

ACTIVITY: Walking

CASE: GSAF 1927.05.09.R

DATE: Reported May 9, 1927

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Coral Sea eight miles south of Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Quassa

DESCRIPTION: He was a male from Thursday Island.

BACKGROUND

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

NARRATIVE: He was working with a lugger fishing for beche de mer, but was walking in the water looking for shells when he was bitten by a shark.

INJURY: Fatal. His right leg was severed at the groin and he died an hour later.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: The Brisbane Courier, Tuesday May 10, 1927, page 14; The Maitland Daily Mercury, May 10, 1927, page 5; G.P. Whitley (1940), The Fishes of Australia, Part 1; Victor M. Copleson (1958) page 242

SHARK VICTIM.

ABORIGINAL'S DEATH.

LEG BITTEN OFF.

CAIRNS, May 9.

Walking waist deep in water, looking for shells, an aboriginal named Quassa, was attacked by a shark, which bit his right leg off at the groin. Before he died, an hour later, Quassa told his mates that a shark came up to him before he noticed it, and it was too late to fight it. Quassa was a Thursday Island boy, and had been out on the Barrier Reef, eight miles south of Cairns, fishing for beche de mer. He was away from the lugger at the time. He was noticed by his mate, Kassi, who was in a dingey, to spring high out of the water. Kassi rowed over and brought the dying man aboard. His terrible wound was staunchied, and the lugger was brought by its Japanese skipper to Cairns, where it arrived last night.

LEG BITTEN OFF.

ABORIGINE ATTACKED BY SHARK.

SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES.

CAIRNS, Tuesday.

An aborigine named Quassi was walking waist deep in water looking for shells at Thursday Island, when he was attacked by a shark, which bit his right leg off at the groin. Before he died an hour later; Quassi said the shark came up to him before he noticed it. He was too late to fight it.

1927. May.

PUASA. Torres Strait Islander. Near Cooktown. Lat. 15° 28'S.
Fatal.

Attacked whilst diving.

SHARK FISHING

IMPORTANT NEW INDUSTRY

GLOVES, FOOTWEAR, HATS

(Special to "The Miner.")

London, September 6.

Dr. Ehrenreich, after 22 years' research, has perfected a secret process for curing shark hide. He has formed Marine Products Limited, which has acquired the steamer *Istar* (2000 tons) as a factory ship. The *Istar*, which was formerly a yacht belonging to M. Boulet, a champagne maker, will be used in conjunction with a former meat factory at Canarvon to develop the industry.

The company will invest £300,000, using only Australian labor, which will be trained aboard the *Istar*, and Australian materials, including pine solution for tanning.

It is claimed that the leather industry will be revolutionised. By the new process the company will be able to make the softest leather enabling the production of gloves, jackets, hats, handbags, footwear, and even stockings.

Embryo sharks' hide produces the finest quality material which may be artistically dyed. A portion of the intestines may be used for the most dainty gloves. On the contrary one species of leather is so closely scaled that it is bullet proof.

It is claimed that there will be 21 by-products, including dye stuffs, blue, and fishmeal. These will practically cover the cost of the production of leather.

It is pointed out that shagreen at present is being sold at 3/4 a square inch.

Smoked shark flesh will be exported to the Far East and to London, where 250 tons of such fish is eaten daily under the name of rock salmon.

The *Istar* will catch the sharks in cotton nets in which they will become entangled. Their gills will become closed resulting in drowning.

There is no fear of a shortage of sharks. It is officially estimated that 1,000,000 are born daily and 5,000,000 pass the Great Barrier Reef daily. The *Istar* will visit Sydney and Melbourne after its arrival in Australian waters.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW, Australia)
Thursday September 8, 1927, page 3

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