

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE [GSAF 1924.01.29](#)

DATE: Tuesday January 29, 1924

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean opposite the XL Tea Room at Durban's South Beach, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Johannes Karl Schultz

DESCRIPTION: He was a 22-year-old male, a cook's mate on the steamship *Ussukuma*.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter Moon, January 29, 1924 at 03h53 (Universal Time - 2h).

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 to 25 metres

TIME: 15h15

NARRATIVE: Johannes Schultz went for a swim with two friends but he was somewhat isolated from his companions when he suddenly began thrashing the water and then disappeared. Although Schultz was a competent swimmer, witnesses speculated that he might have "stepped into a deep hole" and drowned.

INJURY: Fatal. On Friday morning portions of a human body drifted ashore at Country Club Beach. Lifesavers contacted the Borough Police of Depot Road and the remains were taken to the Mortuary. The remains consisted of a pelvis, two legs and feet that, with the exception of the left foot, were "completely destitute of flesh." The identity of the body could not be conclusively established but it was speculated the remains were those of Schultz.

SOURCE: Natal Mercury (Durban, South Africa), February 2, 1924

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Marie Levine



The XL Tearoom though well known, was not well documented in photographs but here is one, taken years after this incident, which shows the XL Tea Room with its parking area to the right. Looking further on is the Vetch's Pier area and on the right would be the area where uShaka is now located.

**A GRUESOME FIND
NUDE REMAINS OF BODY OFF BEACH
IS IT SCHULTZ?**

The Depot Road Police received an intimation yesterday morning about 6.10 of the discovery of the nude remnant of a human body on the foreshore near the Old Battery Beach. The remains consisted of the pelvis and two legs and feet, entirely destitute of flesh, except the left foot, from which the deduction was drawn that the body was that of a young European male.

The discovery was made by one of the lifesavers in the service of the beach department. The body was subsequently moved to the Mortuary by the Borough Police of Depot Road.

With no clue to the identity of the remains left, conjecture has played a part, and it has been suggested that the remains are those of JOHANNES KARL SCHULTZ, cook's mate on the SS USSUKUMA, who disappeared under the waves while bathing below the XL Tea Rooms on Tuesday afternoon. Possibly the unfortunate man was drawn under the waves by a shark or he may have been attacked by one while in an unconscious state. Whether this is the case or not, it will practically prove impossible for anybody to identify the almost skeletal remains of the unfortunate man.

SOURCE: Natal Mercury, Saturday February 2, 1924