragedy was when the driver came up and said 'I killed your mate.'

**MANY INJURIES**

Charles R. Richardson, railway porter, Fremantle, said that he heard a whistle sounded by the train which killed Littleton, before it entered the station.

Dr. A. K. Bean, police surgeon, who made an external examination of Littleton's body, said that death was due to multiple injuries. One arm had been torn off and deceased's face extensively injured.

Sgt. Nicholson assisted the coroner.

***Source:*** *Trove/The Daily News (Perth)* Thursday 24 February 1938 Page 2.