

## Robert Ray Gurns

( - 25 Oct 1917)

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**Gurns.** On October 25, 1917, Robert Ray Gurns, beloved husband of Lillie M. Gurns. Funeral from W.W. Deal & Co.'s funeral parlors, 816 H street northeast on Saturday at 2 p.m.

*The Evening Star, October 25, 1917, p. 15*

### **Yard Engine Kills Two Employees at Terminal**

#### **H.R. Callahan and R.R. Gurns Step From Behind Train Into Moving Locomotive**

Hugh R. Callahan, thirty-two years old of M street northeast, chief signal inspector in the yard of the Washington Terminal Company, and Robert Roy Gurns, thirty-eight years old, 46 K street northeast, his assistant, were struck by a yard engine this morning and instantly killed. Their bodies were badly mangled. Coroner Nevitt viewed the bodies in the police room at Union station and directed that the body of Gurns be taken to the morgue, where an inquest will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Callahan's body was turned over to an undertaker.

It was shortly after 8 o'clock when yard engine No. 23, in charge of Engineer T.R. Perry and Conductor J.S. McIntosh, killed the men. So suddenly did Callahan and his assistant appear in front of the moving engine from behind a train, it is stated, that it was impossible for Engineer Perry to bring his engine to a stop in time to prevent the accident.

Inspector Callahan and his assistant were in the yard near what is known as K tower, between H and I streets, inspecting the signals in order to prevent accidents on the tracks, and, it is stated, stepped from behind a train directly in front of the yard engine and were struck.

Condition of the bodies of the men indicated that they were dragged some distance after being knocked down. Life was extinct before assistance could be summoned and the bodies were taken to the station where they were examined by a physician. Detectives Embrey and Grant investigated the affair and summoned witnesses to appear at the inquest.