SHEARD, Albert Robert 8 September 1951

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Length Runner	Tambellup	Per Way Tricycle/Train collision

Albert Sheard was 44 years of age when he was fatally injured in a head on collision between his motor tricycle and a train. Albert died later of his injuries without regaining conciousness. The train crew were unaware that there was any other traffic on the line until the moment of impact. Albert lived in a camp at Tambellup with his wife and seven children. Mrs Sheard was expecting another child. Albert was interred at Katanning Cemetery. ***MM December 2016***

Head-on Rail Collision
LENGTH RUNNER FATALLY INJURED
44-year-old W.A.G.R. length runner, Albert Robert Sheard, married of Tambellup, received fatal injuries on Saturday morning when the rail motor he was driving collided head on with a goods train on the Tambellup-Ongerup line 31 miles from Tambellup. Medical attention was given the injured man on the spot and he was then conveyed by St. John Ambulance to the Katanning District Hospital and admitted suffering from multiple scalp wounds, fractured base of skull, compound fracture and dislocated right elbow, fractured arm and other Sheard did not regain consciousness and died at 11.35 a.m. on Sunday.
COLLISION ON UP GRADE
A special goods train, ex Katanning for Tambellup - Gnowangerup and return to Tambellup, was involved in the accident. With train crew of J. S. Fraser of Katanning as guard, J. Peters of Tambellup, driver and L. Brady, Tambellup, fireman, the train, travelling tender first, left Tambellup at 11.10 a.m. The collision took place at 11.22 a.m.

The train was on an up-grade at the time of the collision and it is reported the first intimation the crew had that anything else was on the line was the crash of the rail motor striking the tender. The scene was approximately half a mile directly in front of the residence of Mr. P. Taylor, whose phone was used to summon medical assist ance and to notify the police. Mr. Sheard, whose wife and family reside at Tambellup, had only been stationed there for the past two months. He was employed as a length runner, principally on the Tambellup Ongerup line, and his main duties included the patrolling of his section of the line, checking on the condition of the permanent way and line. When the accident occurred he was returning from a patrol out to Gnowangerup. He was by himself on the rail motor. When advice of the accident was received at Tambellup, first aid kit and a local resident, Mrs. Mahon, who is a trained nurse, were rushed to the scene. Medical assistance also arrived very promptly. The injured man was taken to hospital by the Katanning ambulance.

Source: *Trove/Great Southern Herald (Katanning)* Friday 14 September 1951 Page 1.

SHEARD BENEFIT
SUBSCRIPTION LIST
OPENED
Following the tragic accident recently when W.A.G.R. length runner Albert Sheard received fatal injuries near Tambellup, local residents have given practical and spontaneous assistance to his widow and seven young children. Living in tents with her large family, Mrs Sheard can still smile despite the tragedy which has befallen her and the fact she is expecting another child. Mr "Snowy" Wilson advises the family is badly in need of blankets and, amongst many other things could do with a copper. With seven children, almost any type of clothing would be acceptable. In this latter regard, Mrs Mollie Clancy has been doing a really good job and any donations of clothing could either be left with her or Mr Wilson. Some farmers have been making quiet visits to the camp with meat and the

local baker has been donating bread. A subscription list has been opened with Mr F- E. "Snowy" Wilson at Tambellup and already over £80 has been sub scribed. Further donations are urgently needed and as they are received they will be acknowledged. Donors may stipulate whether money for warded is to be handed over directly to Mrs Sheard or to be placed in the portion of the fund which is being handled on her behalf by the Salvation Army. The Army has taken charge of some of the donations received and is to submit progressive reports on the manner in which it had been expended on various purchases or paid direct to Mrs Sheard. Total raised so far: £87/6/-.

Source: *Trove/Great Southern Herald (Katanning) Friday 5 October 1951 Page 2.*

Sheard Inquest
CONCERN EXPRESSED
BY CORONER

The inquest into the death of Albert Robert Sheard, who received fatal injuries in a collision between a rail motor and a goods train on September 9, took place at Katanning on November 21 Acting Coroner, Mr. F. A. W. Rogers, J-P., found that Albert Robert Sheard came by his death at the Katanning District Hospital on 9th September, 1951, from a severe fracture of the base of the skull being in juries received when a rail motor trolley driven by the deceased collided with Engine No. 440 running tender first on the Tambellup-Gnowangerup railway line at a place approximately 3 miles from Tambellup on 8th September, 1951, no blame being attachable to the train crew members .

Adding a rider to his finding, Mr. Rogers said, "I am concerned with two aspects of this accident and would draw this to the attention of the authorities

1. Deceased omitted to contact Tambellup advising he was travelling on the Section on which the accident occurred.

2. Deceased was riding on his motor trike in a position which did not give him a full and clear vision of any approaching danger."

Source: *Trove/Great Southern Herald (Katanning) Friday 30 November 1951 Page 1.*