

**ACTIVITY:** Diving  
**CASE:** [GSAF 1935.08.13](#)  
**DATE:** Tuesday August 13, 1935  
**LOCATION:** Near Warrior Reefs, Torres Strait, Queensland, Australia.  
9°35'S

**NAME:** Barani  
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a male from Sui.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, August 14, 1935

**NARRATIVE:** He was diving for bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber) from a lugger when he was seized by a shark.

**INJURY:** Fatal. His right buttock and left thigh were bitten by a shark. He died within minutes from loss of blood.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Cairns Post, August 27, 1935, page 6; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 243; Jack Green, page 33

## **ATTACKED BY SHARK.**

### **CUT TO THE BONE.**

#### **PAPUAN DIVER DIES.**

Another victim has been added to the list of those daring divers who have given their lives in wresting the sea of her produce with the death, on August 13, near Yule entrance of the Barrier Reef, of Barani, a Papuan native. Attached by a ferocious shark he received wounds causing so great a loss of blood that he died some minutes later. Deceased was cut right to the bone.

#### **THE INQUEST.**

At the inquest at Thursday Island Constable A. L. Bramley gave evidence that on August 14 he viewed the dead body of Barani. He noticed six deep wounds on the left leg between the knee and the groin. There were four marks of a shark's tooth on the inside of the leg, and six small punctured marks on the outside of the leg similar to that which would be made by a shark's tooth. He interviewed the captain of the lugger (Tom Savage), and an island boy, and was informed that deceased was diving for beche-de-mer on August 13, and was bitten on the left side by a shark. He was placed in a dinghy and was rowed to a lugger about 200 yards away, but when nearing the lugger he died. As a result of inquiries he was satisfied that there were no suspicious circumstances, and in his opinion death was due to shark bite or to loss of blood, which one would expect from wounds such as those described.

Evidence was also given by Savage and the boys from the lugger.

Barani, who was a married man with three children, came from the village of Sui.