MORRISON, John Alexander 6 March 1913

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Porter	Kalgoorlie	Shunting operations

John Morrison was 23 years of age when he was fatally injured while engaged in shunting duties at Kalgoorlie. John was single and lived with his mother in Kalgoorlie, He was interred in the Presbyterian section of the Kalgoorlie Cemetery.

KALGOORLIE RAILWAY FATALITY
DEATH OF JOHN A MORRISON.
CORONIAL INQUIRY.
ACCIDENTAL DEATH.
An inquest was held in Kalgoorlie yesterday before Mr. P. Wheelen, J.P., deputy coroner, and a jury comprising Messrs, M. O'Rtilly (foreman), E. L. Barnard and P. : McMorrow, touching the circumstances of the death of John Alexander Morrison, who was fatally injured in the Kalgoorlie railway station yard on the morning of March 6. Corporal Hannah appeared for the police.

Dr. Arkle deposed that about 20 minutes' to 8 o'clock on March 6 he received a call to the railway station, where he found a man lying on a stretcher in a small room. He was suffering severely from shock. One leg was nearly severed near the hip joint. The other leg was mangled near the knee. He injected morphia, and sent the man to the Government Hospital. Morrison was not then dead.

To the Deputy Coroner : Morrison did not make any statement to him.

Dr. Mathews, D.M.O., said that on March 6 he made a post-mortem examination of the deceased. The witness described the injuries and said that death was due to shock. Morrison was dead when he saw him a few minutes after 8 o'clock.

William George Morrison, brother of the deceased, residing at 120 Cheetham Street, Kalgoorlie, said that he was employed on the Goveminent railways. On March 6 he was present at the morgue and identified the body of the deceased, his brother had until the time of his death been shunting constantly for three weeks or a month.

Robert Lindsay, engine driver, employed on the Government railways, deposed that on March 6 he was shunting in the Kalgoorlie railway yard. He went on duty about 4.20a.m. (The witness described shunting operations with the deceased about 7.30 p.m.) The deceased set the points for No. 7 road, and gave witness a 'kick' signal, to 'kick' the trucks into No. 7 road. Whilst witness was 'kicking,' the deceased went out of his sight between an Xa (coal hopper) and a truck of sleepers. He next saw the deceased throw his arm out from between the two trucks. That was a 'stop' signal. He immediately applied the brakes, and almost at the same time he heard screams. After he had stopped his engine he went to the deceased and found that the leading pair of wheels, of the Xa had passed over part of his legs and body. Deceased was then lying with his legs between the rails, and the middle of his body across the rails. The leading wheel of the trailing bogie truck was against him. He then sent for a doctor and an ambulance stretcher. During that time witness and hisfire man and Examiner Marshall lifted the deceased out. When the ambulance arrived the deceased was taken to a room. Had the deceased lifted the 'chopper' joining the two wagons and would need to have gone between the trucks after he had given the signal to go, ahead. Morrison might have slipped on the rail as he was coming out.

To the Jury:' The usual thing was' to lift the 'chopper' joining the two trucks and' then give the signal to go ahead. He could not say if the 'chopper' was up. The deceased was not' supposed to go between the trucks to lift the 'chopper' after he had given the signal.

To the Deputy Coroner: He thought it was necessary for a shunter to have a considerable amount of experience before being sent to do a shunter's work.

William Cherry, fireman on the Government railways, residing at No. 267 Eagle Street, who was on the engine with Driver Lindsay, gave corroborative evidence.

Robert Marshall, carriage examiner, residing in Collins-street, Kalgoorlie, said that he was on duty at the time of the accident. The witness gave corroborative evidence.

John L. Gallagher, acting traffic inspector, explained to the deputy coroner that the deceased was regarded as a painstaking shunter who would not willfully expose himself to danger. There was a regulation against a shunter exposing himself to danger.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased met his death on March 6 while shunting in the Kalgoorlie railway yards, no blame being attachable to anyone.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Friday 14 March 1913 Page 2.*

FUNERAL NOTICES.
MORRISON. The Friends of Mrs. Janet Agnes Morrison are respectfully invited to follow the remains Of her late dearly beloved Son (John Alexander) to the Presbyterian portion of the Kalgoorlie cemetery. The funeral will leave her residence, No. 120 Cheetham Street, at 4 o'clock, This Day (Friday), March 7, 1913.
A. and J. Kyle, Undertakers, Cassidy-street.
Telephone 23

W.A. A. Society of Railway Employees.
Members of the above association are requested to attend the Funeral of their late Comrade JOHN ALEXANDER MORRISON. The Funeral will leave his late residence, No. 120 Cheetham Street, Kalgoorlie, at 4 p.m. Today (Friday), March 7.
C. List,
Secretary.

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Author's Note: *some time later, John's mother was awarded compensation of 300 Pounds ($600) for the loss of her son. Even in 1913 this would have been a paltry sum for someone's life.*