ROBERTSON, Douglas John 26 May 1935

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Sons of Gwalia Wood Line	Shunting operations

Douglas Robertson was 34 years of age when he was fatally injured at the 8 mile gate on the Gwalia Wood Line. Douglas fell as he alighted from a water tank attached to the engine, he was unable to get clear and was struck by the right hand cylinder and the drain cocks. Douglas died later that night in the Leonora Hospital. Douglas lived in Leonora with his with Alice and their 5 sons. He was interred at the Leonora Cemetery.

Author's Note: This death on duty was originally recorded as Douglas Robinson as a direct result of the name being incorrect in the first press reports. Later press reports corrected the error.

A FATAL SLIP.
Railway Guard's Death.
LEONORA, May 26.
When about to alight from a water wagon yesterday morning Douglas Robinson (*should be Robertson*) (34) married, a guard on the Sons of Gwalia wood-line, slipped and rolled against an embankment. He was unable to get clear of the engine and one of his legs was badly injured. He was taken to the Leonora Hospital, where the leg was amputated, but he died at 8 o'clock last night.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Monday 27 May 1935 Page 17.*

WOODLINE FATALITY.
Verdict of Accidental Death.
LEONORA, June 1.
The adjourned Inquest into the death of Douglas John Robertson, railway guard, who died as the result of an accident on the Gwalia woodline on May 25, was concluded the Leonora Courthouse today before Mr. R. B. Millar, JP., acting as coroner, and a jury of three. The jury returned a finding of accidental death with no blame attachable to anyone, and recommended that cattle pits be installed instead of gates on the line, that a telephone line should be erected along the line, and that the train carry a port able telephone set.

The inquest was conducted by Constable Trekardo. There were also present Mr. W. J. Jordan (Inspector of Machinery), Mr. C. Valentine (representing the Sons of Gwalia), and Mr. W. E. Robertson, who appeared on behalf of the relatives of the deceased. Stanley Roy Bailey, driver of the locomotive drawing a rake of wood to the Gwalia mine on May 25, said that Robertson was fireman and guard of the train. Approaching the 8 mile gate, deceased was standing on the buffers between two water tanks pushed by the engine. When 40 yards from the gate he attempted to alight to run ahead and open the gate while the train was in motion, the usual procedure. As he alighted he fell between the water truck and the bank of the cutting through which they were travelling, immediately witness saw him fall he reversed the engine and applied the hand brake, but it was not possible to stop the train in less than 15 or 20 yards. Deceased was struck by the right hand cylinder and the drain cock beneath the cylinder. As soon as the train came to a standstill witness ran back to see if he could of any assistance. He realized that medical aid was needed, and suggested that he cut the train and go for the doctor, but the deceased asked him not to leave him. Witness then proposed to put him on one of the trucks but he could not stand the pain of being lifted. Witness placed cotton wool over the wound, covered deceased with a bag, and made him as comfortable as possible, drove in on the engine and reported the accident.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Thursday 6 June 1935 Page 13.*

DEATHS

ROBERTSON. On May 25, at Gwalia, as the result of an accident, Douglas John Robertson, beloved husband of Alice, fond father of Ken, Bill, Maxwell, Peter and Murray.

ROBERTSON. On May 25, at Gwalia, as the result of an accident, Douglas John Robertson, beloved son of Mrs. E. Robertson, brother of Mary, Olive, Ted, Flo and Pearl.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Saturday 1 June 1935 Page 6.*