

ACTIVITY: Diving

CASE: GSAF 1929.04.09

DATE: Tuesday April 9, 1929

LOCATION: Badu Island, Torres Strait, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He was a "native diver".

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, April 10, 1929

ENVIRONMENT: Badu Island lies 60 km north of Thursday Island. Wikipedia tells us that the island once had a feared reputation as the home of headhunters. Warfare, turtle and dugong hunting were the main occupations of Badu men until the 1870s; turtle and dugong hunting continued after this. Pearlers established bases on the island during the 1870s and by the early 1880s the islanders were becoming dependent on wages earned as lugger crew. At the same time, the first missionaries arrived. At the peak of the shell industry in the late 1950s, the Badu fleet of 13 boats employed a workforce of 200 providing work for many men, even from other islands as well. However, once the shell trade declined, many people moved to the mainland for work.

NARRATIVE: No details

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCE: G.P. Whitley, citing R.S.M.A.C.



1928: Islands, looking south from Badu Island