LYON, John Barker 26 August 1927

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Labourer	Meekatharra	Struck by wagon

John Lyon was fatally injured when he was crushed between wagons loaded with rails and a stack of sleepers. He died later in hospital. There is no easily accessible record regarding his age, marital status or place of burial.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT MEEKATHARRA.
Before Mr. L. A. McCarthy, J.P., acting Coroner, an inquest was held on August 29th concerning the death of John Barker Lyon, who died as a result of injuries received by being crushed between a loaded railway truck and a stack of sleepers at the Manganese railway depot.

Joseph Lynch, an employee of the Company gave evidence as follows: - I am employed by the Manganese Company at Meekatharra. I remember Wednesday, 24th August. Between 2 and 3 p.m. on that date I was employed on the bolt machine at the Manganese railway depot. I looked round and saw deceased with his hands above his head, apparently jammed between the stack of sleepers and a truck. I did not hear him cry out. I called out 'Apply the brakes.' This was done immediately by William King. I took no part in the removal of deceased, but went and got the stretcher.

Thomas Lyons said: I am a labourer on the Manganese line. I remember Wednesday, 24th August. Between 2 and 3 p.m. I was employed screwing bolts off at a stack situated in the Manganese railway depot. I saw nothing of the accident. On Friday, 26th August I visited the Morgue in company with Constable Johnson and identified the body of the deceased, John Barker Lyon.

William Arthur Robins said: I am employed by the Manganese Company at Meekatharra. I remember August 24th. Between 2 and 3 p.m. on that date I was working on the bolt machine. I saw a truck of rails being pushed along and deceased was at the front with his hand on the brake. A few seconds afterwards I heard a call and saw Lyon between a truck and the sleeper stack. He was turned completely round and I called to men on the brake at the back to apply the brakes which was immediately done. I ran across and jumped up on the truck and helped deceased up to the truck. His body was then free of the truck and sleepers.

William King said: I am a laborer in the employ of Manganese Company. At between 2 and 3 p.m. on August 24th I was employed loading a truck with rails. I had finished loading the rails. I was pushing the truck along to get further loading of fishplates, etc. I heard a scream and a shout. I applied the brake, ran to the front of the truck and saw deceased jammed between the sleepers and truck. I assisted to remove deceased from that position. Deceased was about 3 feet from the front of the truck when jammed. I observed after releasing deceased that the front brake was on but not jammed down. I should say it was about one foot to 18 inches from the nearest portion of the truck to sleepers. The nearest portion of the truck to the sleepers is the brake handle. The deceased was free from the position in which he had been crushed. I consider he was caught while applying the brake. The truck was travelling very slowly and went four of five feet after I heard the scream.

Dr. Royden Herbert Minton Connell, Resident Medical Officer at Meekatharra, certified that on August 24th he admitted John Barker Lyons to the Meekatharra Hospital. He was suffering severely from shock and in great pain. On examination he found three or four ribs broken on the right side, and various cuts and abrasions on body and limbs. Deceased took a bad turn on the morning of the 26th and died in about three quarters of an hour. The cause of death was crushing injuries to right lung and internal hemorrhage.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

Source: *Trove/Geraldton Guardian (WA) Saturday 10 September 1927 Page 1.*