

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE [GSAF 1894.06.25 / SA-022](#)

DATE: Monday June 25, 1894

LOCATION: The incident occurred in the Indian Ocean near Simon's Town, False Bay, about 94 kilometres from Table Bay in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. 34°11,2'S, 18°26'E

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer, a young Swedish male, was a crew member of the whaling schooner *Harry Mundahl*.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, June 26, 1894

ENVIRONMENT: He was in the water with a harpooned bleeding whale.

TIME: "Evening"

NARRATIVE: *The Cape Mercantile Advertiser* reported that several large whales were sighted in Simon's Bay and whaling boats set out to chase them at 08h00. At 11h00 the Harry Mundahl harpooned one of the whales. By evening the whale was almost dead but "still had enough life to capsize one of the vessel's boats with six men on board. Five of them were lucky enough to get on the bottom of the boat, while the sixth, a young Swede, made for an oar floating in the water." Then, reports the 2 July 1894 edition of the *Cape Argus*, he was taken by a shark, "the water was discoloured and he was heard to shriek as he disappeared". His body was not recovered.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Considering the large population of white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, in False Bay and that the swimmer was in the immediate vicinity of the species' natural prey, it is probable that the incident involved a white shark.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Marie Levine



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