



1935: Stevedores at work in Brisbane, Queensland

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**ACTIVITY:** In a lifebuoy awaiting rescue

**CASE:** GSAF 1935.08.26

**DATE:** Sunday August 26, 1935

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Flat Top, near Mackay, Queensland, Australia.

**NAME:** Patrick Quinn

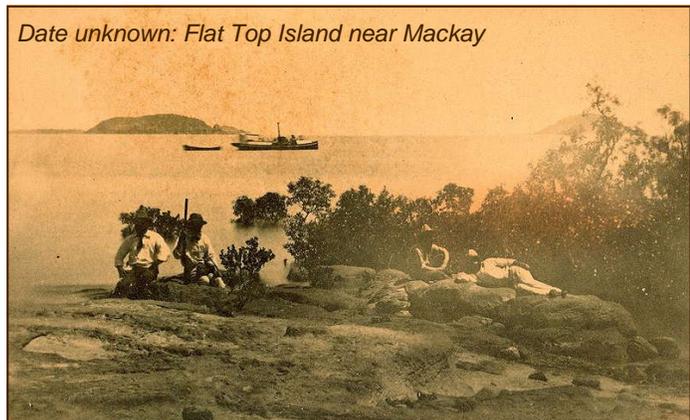
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 38-year-old stevedore.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, August 29, 1935

**TIME:** Night

**NARRATIVE:** Quinn was one of the stevedores from the sugar lighter *Terka* to the vessel *Alynbank*. The *Terka* was alongside other lighters and the stevedores were about to cross from one vessel to the other, Quinn fell overboard. Lifebuoys were immediately thrown to him and he grabbed one. A boat was lowered. It had almost reached Quinn when suddenly disappeared.”



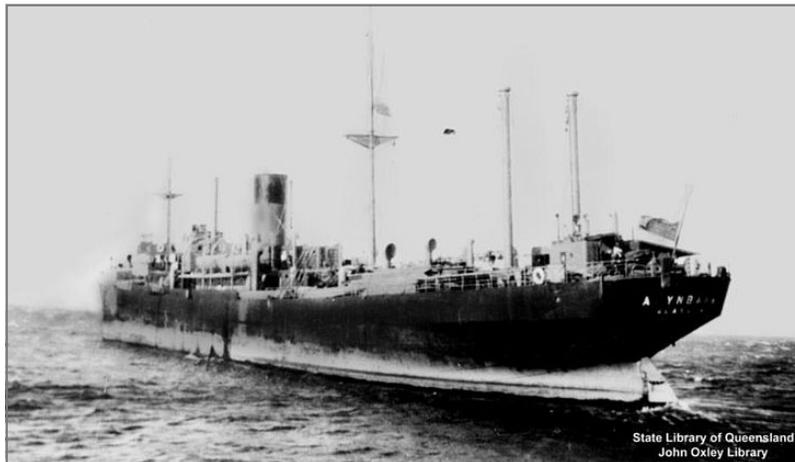
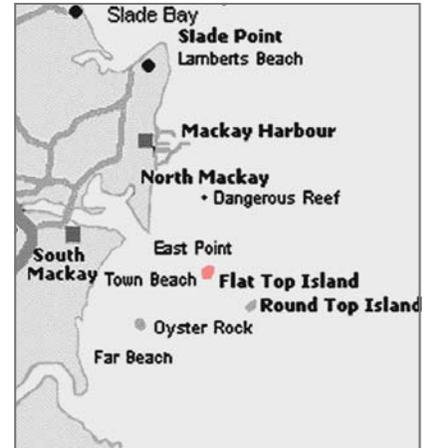
Date unknown: Flat Top Island near Mackay

State Library of Queensland

**INJURY:** Fatal, but death may have been due to drowning.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified. On Saturday October 19, 1935, crew members of the sugar cargo ship *Aldinga* caught a 12-foot shark. Inside it were several human bones, including the bones of a lower leg and foot with a boot on. Shortly after this a shark was caught at Flat Top by the crew of the cargo ship *Alynbank*. This shark also contained human bones. In both instances the remains were thought to be those of Quinn.

**SOURCES:** Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton), Wednesday August 28, 1935, page 6  
Cairns Post, October 21, 1935, page 7  
Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 22  
G.P. Whitley



The 5,151 GRT cargo steamship *Alynbank*, built in 1925 by Harland and Wolff in Glasgow for Andrew Weir & Co (Bank Line). The Ministry of War Transport requisitioned her in 1941. She was converted into an auxiliary anti-aircraft ship. In 1944 she was sunk on the Normandy coast as part of the Gooseberry Harbour.

## FELL OVERBOARD

### Mackay Waterside Worker

## BODY NOT RECOVERED

MACKAY, August 27.

Following an exciting rescue last Wednesday of a woman passenger of the *Manoora*, who had fallen into heavy seas at Flat Top, a tragedy occurred at the same place late last night, when a waterside worker, Patrick Quinn, 38, fell from a lighter and was drowned.

Quinn was a member of a stevedoring gang that went out to Flat Top on the lighter *Terka* for the purpose of loading sugar on to the overseas vessel *Allynbank*. When the *Terka* was manoeuvred alongside other lighters moored to the *Allynbank* and the stevedoring gang was about to cross from one to the other, there were cries of "man overboard," and the figure of Quinn was seen swirling about in the turbulent sea.

Lifebuoys were tossed towards him, and he was seen to grab one. Three men on the *Terka* lowered a lifeboat and set out through the fierce waves to the rescue. Quinn was soon carried outside the circle of lights from the vessels, but he could be heard calling out. Suddenly his calls ceased, and when rescuers in the boat reached the lifebuoy to which he had been clinging Quinn had disappeared.

The *Terka* steamed around the locality for some time, playing searchlights on the sea, but there was no sign of Quinn. The search was continued today, but so far the body has not yet been recovered.

It is presumed that Quinn lost his grip on the lifebuoy either by cramps or through the violence of the waves, or that he was taken by a shark.

## MACKAY INCIDENT.

### HUMAN BONES IN SHARK.

MACKAY, October 20.

For the second time in recent weeks a shark has been caught at Flat Top anchorage, which contained human bones.

On Saturday night members of the crew of the sugar cargo ship *Aldinga*, lying at anchorage, hooked a shark and when it was hauled aboard and cut open a number of human bones were found.

Police will go out to the vessel tomorrow morning to investigate the incident and take charge of the bones.

Some weeks ago at Flat Top a waterside worker, Patrick Quinn, was lost overboard from a lighter.

Subsequently the crew of the overseas cargo steamer *Allynbank* hooked a shark and human bones were found in it.

*Cairns Post, October 21, 1935*

*Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton)  
August 28, 1935*