

TWO SEAMEN RISK THEIR LIVES TO RESCUE MAN AT CAIRNS

Dramatic Wharf Incident Last Night

Ignoring the danger of being crushed to death, drowned, or attacked by sharks, two seamen at Cairns last night dived from their ship and swam between it and another vessel—separated by only about 18 inches—to rescue a sailor who had fallen between the two craft. The ships were tied side by side at No. 6 wharf. The sailor, Suta Rautlin (63), struck his head as he fell, and sank beneath the surface. He was eventually hauled aboard and was taken to hospital in a serious condition from the effects of immersion, concussion and shock.

Because of the confined space between the ships, the two rescuers at times had to swim under water to reach the spot where the sailor had disappeared. The crew of the smaller vessel, the 375-ton sugar lighter Carroo, kept the two ships apart by leaning backwards from their craft and pushing with their shoulders against the side of the other ship, the 7000-ton Trident.

But for their prompt action the vessels may have bumped together in the steady swell and killed the three men in the water. Sharks have often been seen and caught around the wharf.

The heroes of the night were Chief Officer Edward Frisch and Maurice Petersen, both of the Carroo.

FELL BETWEEN SHIPS.

The Carroo was tied against the Trident to transfer a load of sugar to it,

and was awaiting Rautlin's return before sailing for Innisfail. Rautlin arrived at the wharves and to board the Carroo had to cross the deck of the Trident and climb down a rope ladder to his ship. As he was climbing down the ladder, and when about three feet above the Carroo, he lost his footing and fell between the two ships.

DIVE TO THE RESCUE.

Chief Officer Frisch dashed to the bow of the Carroo, dived into the sea, and swam between the two craft to reach Rautlin. Peterson dived from the stern of the Carroo and swam toward Rautlin from the other direction. The space separating the Trident and the Carroo was so small that they could not dive directly between the

could not dive directly between the two ships.

Peterson was the first to reach the spot where Rautlin had fallen, and, diving, found him about four feet below the surface. Peterson dragged the man from under the water while above him the Carroo's crew strained and pushed with leg and back muscles to keep the ships apart.

A rope was lowered and Peterson and Frisch, hampered by the confined space, tied it round the unconscious man, who was then hauled on to the Carroo. Then they, too, were taken aboard. The ships' crew was exhausted when the rescue was completed.

The master of the sugar lighter applied artificial respiration on Rautlin until the ambulance arrived and took him to hospital.