PRENTICE, Alexander 31 August 1923

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Head Shunter	Fremantle	Shunting operations

Alexander Prentice was 53 years of age when he died instantly as the result of a shunting accident at Fremantle Railway Yard. The accident occurred as Alexander was attempting to execute a dangerous "Fly" shunt. Alexander lived with his wife, Annie, in Alma Street Fremantle and he was interred at Fremantle Cemetery (PRESBYTERIAN/MON E/0286).

RAILWAY FATALITY
HEAD SHUNTER KILLED IN ACCIDENT AT FREMANTLE.
Perth, Aug. 31.
Alexander Prentice (54), head shunter at the Fremantle railway yards was this morning supervising operations in connection with a rake of laden trucks when his foot became caught in a check rail, and before he could recover he was knocked down and dragged some yards. He sustained shocking injuries, death being inatantaneous. A truck had to be lifted by means of a jack before the unfortunate man's body could be liberated. He leaves a widow, but no family. He had been employed in the service for 12 years.

Source: *Trove/Western Argus (Kalgoorlie) Tuesday 4 September 1923 Page 9.*

ALEXANDER PRENTICE'S DEATH.
THE FREMANTLE RAILWAY TRAGEDY.
CORONER'S INQUEST.
The tragic death of head shunter Alexander Prentice at the Fremantle shunting yards on the morning of August 31 Was dealt with in the Fremantle Police Court this afternoon, when Mr. F. J. McLaren, J.P., was acting coroner in an inquest held into the matter. Sergeant Cassidy was in charge of proceedings, and Inspector Ansel appeared on behalf of the Railway Department.

Dr. Williams, district medical officer of Fremantle, said that he conducted a post mortem examination on the body of Alex Prentice on August 31. Prentice's right leg was severed below the knee, and the brain and skull were lacerated. Generally the body was badly mutilated.

Augustus Wyck, a shunter in the employ of the W.A.G.R., said that at 10 a.m. on August 31 he was on duty in the Fremantle railway yards. Prentice instructed witness that he was going to fly a rake of trucks that were attached to an engine. Witness went, to the points to adjust them for the shunt. Prentice was standing on the brake of a truck of coal. He was on the truck next to the engine. Prentice counted the track he was on to the other truck, and gave the driver the 'Go ahead' signal.
(Proceeding.)

Source: Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Wednesday 5 September 1923 Page 13.

Fremantle Railway Fatality.
A verdict of accidental death was returned yesterday by the acting Coroner Mr. F. J. McLaren. .T.P., at the inquest concerning the death at Fremantle on Friday of Alexander Prentice shunter at the Fremantle railway station. The evidence disclosed that the deceased gave the signal for a flying shunt with a rake of trucks. Deceased was seen to be standing on the brake of one of the trucks and later hanging onto a buffer with his feet dragging on the metals. When the trucks came to a standstill Prentice was found underneath one of the trucks and his head was jammed by a wheel. Life was extinct. One of the crew of the locomotive engaged in the shunting operations stated that

when the fly shunt had been made he saw the second shunter throw his hands up. Witness told his companion that he thought, -something had happened and when they examined the tracks they discovered that Prentice had been run over.

According, to the evidence no one actually knew the, circumstances under which deceased got on the line.

A police witness said that upon examining the rails in the vicinity of where the body, marks beside the check rail suggested that deceased had caught one of his feet in the rail.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Wednesday 5 September 1923 Page 8.*

FAMILY NOTICE
PRENTICE. On August 31, 1923 (as the result of an accident), Alexander, dearly beloved husband of Annie Prentice, of "Thrashbush", 31 Alma Street, Fremantle, and brother of Mrs. J Leggate, (Palmyra), and J. Prentice (Bunbury), aged 53 years.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth)* Saturday 1 September 1923 Page 1.