RUDDOCK, Robert 9 November 1897

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Repairer	Moonyoonooka	Unloading rails

Robert Ruddock died in Geraldton Hospital shortly after being seriously injured while unloading rails at Moonyoonooka nine miles (15.4km) from Geraldton. One end of the rail fell from the truck and the other end flew up and struck him in the abdomen, inflicting fatal injuries. No other information is currently available.

PECULIAR FATALITY NEAR GERALDTON.
GERALDTON, November 10.
A fatal accident occurred yesterday at Moonyoonooka on the Mullewa line, about nine miles from Geraldton. A man named Robert Ruddock, one or the construction gang employed at that part, was engaged with others at shifting rails from a truck, and while he was doing so one of the rails caught in his clothing. One end of the rail fell from the truck and the other end flying up struck the unfortunate man in the stomach, inflicting serious injuries. Ruddock was removed with the utmost care and promptness to the Victoria Hospital, everything possible being done to relieve his sufferings, but he succumbed shortly after reaching the institution.

An inquest was held this afternoon, when the following verdict was returned :-" The deceased came to his death by accident, no blame being attachable to any of those working with him. The jury are, however, of the opinion that proper rail trucks should be provided for this work, and that the chances of such an accident would be lessened thereby." .

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Thursday 11 November 1897 Page 5.*