MERRICK, Eric "Joe" Joseph 10 December 1953

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Length Runner	York	Fall from PW trolley

Eric "Joe" Merrick was 53 years of age when he was involved in a collision between two per way trolleys. Apparently uninjured he and the driver of the other trolley, which was destroyed, Les Cant, then rode one of the trolleys toward York, Eric fell from this second trolley and was later pronounced dead on arrival at York District Hospital. He left behind his wife Mabel and three daughters, aged 18, 16 and 9. Eric lived in York with his family and is interred at York Cemetery, as is his wife.

Information provided by his grandson Shayne Hooper on behalf of his mother, Eric's daughter, Shirley Hooper (80).

FATAL FALL FOLLOWS RAIL TRICYCLE SMASH
YORK, Thursday.
A man survived, apparently unhurt, an accident involving two rail motor tricycles today but died in a subsequent fall from one of the machines. The victim was Eric ("Joe") Merrick, "of Avon - terrace, York. He was a length runner employed by the West Australian Government Railways. About 3 p.m., while Mr. Merrick was returning from Spencer's Brook on is way to York, he was involved in an accident with a motor tricycle which Leslie James Cant, a W.A.G.R. work and buildings foreman, of Northam had been driving.

Mr. Cant was travelling from York to Spencer's brook. When about 31 miles from York he saw Mr. Merrick approaching. He dismounted from his machine but had no time to remove it from the rails before Mr. Merrick's tricycle smashed into it, damaging it extensively. Mr. Merrick received no apparent injury in the accident. The men removed the damaged tricycle from the rails and then went on towards York on Mr. Merrick's machine, with Mr. Merrick in the driver's seat at the rear and Mr. Cant on the seat in front.

Cried Out
About a mile from the York station Mr. Cant heard his companion cry out. When he looked round he saw Mr. Merrick falling on the sleepers between the rails. Mr. Cant tried to stop the machine but the throttle would not cut out properly and he had to climb into the driver's seat before he could bring the machine to a halt about 200yds. farther-on.

Mr. Merrick was taken to hospital but was found to be dead on arrival. Mr. Merrick was a well known York resident. He leaves a widow and three daughters.

Sergeant A. E. Beard, of The York police, has charge of die investigations.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday 11 December 1953 Page 1.*

FAMILY AND FUNERAL NOTICES
MERRICK. Eric (Joe): The Friends of the late Eric Merrick, late of Avon Terrace, York, and Length-Runner, W.A.G.R., are respectfully informed that his remains will be interred in the Roman Catholic portion of the York Cemetery. The Funeral is appointed to leave the Funeral Parlor, Avon-terrace, at 11 o'clock THIS (Saturday) MORNING.
S. HARVEY.
Funeral Director, York.

MERRICK, Eric (Joe): Dearly beloved husband of Mabel. Father of Betty, Shirley. and Josephine R.I.P.

MERRICK, Eric (Joe): Dec. 10. 1953, at York. accidentally killed, loved brother-in-law of Evelyn and Doug, fond uncle of Laurel, Peter. Robin and Bruce. Ever remembered.

MERRICK. Eric (Joe): Brother in-law of Elsie and Jim, uncle of Jean, Jim. Hazel, Devin Walker. One of the best.

MERRICK, Eric (Joe): In memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle. Inserted by Percy, Lena, and family.

MERRICK,. Eric (Joe): A tribute to the memory of our late brother. Eric, and deepest sympathy to his loved ones. Officers and Brothers York Lodge 85. R.A.O.B., G.L.E.

MERRICK, Eric (Joe): Fond memories of our workmate, and a good friend; sincere sympathy to Mrs. Merrick and family. So long, Joe. From York Gang.

MERRICK (Eric Joseph): In memory of Joe, esteemed member and workmate. Inserted by Officers and Members. Railway Employees Union, York Branch.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 12 December 1953 Page 48.*