

**ACTIVITY:** Wading

**CASE:** **GSF 1897.07.21**

**DATE:** Wednesday July 21, 1897

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Back Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. In Durban's early days swimming was confined to Durban Bay, now Durban Harbour. Back Beach was the name given to the beaches along the Indian Ocean.

29°51.1'S, 31°02.04'E



*Durban: Indian seine netters*

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** The victim was a young Indian boy.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Indian seine netters were beaching their catch of sardines.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Unknown

**DEPTH OF WATER:** "Shallow water"

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** The young boy was wading after stray fish that had escaped from the nets when the shark appeared. The July 24, 1897 edition of the *Natal Mercury* reported: "The youngster was dragged under the water instantaneously, and no trace (of him) has since been found." The *Cape Argus* reported: "The shark made its appearance in shallow water, and, attacking a young boy who was wading after the stray fish, carried him off before any attempt at rescue could be made."

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Fairbridge Index, page 354 (Cape Archives); *Natal Mercury*, July 24, 1897; *Cape Argus*, July 24, 1897

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine