

ANOTHER DROWNING FATALITY

Maribyrnong was the scene of another sad drowning fatality on Saturday last. Vernon James Thomas, 7 years of age and another boy about the same age went to the river bank to play. They were seen there during the afternoon, but Thomas did not return home, and his parents became anxious. Both boys lived at the Artillery Barracks.

Owing to the reticence shown by Vernon Thomas' companion, it was not till Sunday morning that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas learnt that their son had been drowned. The playmate at first said he left Thomas early on Saturday afternoon and had not seen him since. The boy was questioned by Constable Tregoning, of Maribyrnong, but still denied knowledge of the whereabouts of the missing boy. On Sunday morning, when questioned again by the constable, the boy said that he and his companion had gone to the river, and that he had seen Vernon Thomas take off his clothes and go into the water. He sank and disappeared. Members of the instructional staff at the barracks and Constable Tregoning searched the river banks, and the clothes of the missing boy were found near the Cordite bridge. The river was dragged, and the body of Thomas was recovered from about 5 ft. of water.