WILLIAMS, William 16 March 1917

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Goods Porter	Perth	Struck by wagon

William Williams was 60 years of age when he was fatally injured after tripping on a tarpaulin and fell under moving wagons in the Perth Railway Yard. William lived with his wife at Mount Hawthorn. They had adult children. William was interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (WELSH FREE/AA/0018).

RAILWAY YARD FATALITY.
CORONER'S INQUEST.
Mr. F. W. Collett, JP and a jury yesterday concluded an inquiry into the death, on March 16 of a railway employee named William Williams who came to his end as the result of an accident in the Perth Railway Yard.

Sergeant Smith had the conduct of the proceedings. Mr. M. G. Ivan appeared on the behalf of the dependants of the deceased and Inspector Brown represented the Commissioner of Railways.

Dr. Barker, acting R.M.O. at the Perth Public Hospital, gave evidence in regard to a postmortem examination of the deceased conducted by him. He came to the conclusion that death was due to rupture of the liver and hemorrhage. The deceased's breast bone was broken in two places, and many ribs were broken, several of them in two places. A strong Smell of alcohol was present. The man's injuries' were consistent with his having been crushed by some heavy object.

Afred Jeffery, a shunter employed by the railway department, stated that at 6.30 p.m., on March 16 the train he was on was pulling out of number 15 line. Deceased was between that and an adjacent line. He appeared to trip over a tarpaulin and fall. Witness at once gave the stop signal, and going to the scene, found Williams lying between the lines.

To the jury: Tarpaulins were often lying about the railway yards as on this occassion.

Joseph Slattery, a porter, stated that at the time named he was rolling up tarpaulins that had been thrown off the trucks. He heard Jeffery call out to stop the train, and he saw a hat roll from under the last truck. He saw that the deceased's trousers had been caught in the axle of one of the tracks, and he had been dragged along. He uttered some words when witness reached him, but witness could not gather their purport. Checker O'Farrell rendered first aid.

James Francis O'Farrell deposed that Williams was quite sober at lunch time on March 16. Witness had known him for some time, and had never seen him under the influence of liquor. Witness did not smell any drink on the deceased after the accident. When witness told someone to call the ambulance, Williams said, "No, I am all right."

'The verdict of the jury was that deceased came to his death from injuries received through tripping over a tarpaulin, causing him to fall against a railway truck whilst in motion, and whilst be was performing his duties.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 24 March 1917 Page 8.*