

**CASE:** [GSAF 1880.00.00.b](#)

**DATE:** 1880

**LOCATION:** St. Georges Bay, Tasmania, Australia

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** male

**NARRATIVE:** No details

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** Jack Green, page 31, et al.

## **SHARK ATTACKS IN TASMANIA** ***No Authentic Evidence Available***

A RECENT controversy in the Sydney press directs attention to the subject of shark attacks in Tasmanian waters. Mr. T. C. Roughley, economic zoologist at the Technological Museum, Sydney, visited Tasmania about six years ago, and from inquiries made at that time he came to the conclusion that there had never been a record of a shark attack in Tasmanian waters, and published a statement to that effect in the "Sydney Morning Herald."

### **George's Bay Tragedy**

Mr. Roughley was then taken to task in the matter, and he received a letter from, Mrs. H. Little, of Wentworth Falls (N.S.W.), in which she gave a detailed account of an alleged fatal shark attack in George's Bay, North-East Tasmania. Mrs. Little stated in the letter that on an Easter Monday some years ago three men, including a Mr. Hinsby and a Mr. Singline, went for a sail. When rounding Chimney Point a squall struck the boat, which capsized. Singline and Hinsby hung on to the boat until rescued by another boat. The third man (Mrs. Little's uncle) started to swim for the shore and when about 100 yards from the shore he threw up his arms and called out. Mrs. Little stated in her letter that when the two survivors were interviewed, they said they both saw a shark's fins following her uncle and "the water was red with blood. The deceased left a wife with four young children, including a baby 10 days old. His father went to St. Helena and spent a week dragging for the body, but all that was recovered was deceased's waistcoat and pipe.

In a letter to the editor of the "Sydney Morning Herald," published on Wednesday last, Dr. F. Antill Pockley stated that in the late 'seventies Sub-Lieut Bowyer, of H.M.S. *Clio*, while canoeing in the Derwent, was attacked by a shark which bit the canoe in two pieces and then made off. Dr. Pockley added there was a picture in one of the local news papers at the time, and he knew Bowyer well. Bowyer was a good swimmer and was more than six feet in height and played football in the North Shore (N.S.W.) football team, in which Mr. Pockley was captain at the time.

### **Story Refuted**

Inquiries made by a representative of "The Mercury" have failed to elicit any corroboration of either of these accounts of shark attacks. On the contrary, Mrs Little's version of the George's Bay tragedy as due to a shark attack is refuted by one of the survivors, Mr George Hinsby, who now resides at 131 King Street, Sandy Bay. Mr. Hinsby informed a representative of "The Mercury" that the incident referred to by Mrs. Little took place in George's Bay about 1892. It was a very rough day and a yacht race was being held. One of the flags marking the course got adrift from its moorings, and Mr. Hinsby undertook to take his boat to the spot and anchor it there as a marker. After the race finished, Mr. Hinsby was returning to St. Helens, and when near Chimney Point the boat, a 14ft. craft, was struck by a hard squall, and capsized. Mr. Hinsby and his two companions, William Singline and a man named Meredith, were thrown into the water. Hinsby and Singline clung to the overturned boat, but Meredith, being a strong swimmer, attempted to swim to the shore, fully clothed. He became exhausted before reaching the shore and disappeared. Mr. Hinsby states that there was no suggestion of a shark attacking Meredith. He regards the story that a shark was seen near Meredith and that the water was stained with blood as a mere myth, and is positive that such was not the case. Mr. Hinsby remembers a 14ft. tiger shark having been caught in George's Bay, but he is certain that Meredith was not attacked by it or any other shark. Efforts to recover Meredith's body were unsuccessful, and for that reason it was impossible to hold an inquest.

### **Old Identities' Recollections**

Mr. J. G. Turner, who is 82 years of age, and has been associated with the Hobart waterfront and aquatics since boyhood, states that he cannot recall any instance of a man having been attacked by a shark in Tasmanian waters. Mr. C. R. Rex, another well known identity in shipping circles, holds a similar opinion.

Sergeant T. Challenger, water inspector and special officer for the Sea Fisheries Board, who has been associated with the sea and fisheries practically all his life, and who has made a special study of Tasmanian salt-water fisheries has never heard of a case of a man being attacked by a shark in Tasmanian waters.

With regard to the incident mentioned by Mr. Pockley, records in the possession of Mr. J. Moore Robinson, of Hobart, reveal that H.M.S. *Clio* visited Hobart on two occasions. She arrived on December 10, 1871, and departed six weeks later, and arrived on January 8, 1872 and departed on January 22. A search of the files of the "The Mercury" covering those periods does not disclose any mention of a shark attack, although the name of Sub-Lieutenant Bowyer mentioned several times in reports cricket matches.

SOURCE: The Mercury  
(Hobart, Tasmania) May 16, 1934,

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## HOUSING IN AMERICA

### President's National Campaign £60,000,000 for Buildings

WASHINGTON, May 13.

President Roosevelt to-day projected what will probably be the last of his social economic experiments associated with the recovery drive this session. Congress is to be asked for an appropriation of about 300,000,000 dollars (£60,000,000) to inaugurate a national home-building and repairing campaign.

The President pointed out that building trades, which normally absorb 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 men, had been greatly depressed, and hoped that at least 1,000,000 would be re-employed through the Government's efforts, and at the same time better living conditions would be provided for millions of Americans than the wretchedness now seen.