

ACTIVITY: Bathing

CASE: **GSF 1918.09.19**

DATE: Thursday September 19, 1918

LOCATION: The Strand beach, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Joseph Bartlett

DESCRIPTION: He was a 22-year-old male, a railway employee.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, September 20, 1918

DEPTH OF WATER: 2.5 feet

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: He was bathing with Walter Scott when a shark seized his right leg and began pulling him into deeper water. Scott grabbed Bartlett and took him ashore, and he was transported by ambulance to the hospital

INJURY: Fatal. He arrived at the hospital in shock and died there on Saturday night.

SPECIES: Not identified



ATTACKED BY A SHARK.
A TOWNSVILLE SENSATION.

TOWNSVILLE, September 19.
The danger of bathing on the Strand Beach was once more again emphasised this afternoon, when a young man named Joseph Bartlett, aged 22, was severely mauled by a shark. Bartlett was bathing with another man named Walter Scott, and was in about 2½ feet of water, when he was attacked by the shark, which seized his right leg. Scott saw the plight of his companion, and went to his assistance, taking hold of him. The shark pulled both men out beyond their depth, when Scott, who is a strong swimmer, was able to strike out, and after an exhausting struggle, succeeded in dragging Bartlett ashore, the shark keeping hold of his leg until there was only a foot of water. The Ambulance conveyed the injured man to the General Hospital. Bartlett was in a serious condition, suffering severely from shock but he will probably recover, though it is most likely he will lose his leg. Had it not been for the plucky action of Scott Bartlett must surely have lost his life.

*The Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld)
Friday September 20, 1918, page 3*

Joseph Bartlett was bathing on the Strand beach at Townsville yesterday, when he was gripped by a shark. Walter Scott caught hold of Bartlett, who was being taken into deep water, and after a hard struggle succeeded in saving him.

The Brisbane Courier, Friday September 20, 1918, page 6

FATAL ENCOUNTER WITH SHARK.

TOWNSVILLE. September 22.
Joseph Bartlett, who was attacked by a shark on the Strand beach on Thursday afternoon, died in the hospital on Saturday night.

Brisbane Courier, Monday September 23, 1918, page 10

SHARK-BITE FATAL

TOWNSVILLE, Sept. 23.
Bartell, a railway employée, the victim of the shark tragedy, died and was buried to-day. The Railway Band played the Dead March, and followed by about 300 railway employees made quite an imposing procession.

Cairns Post (QLD), Tuesday September 24, 1918, page 8