



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1911.05.01](#) / SA-038

DATE: Monday May 1, 1911

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Victoria Bay, a small cove flanked by steep cliffs and rimmed by numerous rock-pools, situated 56 kilometres northeast of Mossel Bay in the Western Cape Province, South Africa.

34°00'20.10"S, 22°32'56.95"E

NAME: James Jantjes

DESCRIPTION: He was a coloured male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, April 29, 2011

ENVIRONMENT: Some time before the incident a fishery had been established at Victoria Bay and, according to contemporary press reports, "since that time sharks come very close inshore".

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: The accident took place seaward of the breakers.

NARRATIVE: The May 2, 1911 edition of the *Cape Mercantile Advertiser* reported that a number of people were swimming in the bay but that Jantjes, "against the advice of the others, went too far out". Suddenly he threw up one hand and disappeared beneath the surface. Witnesses stated that he was "taken by a shark."

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INJURY: Fatal, his body was never recovered.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

NOTE: Eight days later the local press noted that “many man-eaters have been seen lately,” and reported a second fatality at Victoria Bay (GSAF 1911.05.09).

SOURCE: Cape Mercantile Advertiser, May 2, 1911 edition

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Marie Levine

