Mc NESS, William Henry, 7 June 1917

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Fireman	Jarrahdale	Locomotive derailment and rollover

FUNERAL NOTICES.
McNESS.-The Friends of the late Mr. William Henry McNess, fireman, of Jarrahdale, are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Karrakatta Cemetery, The Funeral is appointed to leave his mother's residence, 665 Newcastle Street, Leederville, at 2.30 o'olock THIS (Saturday) AFTERNOON, per road. Friends wishing to attend the Funeral may proceed by the 3 o'clock train leaving Perth,
BOWRA and O'DEA, Undertakers, 195
Pier-street. Perth. Tel, A4368.

FUNERAL NOTICES.
METROP. AND SOUTH-WESTERN FEDERATED ENGINE-DRIVERS' AND FIREMEN'S UNION OF W.A.
McNESS:-. Members of the above are requested to attend the Funeral of our late Comrade Mr. William Henry McNess. The Funeral will leave the residence of his mother, Mrs. E. McNess, 665 Newcastle-Street, Leederville, THIS DAY, at 2.30 p.m., for Karrakatta Cemetery. Members are requested to proceed by the 3 p.m. train from Perth.
E. MOHR, President,
J. BREYDON, Secretary.
Trades Hall, Perth.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth)* **Saturday 9 June 1917** Page 1.

THE JARRAHDALE TRAGEDY.
A BOY ARRESTED.
TAMPERING WITH POINTS ADMITTED.
At Jarrahdale yesterday Detective Sergeant Condon and Detective Muller arrested a 11 year old boy named Edward Kirchner on a charge of having unlawfully displaced the railway points at the 20-mile. This tender on Thursday and the death of fireman William McNess. Telegraphing the news of the arrest to Inspector Mann yesterday Detective Sergeant Condon stated that the boy had admitted the offence. Details of the tragedy show that the engine was drawing a tender and an empty rake of tracks towards the forest where the trucks were to be loaded. The displacing of the points caused engine and tender to leave the line and overturn. At the time three men were on the locomotive the driver, a passenger, and fireman McNess. The two former got clear with bruises but McNess was completely pinned beneath the overturned tender. Only one arm protruded.

An inquest was opened yesterday and adjourned until the 18th inst.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth)* Saturday 9 June 1917 Page 7.

POINTS TWISTED
THE JARRAHDALE TRAGEDY
JURY MAKES' A SUGGESTION.
BOY CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.
That a different system of working the railway points on Millars' track at Jarrahdale be employed, was recommended yesterday by the jury who heard the evidence . at Jarrahdale, when the inquiry respecting the death of Fireman McNess was concluded before Acting Coroner Watkins.

The points now used are known as 'Irish' points. There is no gear that prevents these points being altered by anyone not entitled to do so, and it was manifested yesterday during the examination of witnesses by Inspector Walsh, who conducted the inquiry, that more modern points, that could be locked, could be installed without difficulty. McNess was killed at a spot 20 miles from Jarrahdale, on June 7, by a locomotive turning over after running off the line at the points. When McNess was dug out from under the cab there was not an abrasion on his body, with the exception of a slight bruise on the left hip. No bones were fractured and there was no bleeding. McNess died from shock. At the inquest, Edward Kirchner, 11 years old, who was arrested by Detective Sergeant Condon and Detective Muller, on a charge of tampering with the points, was in custody. Mr. Jackson appeared for Millars' Timber and Trading Company, and Mr. Breydon, of the Trades Hall, watched the case on behalf of the union, of which deceased was a member.

Men present when the accident occurred, the crew of the train that passed over the points the previous night, Detective-Sergeant Condon, Constable Bake, who examined the points immediately after the accident, Dr. Love grove, and Ernest Kirchner, accused's brother, gave evidence.

At the conclusion of evidence, the Coroner summed up the facts to the jury, who, after 20 minutes retirement, brought in a verdict that deceased died from shock, through the locomotive turning over, the accident being caused by Edward Kirchner, with no malicious intent, twisting round the points. A rider was added to the effect that points of the kind, used at Jarrahdale should be protected by a lock or some device which would, prevent them being interfered with by anyone but the company's workmen detailed for railway duty.

Manslaughter Charge.
Edward Kirchner was then charged with manslaughter, and was sent for trial. Bail was allowed, and was fixed at one surety of £25.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth)* Friday 22 June 1917 Page 8.