

ACTIVITY: Floating on his back
CASE: [GSAF 1925.11.22](#)
DATE: Sunday November 22, 1925
LOCATION: The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia
32°S, 115°52'E

NAME: Simeon (Samuel) Ettelton
DESCRIPTION: He was a 52- or 55-year-old male, a bookmaker's clerk.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a beautiful afternoon.
MOON PHASE: First Quarter, November 23, 1925
ENVIRONMENT: The beach was crowded and so was the water.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 40 yards
DEPTH OF WATER: Eight feet
TIME: 15h15

NARRATIVE: A large shark swam in amongst a large crowd of bathers and attacked Ettelton. Three lifesavers made a heroic attempt to rescue the injured man. As they were lifting him into their 10-foot dinghy, the shark swam between Ettelton and his rescuers and bit Ettelton's leg again. Lifesavers struck the shark with an oar and it released him, then charged and rammed the dinghy, cracking timbers and nearly capsizing the small boat.

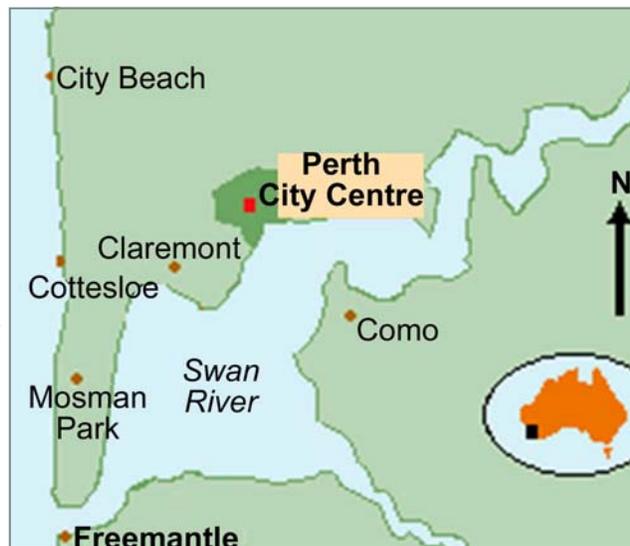
INJURY: Fatal. Dr. Harpur of Freemantle Hospital was on the beach but there was little he could do for the mortally injured man.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The four-metre shark cruised along the beach for several hours afterwards. When the shark believed responsible for the attack was caught and its stomach examined, no human remains were found. The shark that was caught was a female tiger shark, but there was some difference of opinion at the time concerning the species.

SOURCES: Barrier Miner, Monday November 23, 1925, page 4
G.P. Whitley (1951), page 185, citing the Daily News (Perth), November 26, 1925
Victor M. Coppleson, W2. (1933)
Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 111 & 241
West Australia, January 5, 1967
Alan Sharpe, pages 129-130



This tiger shark was believed responsible for the attack on Ettelton. She was mounted and displayed in a local museum for many years.



KILLED BY A SHARK

HAPPENING AT COTTESLOE.

Perth, Monday.

A tragedy occurred at Cottesloe on Saturday when a large shark got in among a number of bathers attacking Simon E. Ettelson (52), a bookmaker's clerk, killing him. After the attack the shark hovered about for some time despite efforts to kill it. Several swimmers who helped to bring the body of Mr. Ettelson ashore had narrow escapes.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW), Monday November 23, 1925, page 4