

**ACTIVITY:** Fell overboard  
**CASE:** **GSAF 1884.01.14**  
**DATE:** Monday January 14, 1884  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Port Pirie, Spencer Gulf, 230 km north of Adelaide, South Australia.

**NAME:** Miss Warren  
**DESCRIPTION:** She was the 16-year-old daughter of Captain Ben Warren.

**BACKGROUND**  
**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, January 13, 1884

**NARRATIVE:** The ship, *Bellona*, 1,123 tons, Captain Ben Warren, cleared from Port Pirie on 14 January 1884 and an hour afterwards the pilot left her outside the eastern shoal. The captain's only daughter, aged 16, was playing with a dog and a ball on the deckhouse and, when jumping in the passage between the deckhouse and the ship's rail, fell into the sea. Her father saw her fall, but could do nothing, for he saw two sharks seize her as soon as she was in the water. The girl was never seen again.

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Unknown. The incident was said to involve two sharks.

**SOURCES:** Northern Territory Times and Gazette, Saturday March 14, 1885, page 3; Gilbert P. Whitley (1951), page 192, citing South Australian Register, December 9, 1925 edition and Sydney Morning Herald, January 23, 1936 edition; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 107; Alan Sharpe, page 119; "Germein Bay and Sharks [in the 1880s]" is in the *Register*, 13 October 1926, page 15; <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning/pn/g/g3.htm>



The news is just to hand that the daughter of Captain Ward, of the ship "Bellona," when leaving Port Pirie last year, fell overboard, and before she could be rescued her father saw her devoured by sharks.

# SHARK ATTACK.

## BATHER KILLED

### On Beach Near Adelaide.

ADELAIDE, Wednesday.

A shark attacked and killed a young man, believed to be Ray Bennett, newsagent, of North Adelaide, at West Beach, near Adelaide, this evening.

Bennett was only 20 yards from the shore when he was attacked. He screamed, a shark leaped half out of the water, and then Bennett disappeared in a smother of foam.

The body has not been recovered.

Apparently the only witness of the tragedy was Leonard James Bedford, 18, of Mile End. He told the police that he was about to go in for a swim about 6 p.m., when he saw a bather in difficulties about 200 yards away. He heard the bather shriek. He then saw about 2ft of shark's tail appear above the water, and the shark and bather both disappeared.

A bicycle and clothing found opposite the spot where the shark was seen were later identified as having belonged to Bennett.

This is only the third shark tragedy in the history of the State. In 1926, at Brighton, a few miles along the coast from West Beach, a woman was attacked by a shark and lost a leg. At Port Pirie, in 1884, a 16-year-old girl was dragged under water by two sharks.