

**ACTIVITY:** Wading / shrimping  
**CASE:** **GSAF 1919.01.05**  
**DATE:** Sunday January 5, 1919  
**LOCATION:** Ross River, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.  
*19°15'S, 146°50'E*

**NAME:** Jack Hoey  
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 38-year-old male.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, January 2, 1919  
**DEPTH OF WATER:** "Up to his armpits" in the water.  
**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Six yards  
**TIME:** 10h00



**NARRATIVE:** He was shrimping in the river with a companion named Parry. Then they went for a swim about 100 yards below the railway bridge. Parry heard him call out, "Oh, my leg", went to his assistance and brought him to the bank of the creek. An ambulance transported the injured man to the hospital.

**INJURY:** Fatal. The bite severed his leg above the knee.

**SOURCES:** The Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld), Monday January 6, 1919, page 3; The Advertiser (Adelaide, South Australia), Friday January 10, 1919, page 6; Victor M. Coppleson.Q1 (1933); Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 90 & 237.

*Note: Coppleson (1933) initially listed the date as January 7, 1919 but in subsequent publications he revised it to January 5, 1919.*

## A TOWNSVILLE SENSATION.

### ATTACKED BY A SHARK.

TOWNSVILLE, January 6.

At about ten o'clock on Sunday morning a man named Jack Hoey, aged 38 was attacked by a shark in Ross Creek about 100 yards below the railway bridge, with the result that his left leg was taken off just above the knee. It appears that Hoey, who is an employee of the Waterboard had been crabbing with a companion named Parry, foreman plumber to the Board. Reports are conflicting, but it would seem the crabbing had been concluded and the men decided to have a swim. Hoey was about six yards from the bank in water to his armpits and some little distance in advance of Parry, when the latter heard his companion call out in agitation "Oh my leg." Parry immediately saw that Hoey was in difficulties and brought him to the bank of the creek. The Ambulance was soon on the scene and conveyed the injured man to the hospital.

Parry did not see the shark but it must have been a particularly large one.

Hoey is a married man with a wife and six children and resides in Sturt-street, West. Inquiries at the hospital at a late hour elicited the information that he was in a very low condition.

*The Northern Miner*  
January 6, 1919

### LEG BITTEN OFF.

On Sunday morning a married man, about 38 years of age, the father of six children, went with a mate to bathe in Ross Creek, near the railway-station, Townsville, Queensland. He was no sooner in than he was attacked by a shark, which took a leg off above the knee. The man was conveyed to the hospital suffering from shock. He is in a very critical state. Prior to going in for the swim he had been "shrimping" along the bank of the creek.

### LEG BITTEN OFF

On Sunday morning a married man, about 36 years of age, the father of six children, went with a mate to bathe in Ross Creek, near the railway-station, Townsville, Queensland. He was no sooner in than he was attacked by a shark, which took a leg off above the knee. The man as conveyed to the hospital suffering from shock. He is in a very critical state. Prior to going in for the swim he had been "shrimping" along the bank of the creek.

*The Advertiser*  
January 10, 1919