



1903

Sydney Harbour. — Port de Sydney.

**ACTIVITY:** Bathing

**CASE:** GSAF 1903.01.10

**DATE:** Saturday January 10, 1903

**LOCATION:** The accident took place at Chatswood in the Lane Cover River, Sydney Harbor, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Stanley F. James (or Sydney James )

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 29-year-old male.

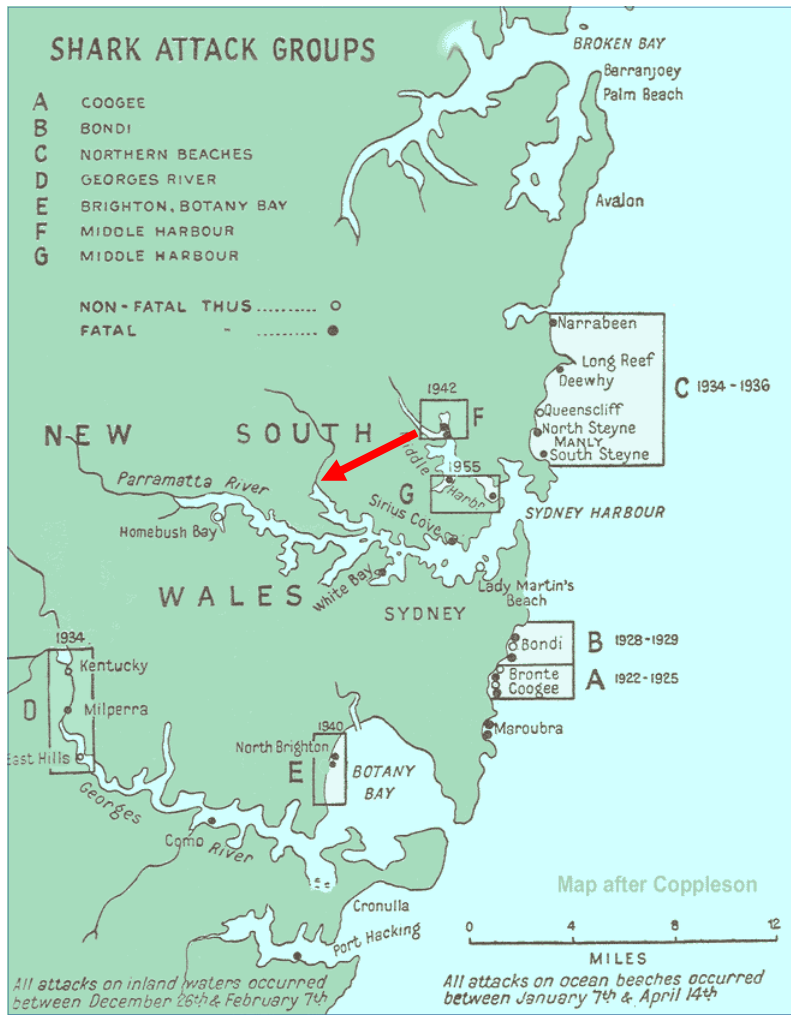
**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, January 7, 1903. Full Moon, January 14, 1903

**ENVIRONMENT:** Two dogs had recently been taken by sharks at the same place.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** "Deep"

**NARRATIVE:** James was bathing with his two young brothers in deep water when he heard a splash and his thigh was grabbed by a shark. He called for help and



grasped an empty boat which was moored close by. A boating party a distance away saw that something had the man by the leg and was attempting to pull him away from the boat. Before the rescue boat could reach him, the shark severed his leg.

**INJURY:** Fatal

**FIRST AID:** First aid was rendered on shore and James was carried to his home. He was placed in an ambulance for transport to a hospital but lapsed into a coma and died on the while on the way.

**SPECIES:** A tiger shark according to the contemporary press; a bull shark, according to the Australian Shark Attack File.

**SOURCES:** The Advertiser, 12 January 12, 1903, page 5; Northern Territory Times and Gazette, Friday January 16, 1903, page 3; The Sydney Mail, January 14, 1903, page 31

**BITTEN BY A SHARK.**  
Sydney James, whilst bathing in Sydney harbor, was seized by a shark and his leg bitten off, from which injuries he afterwards died in hospital.

# SEIZED BY A SHARK

## TERRIBLE BATHING FATALITY.

### A MAN'S LEG BITTEN OFF.

### HE CLINGS TO A BOAT.

Sydney, January 11.

A shocking bathing fatality happened at Chatswood yesterday afternoon, a young man, Stanley James, aged 20, being seized by a shark.

He was bathing with his two young brothers in one of the higher reaches of Lane Cove River, and he was in deep water, when he heard a splash. Immediately afterwards he felt himself clutched by the leg at a point half-way up the thigh.

Realising that he was in the jaws of a big shark he called for help, and after a few minutes' fight he succeeded in grasping an empty boat, which was moored close by. His cry was heard by a boating party some distance away. They could see that something had the unfortunate young man by the leg, as the monster was vainly endeavoring to tear him away from the boat.

Before the rescue boat could get near him the shark had bitten the limb clean off, and the water around was tinged with blood.

James was quite sensible throughout. He was bleeding terribly when dragged into the boat. As soon as he could be got ashore first aid was rendered, and he was carried to his home close by. The poor lad was subsequently placed in an ambulance, with the intention of conveying him to the hospital. On the way he gave a graphic account of the accident, but when nearing North Sydney he gradually sank into a comatose state, and expired shortly afterwards.

The spot where the accident happened is badly infested with sharks, and only recently two dogs were seized and eaten by the monsters.

Sharks are plentiful in all the river estuaries. The sad event of the death of a young man employed in Messrs. Robert Reid's warehouse in consequence of having his leg bitten off by a large shark last Saturday in Lane Cove River should serve to warn anglers that they cannot venture to have a swim in deep water just now. The teeth of the tiger shark are of a most formidable character, and when they close on a man's leg they go through flesh and bone as if they were dough.

At Wollongong on Saturday eight sportsmen captured 120 fish in about five hours. The fish included schnapper, gurnard, and nannegai. The local tug-boat was utilised.

Mr. W. Black, of Yamba, Clarence River, fishing from the Spit near the town recently captured a saw-fish measuring 16ft. 2in., on a hand-line. The saw of the fish measured 4ft. 7in.

Mr. J. Roame, of Watson's Bay, captured on Saturday last a shark measuring 10ft. 6in., and on Sunday one measuring 11ft. 6in. at Camp Cove, Sydney Harbour. Two Sydney Hospital medics captured a large shark in Lane Cove River last Saturday not far from the place where young James was seized by a tiger shark.