PHILPOTT, Walter 3 April 1913

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Labourer	Midland Junction	Crushed by steam crane

Walter Philpott was 50 years of age when he was caught in the coal grab of a crane at the Midland Loco Depot and died instantly. Walter lived at Midland with his wife Ada and their eight children. Walter was interred at Midland Cemetery (ANGLICAN/C/0045).

FUNERAL.
The funeral of the late Mr. Walter Philpott, who was killed while working on a steam crane at the Midand Junction loco yards, took place on the 5th inst., the remains being interred in the Anglican Cemetery, Midland Junction. The chief mourners were Mrs. Philpott (widow), Ada, Ethel, Florence , Hilda and Vera Philpott (daughters), Walter, Albert, and Frederick Philpott (sons). Messrs. M. Kennedy, G. Tilbee, J. O'Mara, and J. J. Howell acted as pall-bearers. The foreman of the loco running sheds (Mr. T. Jolly) was present as representative of the workshops. Many beautiful floral tributes were received. The Rev. Dr. Parish officiated at the grave, and the funeral arrangements were conducted by Messrs. Farrall Bros.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 15 April 1913 Page 8.*

CRUSHED TO DEATH.
A TERRIBLE END.
A man named Walter Philpott, who was employed in the Midland Junction loco yards, met his death in a tragically sudden manner yesterday. Owing to the coal stack at what is known as Hoskin's dump having caught fire a large quantity of coal was being shifted by means of a steam crane, and Philpottt was on the lower staging feeding the scoop attached to the crane. There was no eye witness of the actual accident, but it is supposed that the deceased slipped and fell on to the heap of coal and was caught by the scoop as it decended to take up a fresh load. Three men, named Dwyer, Kennedy and Clapp, who were working nearby had their attention attracted byhis cries and Turning saw the deceased firmly gripped by the stoop, dangling head downwards in mid-air. They, with the driver of the crane, Joseph Cuthbertson, immediately came to his assistance and released him, but Dr Clark, who arrived a few minutes later, found that death had been almost instantaneous.

Deceased, who was a married man living in Byers road, Midland Junction, started work in the yards only on Wednesday.

The body was removed to the morgue and an inquest opened before Mr G. Hiscox (acting coroner) and a jury consisting of Messrs Barnes, Willshire and Kline.

After formal evidence had been taken the inquiry was adjourned to the 9th inst.

Source: *The Swan Express (Midland Junction)* Friday 4 April 1913 Page 5.

THE RAILWAY FATALITY.
INQUEST CONCLUDED.
The death of Walter Philpott, when working on a steam crane in the Midland Junction Loco, yard on the 3rd inst., formed the subject of an inquiry on Wednesday by the Acting-Coroner (Mr. G. Hiscox) and a jury consisting of Messrs. J. B. Kline, C. Willshire, and W. .Barnes.

Thos. Jolly, acting loco, foreman in the loco, running shed, deposed to the identity of deceased, who was a married man, about 50 years of age. He resided with his wife and family of eight children in Byes-road, Midland Junction. On The 3rd inst. Witness put deceased to work on the coal dump, and he was engaged in making heaps coal for the grab to remove. Everything in connection with the crane was in good working order.

To P.C. Dodd: The work was not dangerous. There was no signal given to engine-driver by the man down below.

To the jury: The deceased was a steady man.

Dr. Clark stated that when he was alled to examine Philpott life was extinct. Death was due to the fracture of the spinal cord, and must have been instantaneous.

Gerald O'Dwyer deposed that he was engaged on fire brigade duty on some ashes which had caught fire at the coal dump. He heard a shout as if someone was in distress, and looking round saw he deceased caught in the coal grab and hanging about 10ft. from the ground. He shouted to the driver to lower the crane, and they released the deceased, who had been caught by the feet and the thigh.

T. Griffith a striker; who was also employed at the spot, said that when he heard the cry he thought it was Philpott signaling the driver of the crane. On the previous day he had heard Philpott signaling to move the grab on to the coal.

Joseph Cuthbertson, the driver of the crane, deposed that it took about five minutes from the time he was discovered to release Philpott. He could not see deceased when he dropped the grab as deceased was working under the coal stage. No signals were ever given by the deceased to raise or lower the crane. His opinion was that Philpott was knocked against the woodwork when the crane was swinging.

PC McKeown also gave evidence, and the jury found "That Walter Philpott came to his death from fracture of the spinal column in accordance with the medical testimony through being caught in the coal grab". They added a rider that they were of the opinion that a signalman should be employed on all works of a similar nature.-

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 15 April 1913 Page 8.*