

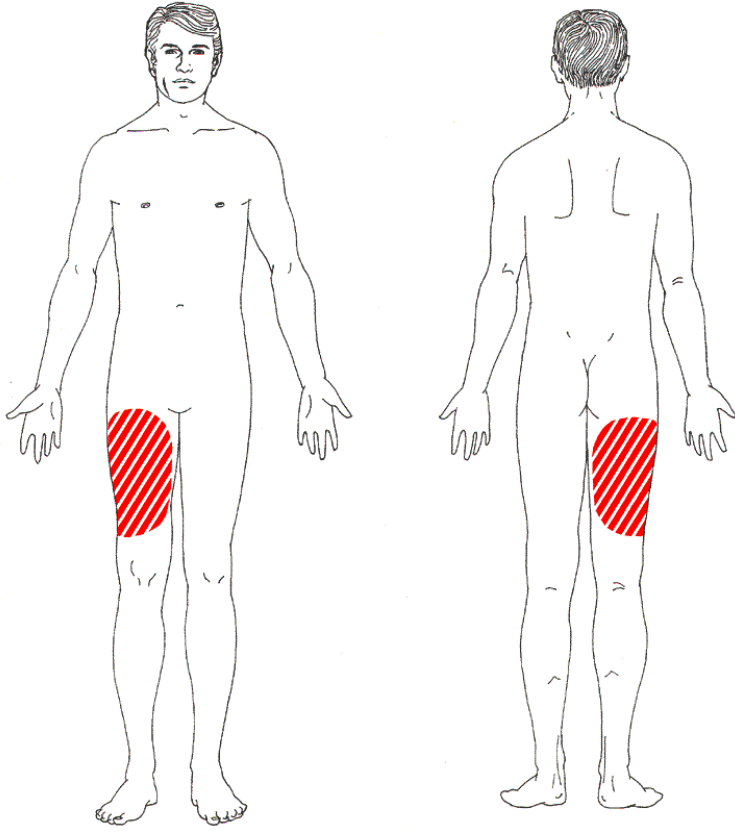
ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: GSAF 1905.04.05 / SA-030

DATE: Thursday April 6, 1905
LOCATION: The incident took place 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



NAME: James Anderson
DESCRIPTION: He was a 26-year-old Caucasian male, a bookmaker, a speculator, and the former proprietor of the Frisko Cafe in Johannesburg.

BACKGROUND
WEATHER: The sky was clear and a strong northeast breeze was blowing.
MOON PHASE: New moon, April 5, 1905
SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high spring tide occurred five minutes before the attack.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 metres
DEPTH: One metre
TIME: 16h30



NARRATIVE: James Anderson was swimming when he was bitten by the shark. The *Natal Mercury* reports, "His shout for assistance was heard by two other bathers, S. Dumbreck and S.J. Malin, the latter being a member of the C.I.D. down from up-country on leave. These two went pluckily to his assistance and brought him ashore."

INJURY: Fatal. The femur was not broken but the flesh was stripped away from his right thigh and his femoral artery was severed.

FIRST AID: Anderson was nearly dead when he was brought ashore. According to the press report, "Malin, in an endeavour to preserve his life, stood by him until a doctor arrived, holding the broken end of his femoral artery which the shark's teeth had exposed." P.C. Mackay was summoned, and he fetched Dr Bray. When the doctor arrived he stated that Anderson had died of shock and haemorrhage, and the body was removed to the mortuary.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCE: Natal Mercury, April 7, 1905

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Marie Levine and Harry Gill