

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1933.01.04

DATE: Wednesday January 4, 1933

LOCATION: Strand Beach, 200 yards from Kissing Point, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

19°14'S, 146°50'E

NAME: Stanley Victor Locksley

DESCRIPTION: He was a 38-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, January 4, 1933

ENVIRONMENT: A shark was known to be in the vicinity. Fourteen days earlier at the same spot, a man leaving the water with his dog heard a scuffle behind him and turned to see his dog bitten in two by a large shark.

DEPTH OF WATER: Two to three feet

TIME: 17h30



NARRATIVE: Locksley and a boy went for a swim off the beach. The boy was sitting in three feet of water when he saw a shark shoot through the water. He hastily ran ashore, calling to the man to hurry out. On reaching the shore he saw the man struggling on his knees in bloody water. The shark swam off and he ran to the man. The man died of his injuries while he was in the water.

INJURY: Fatal. He sustained severe abdominal wounds.

SOURCES: The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Thursday January 5, 1933, page 7; Cairns Post, January 5, 1933, page 6; Victor M. Coppleson.11 (1933); Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 90 & 238.

ATTACK BY SHARK.

INSTANTANEOUS DEATH.

KISSING POINT FATALITY.

TOWNSVILLE, Jan. 4.

A man named Stanley Locksley, single, aged 38, was attacked by a shark in the water near Kissing Point about 5.30 o'clock this afternoon. The shark bit Locksley in the stomach, inflicting wounds from which he died immediately.

Locksley was a visitor from Hughenden, and was staying at a house opposite the scene of the fatality.

SHARK KILLS BATHER.

TEARS MAN IN HALVES.

ATTACK IN SHALLOW WATER.

Tragedy on Townsville Beach.

BRISBANE, Wednesday. — While bathing in shallow water on Main Strand beach, near Issing Point, Townsville, late this afternoon, Stanley Victor Locksley, aged 38 years, single, shearer's cook, of Hughenden, was shockingly mutilated by a large grey shark. He died almost immediately.

Locksley went to the beach to bathe with Frederick Pianta, aged 14 years, a son of his employer. When sitting down in 3ft. of water, Pianta saw a grey form appear. He left the water hurriedly, calling to Locksley to make haste. When he reached the water's edge the lad looked round. He was horrified to see Locksley struggling on his knees. The water around was reddened with blood. The shark was then swimming away. Rushing to the spot, Pianta found that Locksley had been torn almost in halves. He had not time to utter a cry.

A fortnight ago a resident was leaving the water with his dog in the same place. He had reached the water's edge when he heard a scuffle. He turned to see the dog snatched in halves by a large shark, which had rushed into the shallow water.