MITCHELL, Benjamin Edward 6 November 1936

Friday, 25 November 2016
8:53 AM

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Foreman	Fernbrook	PW Tricycle/ Train collision

Benjamin Mitchell was 57 years of age when he was struck by a passing train and fatally injured while attempting to move his PW tricycle from its path. The accident occurred at Fernbrook not far from Alanson in the Southwest of WA. Benjamin lived at Bunbury and is interred at Bunbury Cemetery.

COLLIE
RAILWAY FATALITY
INQUEST
Verdict of Accidental Death
COLLIE Nov. 13.
After an inquiry into the death of Benjamin Mitchell, inspector of works and buildings, who was killed on the railway line near Fernbrook on November 6, the Acting Coroner, Mr. S. Simpson, found that Mitchell died from shock, after being struck by a locomotive, no blame being attachable to anyone.

Mitchell was fatally injured while endeavoring to move a motor tricycle, on which he was travelling, from the path of an oncoming locomotive. The coroner considered that the train crew did everything possible to avoid an accident.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA)* Saturday 14 November 1936 Page 4.

RAILWAY OFFICER'S DEATH.
Coroner Exonerates Train Crew.
COLLIE, Nov. 13.
How a railway offcer was fatally injured while endeavoring to move a motor tricycle on which he was travelling from the path of an oncoming locomotive was told in the Collie Coroner's Court today, when an inquiry was held into the death of Benjamin Mitchell, inspector of works and buildings, who was killed on the railway line near Fernbrook on November 6. The Acting-Coroner (Mr. S. Simpson, J.P.) found that Mitchell died from shock after being struck by a locomotive, no blame being attachable to anyone. He considered that the train crew did every thing possible to avoid an accident. Sergeant W. Herrick examined the witnesses, and Mr. F. Wood represented the Commissioner of Railways.

Vincent Reynolds Hughes, driver of the locomotive that struck deceased, said that that day he was driving a mixed train from Brunswick Junction to Collie. After leaving the new Fernbrook station, the train crossed Millbrook bridge and ran into a deep cutting. The engine whistle was blown loudly when the train was approaching the bridge. In the cutting, the view was very restricted, but he noticed the rear end of a motor tricycle and immediately applied the brakes. He noticed a man attempting to get the tricycle off the line, but lost sight of him when the engine was about 15 yards away. The engine stopped about ten yards past the tricycle and witness ran back to find the man, apparently badly injured, lying beside the rails. First-aid was rendered and the man was placed in the guard's van and rushed to Collie. Cyril Jack, loco fireman, of Collie, gave similar evidence. Evidence was given also by Roy Lance Franklin Mow, guard of the train, and Dr. Ronald Cameron. Dr. Cameron

said that deceased suffered a fractured leg, injuries to the head and profound shock. He died from shock about three hours after the accident.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 14 November 1936 Page 16*