

ACTIVITY: Bathing
CASE: [GSAF 1858.03.14](#)
DATE: Sunday March 14, 1858
LOCATION: Hobson's Bay, Victoria, Australia
37°51'17"S, 144°56'9"E



NAME: Adolph Bollander
DESCRIPTION: He was a sailor from the Swedish ship *Constance*.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, March 15, 1858
ENVIRONMENT: A large Newfoundland dog fell overboard from a lighter some weeks previously and was taken by a shark.
TIME: Evening

NARRATIVE: Adolph Bollander and some other sailors from the ship were bathing alongside the vessel when he was bitten by the shark. The ship's and lighter's boat were immediately manned and the injured sailor was taken from the water.

INJURY: Fatal. He died while being conveyed to Williamstown for medical assistance.

SOURCES: The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Tuesday March 16, 1858, page 6
The Moreton Bay Courier, Wednesday March 31, 1858, page 3

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A SHARK.—On Saturday evening last, some of the sailors of the Swedish ship *Constance*, now at anchor in Hobson's Bay, were bathing alongside the vessel, when one of them named Adolph Bollander was seized by a large shark, who completely stripped the flesh from one of his legs. The ship's and lighter's boats were instantly manned, and by the united efforts of the crews his body was recovered, but not until he had received such injuries that he died while being conveyed to Williamstown for medical assistance. It is supposed that this is the same shark that eat a large Newfoundland dog which fell overboard from the lighter some weeks since. We think that shipmasters should take some steps to rid the Bay of such a monster.—*Cor. S. M. Herald,*

SHARK IN HOBSON'S BAY.-

A fatal accident occurred in Hobson's Bay on Sunday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, from the bite of a shark. Several of the seamen belonging to the Swedish ship *Constance* were bathing under the bows of that vessel. All the men had returned to the ship except one, Adolphe Bollander, aged 22 years.

Suddenly a loud shriek was heard throughout the Bay, and along the beach at Williamstown and Sandridge, when, on a boat going near, it was found that a large shark had seized the poor fellow by the thigh, and torn off the flesh, dragging the body under water.

Being a good swimmer, Bollander made a desperate effort to reach the boat, and succeeded, but as the men were dragging him in, the shark bit another piece of flesh out of the calf of the leg, and did not retire until beaten off by boat-hooks and paddles. The cries of the young man were heart-rending. He was immediately conveyed to Bees's Steam Packet Hotel, Williamstown, but ere he reached the shore the flow of blood was so copious that death put an end to his sufferings.

Several boats, some of which were proceeding to the afternoon service at the Sailors' Church, remained for a short time endeavoring to catch the shark, but in vain. Every attention and sympathy were paid to the unhappy man, but the distance to the shore was too great to allow the opportunity of obtaining timely medical aid.

The above is another proof of the necessity that exists for a floating hospital in the Bay, which probably might be established in connection with the floating church, now in full operation. Though provision has been made for seamen to be admitted into the Melbourne Hospital, it must be apparent that the individual who meets with an accident may die whilst being conveyed to town.

An inquest was held yesterday morning on the body of Bollander, before Dr. Wilkins, Coroner for Williamstown, at Bees's Steam Packet Hotel. The deceased was lying in an adjoining room, and appeared a fine-looking man, nearly 6 feet high. On examining the body, it was found that the flesh had been literally torn from the bone, which presented a frightful appearance. The captain stated that blood was visible for several fathoms round where the disaster occurred.

The following was the verdict of the jury :-"That the deceased, Adolphe Bollander, died from the effects of a bite in the thigh, inflicted by a shark, whilst swimming in Hobson's Bay.' A rider was added, as follows :-"The jury trusts that this fatal accident will deter persons from incautiously bathing in Hobson's Bay."

SOURCE: Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Tuesday March 16, 1858, page 6