RYAN, Cornelius "Con" Joseph 2 April 1901

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Jarrahdale	Shunting operations

Cornelius "Con" Ryan was 27 years of age when he died as the the result of a shunting accident at Jarrahdale. He told witnesses that his foot caught in a crossing frog as he attempted to uncouple and he fell between two wagons and received injuries that ultimately proved fatal. He was born in Ireland and was the son of Phillip and Margaret, his brother Joseph was the manager at the Jarrahdale Timber Mill. He died at Perth Hospital later the same day and was interred at the Roman Catholic section of East Perth Cemetery. *MM December 2016*

RAIL WAY FATALITY.
Yesterday morning a man named Cornelius Ryan, a guard employed on the Jarrahdale railway, was run over by a passing train. He was terribly injured, and was brought on to the Perth Hospital, where he died last night at a quarter to 11 o'clock. An inquest will be opened to-day.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth)* Wednesday 3 April 1901 Page 6.

A GUARD'S END.
VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH.
The adjourned inquest concerning the death of Cornelius Ryan, a guard on the Jarrahdale Jarrah Forests and Railway Co. Ltd. line, who was killed on April 2, was resumed yesterday before Mr. E. J. appeared for the relatives, and Mr. Phillips for the company.

Walter C. Brown, fireman on the Jarrahdale Railway Co.'s line, said at about 4 o'clock on April 2 he was on a locomotive with the engine driver, John Urquhart. Witness was putting some wagons into the siding, and these had to pass over six points. It was necessary for the guard after they had passed over the points to uncouple the empty trucks from the train. At this point they got the signal to go back. They had just moved off when they saw the landing man, George Catchpole, give the signal to stop. Witness applied the brake, and stopped the train short. Witness leant over the side before leaving the engine, and saw the guard sitting on the ground. He went to him, accompanied by Urquhart, and saw that Ryan had been run over. He said "Con, old man, what's the matter?" He (Ryan) said, "Wasn't I a chump to do that." Witness did not know what he meant. Deceased said nothing further just then. There were two or three round about. Witness had no further conversation with Ryan, but got him a drink of water and bathed his head and chest. He then put him in the train, being assisted by Urquhart, Catchpole, and others, and took him into Jarrahdale.

George Catchpole said he was a labourer, and occasionally a guard for the Jarrahdale Jarrah Forests and Railway Co. Ltd. On April 2 he was working on No. 7 landling of No 2 line. The timher train was there in charge of Driver Urquhart, fireman Brown, and Guard Ryan. The train was going ahead over the points when the accident happened, and it was about 70 yards from the landing. He saw Guard Ryan near the end of the train. Deceased put his hand on several of the trucks. Witness's attention was slightly diverted, and the next time he looked he saw the deceased with his hands on separate trucks, and then noticed him fall with his feet across the line, and his head and body out from the line. Deceased was standing about six wagon lengths off, and gave the signal to the engine driver to stop. Witness went to the scene and found that Ryan had rolled himself out from beneath the trucks.

By Mr Barker, Witness thought deceased had counted the eight wagons for witness, and was going to uncouple them, when he either tripped or slipped.

By Mr. Phillips: The only thing deceased said to him after the accident was "Old, big boots." Witness did not know what he meant.

Thos. H. Blackburn, storekeeper, Jarrahdale said that he was at No. 2 mill of the Jarrah Forests Co. between 4 and 5 o'clock on April 2. Whilst there, an engine and truck came down in charge of Driver Urquhart and Fireman Brown. Witness went down to a truck, and saw that Guard Ryan had met with a bad accident. He went into Jarrahdale with the wounded man who was suffering much, but was conscious. On the way down Ryan asked witness for a drink. After giving him one, witness asked how the accident happened. Deceased said "I was about to uncouple, and got my heel caught in the frog of the crossing." There was no further conversation on the way down, as the man was suffering considerably.

This closed the evidence, and counsel having addressed the jury, the latter returned a verdict to the effect that deceased met his death by accident.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday 19 April 1901 Page 2.*