

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: GSAF 1931.03.22

DATE: Sunday March 22, 1931

LOCATION: Ross River, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

19°15'S, 146°50'E

NAME: Arthur Nomin Tomida

DESCRIPTION: He was a 19-year-old Japanese-Australian male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, March 19, 1931

ENVIRONMENT: Cattle from North Queensland are prepared for export a few miles out of the city and offal is discharged into the river, attracting large numbers of sharks.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 42 inches

TIME: 07h00



NARRATIVE: He was trying to catch shrimps and herring with a cast net when the mesh became entangled in a snag. He waded out to the net and a large shark bit his thigh.

INJURY: Fatal. A large portion of his left posterior thigh was removed by the shark and his femoral artery was severed. He died soon afterwards.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCES: Townsville Daily Bulletin, Monday March 23, 1931, page 4; Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), March 23, 1931, page 8; The Brisbane Courier, March 23, 1931, page 11; Cairns Post, March 23, 1931, page 5; Victor M. Coppleson.Q9 (1933); Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 90 & 238; Sharpe, page 98.

SHARK KILLS SHRIMP-CATCHER.

BRISBANE, Sunday.—Arthur Nomin Tomida, aged 19 years, a Japanese, was attacked by a shark at Townsville to-day while trying to catch shrimps and herrings with a cast net. He died soon afterwards from his injuries.

Argus, March 23, 1931

SHARK ATTACK.

Japanese Mauled.

TOWNSVILLE TRAGEDY.

TOWNSVILLE, March 22.

A Japanese, Arthur Nomin Tomida, aged 19 years, was attacked by a shark while trying to catch shrimps and herrings with a cast net to-day, and died soon afterwards from his injuries.

Tomida is stated to have cast his net at Ross Creek, almost in the centre of the city, and the mesh became entangled with some form of snag. He waded towards the net, and when in water estimated to be about 3ft. 6in. deep, was attacked by a large shark, which seized his left thigh, tearing away a large portion of the leg. The attacker then disappeared. Tomida died a few minutes after he was hauled to the bank by onlookers

The Brisbane Courier, March 23, 1931

A sad fatality occurred in Ross Creek on Sunday morning, when a lad named Arthur Nov Tomida, aged 19, lost his life after being mauled by a shark. Young Tomida and his father were prawning in the creek near the railway enginemen's quarters, about seven o'clock. Their net became caught, and both father and son walked back in water up to their chest to release it, the lad being about three feet from his father. Thinking he had reached the snag, the unfortunate youth was attempting to free it with his foot, when he was attacked by the shark. The monster gripped his victim at the back of the thigh, tearing away the whole of the flesh except a strip of two inches in the front. On hearing his son's cry for assistance, Tomida senior immediately brought him to the bank, a distance of about ten feet, but the victim was beyond human aid. The man-eater had also torn away portion of the main artery, and Tomida bled to death in a few minutes.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, March 23, 1931