

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1936.02.04

DATE: Tuesday February 4, 1936

LOCATION: South Steyne on the southern end of Manley Beach, New South Wales, Australia.

33°48'S, 151°S

NAME: David Paton

DESCRIPTION: He was a 14-year-old male from Manly.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was cloudy, humid day and the air temperature was 77.6°F.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, January 31, 1936

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature 73.5°F, and the tide was incoming.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 120 yards

DISTANCE FROM ROCKS: 25 metres

TIME: 15h00

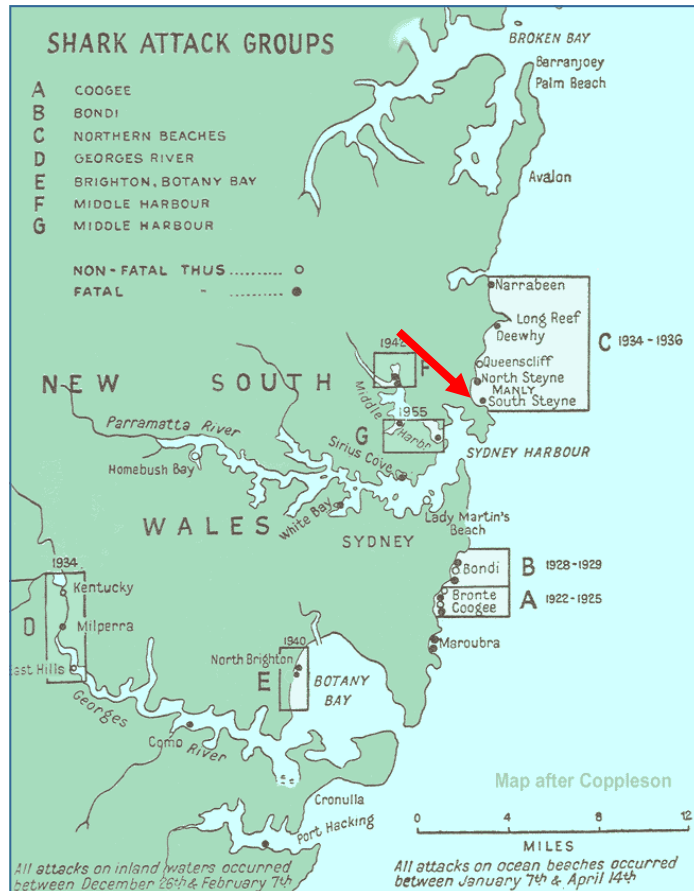
NARRATIVE: More than 100 people were in the surf. David Paton and several other swimmers were beyond the rest when an onlooker saw a huge dark shape rise out of the water and crash down on the boy. Don Redington and Dudley Beer, the Beach Inspector, went immediately to the spot where the boy was last seen but found no trace of him.

INJURY: Fatal. His body was not recovered.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Witnesses said they saw an very large shark cruising near a bank of seaweed close to the beach. It was thought a white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, was involved in this incident.

SOURCES: The Canberra Times, Thursday February 6, 1936, page 4; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 67 & 234; Alan Sharpe, page 68.

NOTE: Some 20 months after this incident, in October 1937, Sydney began meshing (setting gill nets) the beaches.



SHARK TRAGEDY

Surfing Stopped at Manly

SYDNEY, Wednesday.

The shark which is supposed to be the monster which killed David Paton, 14, yesterday, was seen to-day swimming at Manly.

It is believed that the shark will remain close to the beach in the hope of making another successful attack, and lines have been set in an endeavour to capture it. No portion of the body of the boy has been discovered.

Surfing was not allowed at Manly. A warning notice "beach closed" has been posted up.

The Canberra Times
Thursday February 6, 1936, page 4