

Mosman Library Sydney Australia

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming  
**CASE:** GSAF 1915.01.01  
**DATE:** Friday January 1, 1915  
**LOCATION:** Sirius Cove, Sydney Harbour, New South Wales, Australia.  
 33°51'S

**NAME:** Warren Tooze  
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 17-year-old male.

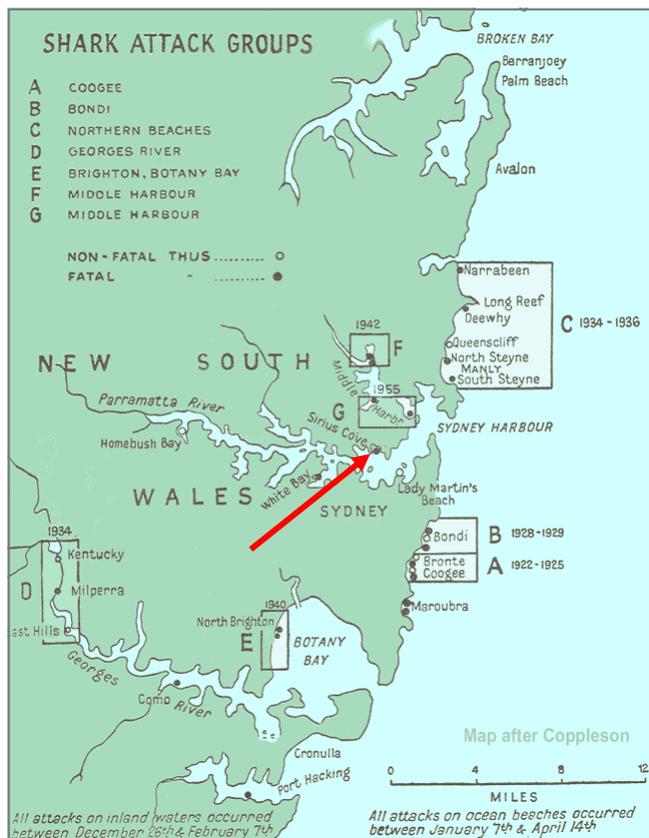
**BACKGROUND**  
**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, January 1, 1915  
**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 yards  
**DEPTH OF WATER:** Six feet  
**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** See press clippings.

**INJURY:** Fatal.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Argus (Melbourne), Saturday January 2, 1915, page 10



Gilbert P. Whitley, citing Argus (Melbourne) January 15, 1915  
Poverty Bay Herald, January 12, 1915, page 7  
Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 70.

## **MAULED BY A SHARK.**

### **YOUTH SAVED BY A COMPANION.**

Sydney, January 1.

A shark attacked and badly mauled Warren Tooze (17) while he was bathing this morning in Little Sirius Cove, Mosman. Tooze, who lives in Majestic, Mosman, and a neighbor, Herbert Parle, were swimming in a cove about 100 yards from shore. Tooze was farther out than his mate, and was in about 6 ft. of water, when he suddenly called out and sank. Parle at once swam out, and pulling Tooze to the surface found that he had been badly bitten by a shark. A huge piece had been taken out of his buttocks, and he was in a fainting condition. Parle caught hold of the injured youth, and had started to pull him towards the shore, when he saw the fin of a shark coming towards them. Retaining his hold on his mate he splashed the water with his legs in an attempt to frighten the monster, and succeeded in keeping it at a distance until he gained shallow water with his burden. Tooze was taken to the Sydney Hospital, and his condition is serious.

*The Advertiser (Adelaide), Saturday January 2, 1915, page 12*

## **KILLED BY A SHARK.**

Sydney, January 4.

Warren Tooze, who was badly bitten by a shark at Mosman last week, died early this morning.

*The Advertiser (Adelaide), January 5, 1915, page 9*

SYDNEY, Jan. 1.

Warren Tooze, 17, of Mosman, was attacked and badly bitten by a shark at Sirius Cove, Mosman, this afternoon. His life was saved by Herbert Parle. Seeing his mate in trouble, Parle exhibited great bravery, and went to his assistance. Splashing the water and calling out loudly, he succeeded in scaring away the monster. He then pulled Tooze ashore, where it was found that the flesh on the back part of both legs above the knee had been torn off.

Parle and the injured lad live next door to one another. Shortly before noon they went to Sirius Cove to have a swim, and ventured out about 100 yards from the shore. They were in the water about an hour, when Tooze suddenly yelled out to his companion that a shark was approaching.

He pointed to a fin above the water, and then turned to swim to the shore. Parle, a little distance away, saw that the shark was making for young Tooze. He swam strongly towards his companion, and when within a few feet of him noticed him throw up his hands. At the same time he shrieked loudly and appeared to faint. Blood commenced to show itself on the top of the water, and in a few seconds Tooze appeared to be in a regular pool of it.

With remarkable presence of mind Parle put in a few more strokes, and reached Tooze's side. He could see the shark underneath, and, getting hold of his mate, he started to pull him towards the beach.

The shark turned to attack Parle. The latter, who is a strong swimmer, held Tooze in his left hand, and started to splash water with his right, kick with his two feet, and call out loudly. The commotion appeared to frighten the shark, and it backed away, but made another attempt to get close to its intended victims. Parle, however, kept up his kicking, shouting and splashing, and eventually the shark swam away towards the harbor.

Almost exhausted through the fight he had had, Parle rested for a few moments, and looked after his mate. Tooze had fainted, and Parle eventually reached the shore with the unconscious lad in his arms.

Tooze regained consciousness when taken to the hospital, but his condition is critical.

## FIGHT WITH SHARK.

### BRAVE RESCUE BY FRIEND.

SYDNEY, Friday. — Two young men, Warren Tooze and Herbert Parle, were swimming in the harbour at Sirius Cove, Mosman, this morning, when a shark suddenly attacked Tooze, and tore a large piece of flesh from his thigh. Tooze cried for help, and Parle at once bravely went to the rescue, although the shark was still present. Grasping Tooze securely, Parle made for the shore. The shark followed them up and made several rushes, to which Tooze and Parle responded with as much splashing and shouting as they could contrive. When near to the shore others came to the rescue, and Tooze and Parle were dragged into safety. Two doctors, who happened to be near, attended to Tooze, who was suffering severely from loss of blood. The unfortunate young man was then taken to the Sydney Hospital, where he was admitted in a serious condition.

### **Little Sirius Cove c1915**

The first recorded shark fatality in Mosman was here in Little Sirius Cove on the afternoon of New Year's Day 1915. Young 17-year-old Warren Tooze from 21 Magic Street (later called Magic Grove) was swimming with his mate Herbert Park when a shark attacked. Herbert heard Warren scream and turned in time to see his friend going down under the water. He bravely swam towards where he last saw his mate and dove down and pulled him to the surface. He could see the situation was extremely grim as there was much blood coming from the wound. However he started back for shore dragging the bleeding youth. It was about halfway back, still in about 6 feet of water Herbert caught sight of a fin coming straight towards them. His quick response of wildly kicking his legs creating a lot of splashing saved both of them further harm from the shark until shallow water was reached.

Even with a desperate rush to get the victim to Sydney Hospital, he died soon after arriving, the trip being just too far for such a mauling.

Back in the 1890's a group of artists and friends built what they called Curlew Camp on the eastern shore of the cove just below the present boundary fence of Taronga Zoo. The 90's were hard times, particularly for artists, and most of them could not afford the rents being asked so they elected to rough it on the shores of Mosman. They, and their fellow campers, could easily commute to the city from here and the fishing was particularly good as a food source. The world renowned artist Sir Arthur Streeton resided at the Cove for a good five years before he burst on to the world stage.

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