



ACTIVITY: Fell overboard?
CASE: [GSAF 1898.12.28.R](#)
DATE: Reported December 28,
1898
LOCATION: Queensland, Australia
NAME: James Waters

During the trip of the steamer Premier from Rockhampton to Gladstone a man named James Waters disappeared, and when the steamer returned through the Narrows she picked up the skeleton of a man supposed to be Waters. It is surmised that the man fell overboard and was devoured by sharks.

BACKGROUND

By 1898, the railway linked Brisbane with Gladstone. Queensland Railways operated a small shallow-draught paddle steamer, the *SS Premier*, to link Gladstone with Rockhampton through the port of Broadmount. It took 14 hours and 30 minutes to travel by train the 528 km to Gladstone but the journey on the paddle steamer, transfers and another train journey from Broadmount to Rockhampton, brought the total journey time to 22 hours. This was a saving of about a day over the previous steamship service direct from Brisbane. The journey by ship between Broadmount and Gladstone was subject to tidal conditions which could extend the duration of the journey.

NARRATIVE: See press clipping.

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCE: The Brisbane Courier
Wednesday December 28, 1898
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