

## **Workmates killed in crossing crash**

# **HITCH HIKER THUMBED**

# **RIDE TO DEATH**

**T**HE few minutes which meant missing his bus from work cost Leslie Arthur Norwood his life yesterday morning.

Norwood, 49, a Commonwealth Defence Department employee at Derrimut, picked up a lift in a Defence Department utility, which was involved in a collision with a diesel train near Deer Park station.

Norwood and Hector Alan Jackson, 43, who was taking mail to Commonwealth Explosive Works in the utility, were both killed instantly.

The heavy diesel rail motor travelling from Bacchus Marsh to Melbourne, ripped into the utility at Robinson road level crossing about a mile from Deer Park railway station.

Police said heavy rain was falling at the time and they believed Jackson, the driver, could not see the train.

### **Wedged under**

The train hit the utility while travelling about 60 miles an hour and careered 243 yards down the line with the truck wedged under its wheels.

A huge railway breakdown crane and a Commonwealth truck crane took more than three hours to free the wreckage tangled under the train's bogey.

Even when the wreckage was pulled clear from the front of the train, police and railway gangmen had to use crowbars to get the bodies

out.

Passengers on the train had to walk to Deer Park station, where they caught buses to Sunshine.

Mr. Jim West, of Deer Park Motors, who was one of the first on the scene, said that the visibility was so bad when he arrived five minutes after the crash that he could not see the train, 240 yards away.

Mr. Jackson, who lived in Lydia street, East Brunswick, was married, with three children; Mr. Norwood, of Ewing street, East Brunswick, was married, with one child.

The crossing, which was on a straight country road, with clear vision each way, had no wig-wag signal.