

ACTIVITY: Pearl diving (hardhat)
CASE: GSAF 1895.06.03.R
DATE: Reported June 3, 1895
LOCATION: Barrow Passage

NAME: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: He was a Japanese diver employed by the pearling schooner *Cutty Sark*

BACKGROUND
DEPTH OF WATER: 60 feet

NARRATIVE: See press clipping

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES: Not identified but likely a tiger shark.

SOURCES: The West Australian, Monday June 3, 1895 page 4; The Mercury (Hobart, Tasmania), Saturday June 15, 1895

TRAGIC DEATH OF A DIVER.

EATEN BY SHARKS.

A tragic occurrence was reported by Captain F. L. Parkes, at Barrow Passage, Nor'-West coast, to the s.s. Sultan, while the steamer was on her last trip to Fremantle. Captain Parkes, who is engaged in the pearling industry at the Passage, where his pearling schooner the Cutty Sark has her headquarters, employs a large number of Japanese and Malay divers. One of the Japanese was down in about 10 fathoms of water when the attendants at the air pump noticed that the life line was strained to its utmost tension. They thought at the time that the diver had fallen into a hole—a not unusual occurrence. Another diver was sent down, but he soon came up and reported having seen a school of sharks. As they appeared to be savage, he was scared at their presence, though it is generally an easy matter to frighten sharks away by allowing a jet of air to escape from the sleeve of the diving dress. After a time it was found that both the life line and air tube attached to the first diver had parted, and they were hauled up. No trace of the diver could be found, and about 24 hours afterwards another man found the dress of the unfortunate Japanese at the bottom. It had been torn open by sharks, and the body taken completely cut of it. Even the helmet was empty, the head having been extracted through the narrow aperture of the neck. The dress was not torn to shreds, but merely opened. Old pearlmen say that such ferocity as that shown by the sharks in this case has never been known to happen before on the Nor'-West coast.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Recently, while engaged in pearling in Barrow Passage, a Japanese diver belonging to the pearling schooner *Cutty Sark*, remained down longer than his usual time, and it was found that the connecting air-tube was strained to the utmost. Another diver who was sent down, came up much alarmed, saying that he had seen a school of sharks, but could find no trace of the other diver.

Search was made for 24 hours, and at last the remains of the missing man were discovered at the bottom of the sea. His diving dress had been torn open by sharks, and he had been eaten.