

**CASE: GSAF 1920.01.15**

**DATE:** Thursday January 15, 1920

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in Throsby Creek just off Hannell Street, Newcastle Harbour, New South Wales, Australia.

32°55'S, 151°48'E

**NAME:** David Miller

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 12-year-old male.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, January 13, 1920

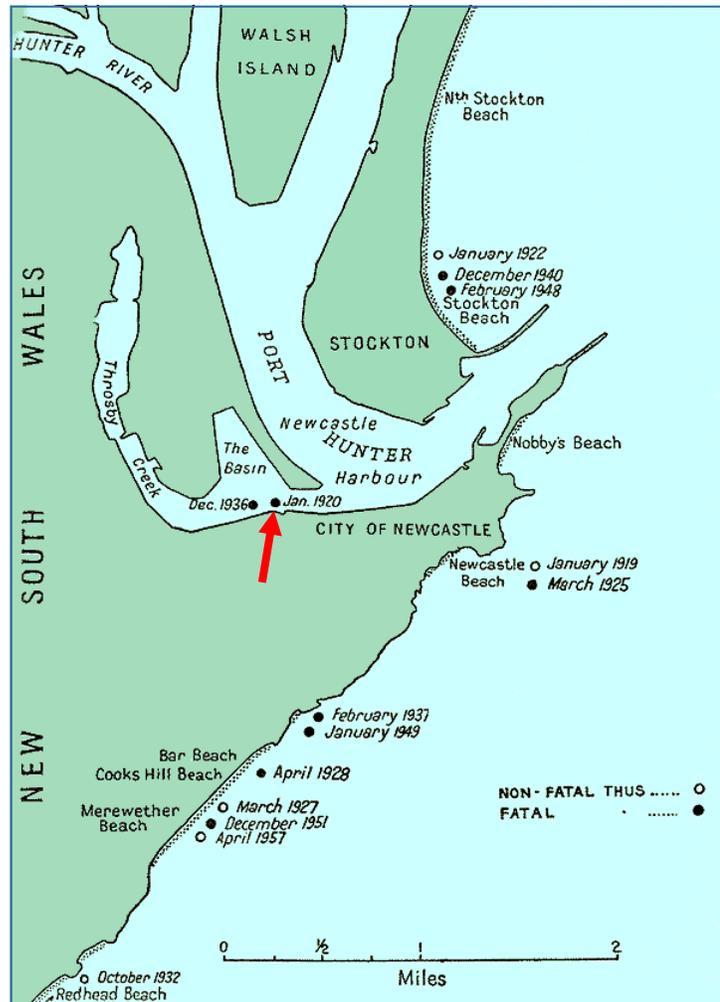
**WATER CONDITIONS:** The water temperature was 74.9°F.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 12 feet

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Two feet

**TIME:** 10h00

**NARRATIVE:** The shark grabbed the boy by the ankle and dragged him into deep water. He broke free and attempted to swim ashore but was seized again by the leg. His cousin went to his rescue. A "desperate struggle" was said to have taken place and after a while the boy was brought ashore.



**INJURY:** Fatal. Tissue was stripped from his thigh and the lower part of his leg was severely lacerated. He died soon after being rescued.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Argus (Melbourne), Friday January 16, 1920, page 6; Victor M. Copleson.N14.(1933); Victor M. Copleson (1958), p.229; Copleson Archives, 1223/11-Item 3.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Richard D. Weeks, Global Shark Accident File

## SEIZED BY SHARK.

### BOY'S AWFUL STRUGGLE.

SYDNEY, Thursday. — David Herbert Miller, aged 12 years, was seized by a shark while bathing in Newcastle Harbour today, and died from injuries received.

The boy was swimming about 12ft. from the shore, when the shark took him by the ankle. He shook himself free and was making for shore, when the shark caught him by the thigh. His cousin, James Miller, came to the assistance and attempted to save the boy, but it was only after a desperate struggle that he managed to bring him ashore. The injured boy died almost immediately afterwards.

15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1920

At 10am on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1920, Herbert D. Miller, aged 12 and a half, was attacked by a shark in Throsby Creek, just off Hannell Street. He was dead before he was brought out of the water.

The attack took place in two feet of water. The shark knocked him, then bit him on the lower part of the right leg, forcing him into deeper water, seized him by the right thigh, mutilating the leg considerably. As the shark bit him on the thigh, it pulled him below the surface. Miller's companion threw a large stone at the shark, which then made off.

While being brought to shore, Miller frothed at the mouth and died.

**SOURCE:** Copleson Archives, 1223/11 Item 3 Shark Attacks New South Wales: