

MAN WASHED OVERBOARD ACCIDENTALLY

BALLINA, Monday. — The Coroner (Mr. H. W. Graham) was unable to adduce from evidence presented at an inquest today how Henry Alfred Garrard died on April 18.

He found, however, that Garrard had been accidentally washed overboard from the fishing boat Geoffrey D when crossing Ballina bar on that date. Whether he died from drowning or by other means he could not say.

Rita Margaret Garrard said she prepared breakfast for her husband and son at 4.15 a.m. on April 18 before they went fishing with E. J. Moane. Her husband was in good spirits and had come home the night before about 6.30 o'clock. He had been working for Moane for about a month and had appeared quite happy. Her husband was not insured. She was the sole beneficiary under his will. Her husband was an excellent swimmer.

Owner of Geoffrey D, Edward Joseph Moane said when crossing the bar about 6 a.m. Garrard was holding the rail on the port side, near the wheelhouse. The boat was swept by a large wave when almost over the bar. He did not see Garrard disappear but heard Max Coulter call out that there was a man overboard.

A heavy sea was running and it would have been dangerous to turn. He crossed the bar and cruised up and down, thinking Garrard might be washed outside.

The launch carried the regulation four life belts and two life buoys.

Max Coulter said he did not see Garrard washed overboard but saw him swimming behind. He threw a life buoy but it washed away. He threw the other but Garrard did not get it. He then threw a rope, but it did not reach Gar-

rard, but it did not reach Garrard, who disappeared a few minutes after he had first seen him.

Moane had done all he could under the circumstances. Sharks could be seen every time they had crossed the bar.

Ernest Bertram Barnett, one of the crew, said he saw Garrard hit twice by breakers. He failed to appear after being struck a third time.

Garrard's son, Alfred James Garrard (15) gave similar evidence, stating he had seen his father in the water.

James Hammond, shipwright, of Ballina, and Edward George Trevor, commercial traveller, of East Ballina, were fishing when the accident occurred. They saw a big wave go over the boat and, subsequently, a dark object in the water.

Sgt. G. E. Tarrant said he went over the bar with Mr. A. Heynatz in his launch, in company with the pilot, Captain Brady, and Constable Bottrell. They searched the bar and coastline. He considered Moane had done correctly in staying outside and patrolling the bar.

Sgt. Tarrant said searches from Broken Head to Beswick's Beach had been made between April 18 and 23. The search was assisted by fishermen and a plane from Casino.

Doctors stated that bones washed up at Shelly Beach were not human and a set of false teeth found did not belong to Garrard. No trace of Garrard had been found.

Sgt. Tarrant said he wished to thank Mr. Heynatz for assistance rendered.

The Coroner expressed sympathy with Garrard's relatives.