

SURF FATALITY.

THREE YOUNG MEN DROWNED AT SOUTHPORT

WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE DROWNING WOMAN.

SEVERAL HEROIC SWIMMERS.

Southport, December 28.

The never-failing Christmas horror has included Brisbane in its clutches after all.

News is to hand of a particularly sad and harrowing drowning accident at Southport yesterday afternoon, when the cruel and relentless undertow on the main beach swirled to death two brave young Queenslanders before the horrified gaze of the revellers on the sands, while at least three others, one a young lady, were nearly added to the list of the fatalities.

From the particulars to hand, it appears that amongst the crowds of surfers was Miss Alice Hobbs, daughter of Mr. Arthur Hobbs, solicitor, of Brisbane. She was noticed to suddenly become overpowered by the treacherous under-current and to be in danger.

With characteristic pluck her rescue was promptly attempted by some of the young fellows in the immediate vicinity, amongst them being W. Wilson, Chapman, Holland, (all Brisbaneites), and Baker (Toowoomba).

Young Wilson, it is related, struggled manfully to bring Miss Hobbs to safety, but was unsuccessful, through being swept out by the receding waters. Chapman, seeing matters were perilous, made a most valiant attempt to render what assistance he could, but both he and Wilson were swept away, and it is feared both are drowned.

Miss Hobbs who almost collapsed, was eventually brought back, by Messrs. Holland and Baker, and willing hands soon received her, and restored her so far as to permit of her removal to Dr. Herry's private hospital, where she soon fully recovered, to the intense joy of her parents and friends, who, however, with the whole community at large, were prostrated with deepest and most poignant grief at the loss of the lives of the two valorous and brave hearted young fellows who had so unselfishly sacrificed themselves in their most meritorious attempt at rescue.

It is stated that Wilson was one of the staff of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., Brisbane, while Chapman is said to have been employed by MacTaggart Bros., also of Brisbane.

Later.

At midnight the police were all out on the beach in the bright moonlight watching and searching the flowing tide for traces of the bodies of the drowned men.

Inquiries made at that hour pointed to the fact that a third young man had met his death in the heroic attempt at rescue. His name is understood to be Arthur Brook, a visitor from Mackay.

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It is also understood that a second young lady was in grave danger, and was only rescued as the result of most strenuous efforts by some of the male surfers present.

Wilson is supposed to be a resident of Paddington.