

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: GSAF 1903.03.12
DATE: Thursday March 12, 1903
LOCATION: Logan River, Queensland, Australia.



NAME: William Bartlett

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, March 13 1903

NARRATIVE: He was swimming across the river when his right leg was severely bitten by a shark.

INJURY: Fatal. He was taken to Brisbane Hospital but succumbed to his injuries on Saturday, March 14, 1903

SPECIES: Not recorded, but the habitat suggests that a bull shark was involved.

SOURCES: The Brisbane Courier, Friday March 13, 1903, page 5; The Sydney Morning Herald, Monday March 16, 1903, page 8

ATTACKED BY A SHARK.

BRISBANE, Saturday.

While swimming across the Logan River on Thursday a man named William Bartlett was attacked by a large shark, which tore his right leg in a shocking manner. The man was taken to Brisbane Hospital and died to-day.

The Sydney Morning Herald, March 16, 1903

ATTACKED BY A SHARK.

EXCITING EXPERIENCE AT LOGANHOLME.

A sensational incident took place yesterday afternoon at Loganholme. Two men named William Bartlett and Percival Horton, who were proceeding on foot from Logan to Beenleigh, in search of work, arrived at the Logan River ferry, about two miles from Beenleigh, at 2 p.m. They did not have the necessary money to pay the ferryman, but as the ferry was just crossing with several carts on board, they asked that they might be taken free. This proposal was not acceded to, and the men then prepared to swim across. The tide was running in at the time, and the river in consequence was almost at its full width. Placing half their swag and a portion of their clothing on a log, the men propelled it to the far side, and then returned for the remainder of the articles. Nothing unusual happened until within ten yards of the Beenleigh shore, when Bartlett called out, "I have got cramps." His mate asked if anything was wrong, and Bartlett replied, "Go on with the swag, and get it to the shore." Horton followed out these instructions, and, thinking something was wrong, again called out to ascertain if anything was the matter. Bartlett did not answer, and appeared to be exhausted. Horton then plunged in and brought Bartlett to the river bank, where he found that the latter had evidently been attacked by a shark. Bartlett's right leg, from the knee downwards, presented a shocking sight. After bandaging a number of terrible gashes, Horton hurried to Beenleigh, and obtained assistance. A cart was requisitioned, and the injured man was taken to Beenleigh. The medical officer was not in town at the time, but Nurse Kennedy dressed the wounds. The injured man was then placed on the train, which arrived at Melbourne-street Station at 7.10 p.m., where he was met by the Ambulance Brigade, and removed to the General Hospital. Upon inquiry last night we learnt that his condition was serious. It is stated that neither of the men saw the shark, and Bartlett apparently imagined that he had been seized with cramps when he felt the first grip. About an hour after the occurrence, however, a shark from 8ft. to 10ft. long was seen in the neighbourhood.

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The Brisbane Courier, March 13, 1903