ACTIVITY: Wading
CASE: GSAF 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.
29º51.1'S, 31º02.04'E

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

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