

**ACTIVITY:** Diving

**CASE:** GSAF 1936.04.22

**DATE:** Wednesday April 22, 1936

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Arlington Reef near Green Island, North Queensland, Australia.  
16°43'S.

**Shark Victim Improving.**  
A slight improvement was shown yesterday by the 16-year-old Japanese trochus shell diver who was attacked by a shark at Arlington Reef on Wednesday.

*Cairns Post, Saturday April 25, 1936, page 6*

**NAME:** Guisne Oscoto

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 16-year-old Japanese male, a diver from the lugger *Cuckoo*.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, April 21, 1936

**TIME:** 10h00

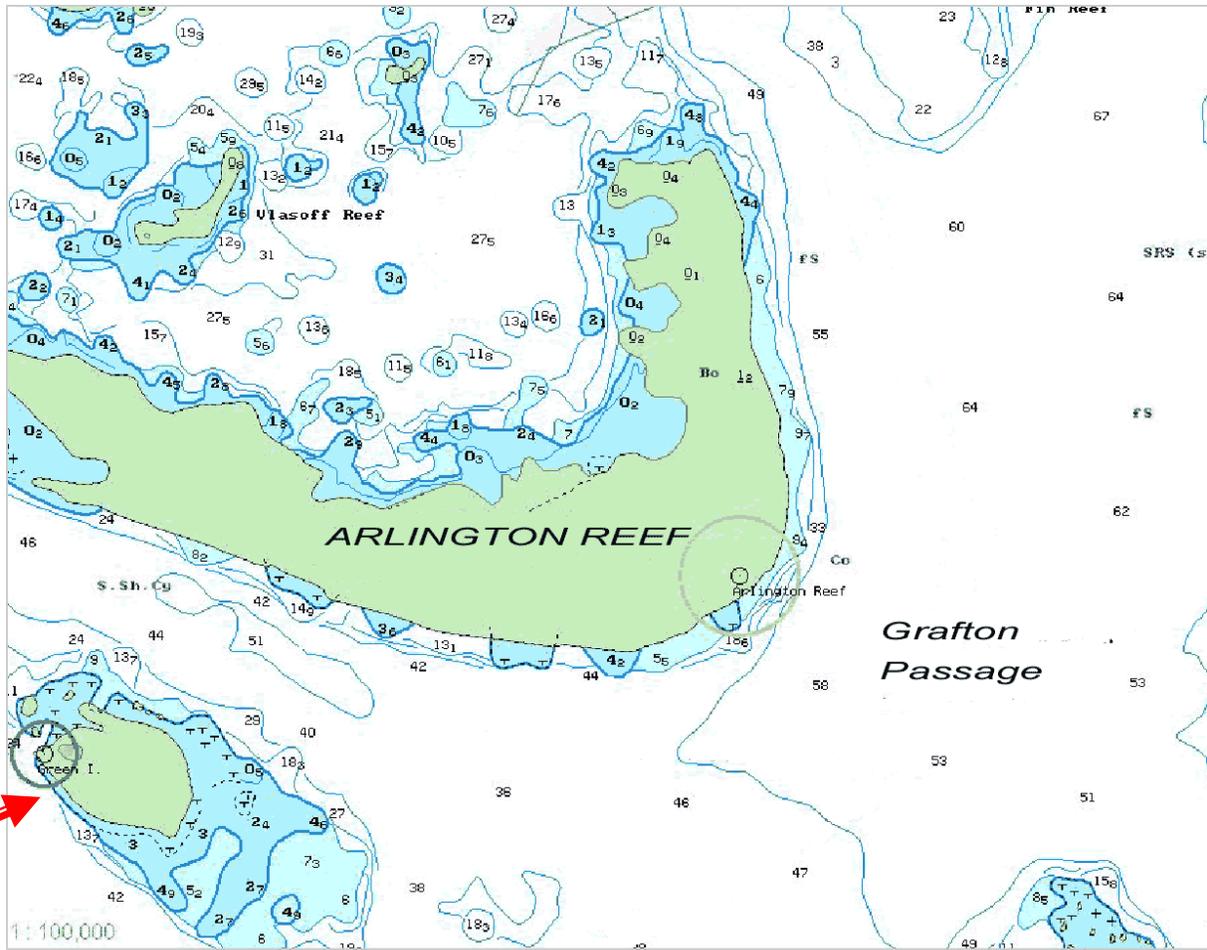
**NARRATIVE:** He was diving for trochus shell with a native boy from a boat. He saw the shark as it approached, attempted to fend it off with his left arm, and was bitten. Then he scrambled aboard a dinghy.

**INJURY:** His left forearm was bitten to the bone, his back was "mauled" and his left thigh and heel were badly lacerated.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** He was admitted to Cairns Hospital in serious condition some time after 16h15. He survived, but with suffered considerable loss of function.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The accident was said to involve a tiger shark 4.5 metres [15 feet] in length.

**SOURCES:** The Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday April 23, 1936, page 7; Townsville Daily Bulletin, April 23, 1936, page 10; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 244



**SHARK MENACE.  
DANGERS SURFERS FACE  
MODERN PRECAUTIONS.**

'The recent attack by a shark on a young Japanese trochus shell diver off Arlington Reef near Cairns further impresses the risks attendant upon those who for profit or pleasure enter the waters on the east coast of Australia.

The Japanese mention is still in the Cairns District Hospital, having made a remarkable recovery from his injuries. Medical skill has saved him We and it will not be long now before he is fit for 'discharge.'

**SOURCE:** Cairns Post, Tuesday May 12, 1936, page 6

# JAPANESE DIVER.

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## Badly Mauled by Shark.

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CAIRNS, Wednesday.

A 16-year-old Japanese trochus shell diver, Guisne Oscoto, was severely mauled by a 13-foot shark at Arlington Reef, near Green Island, to-day. One arm was bitten through to the bone. His back was mauled and his heel was badly lacerated.

Oscoto bore his injuries with great fortitude, and although the lugger did not reach Cairns till six hours after the attack, he was still conscious when he was admitted to hospital in serious condition.

The lugger had put out a number of boats to collect shell, one boat containing Oscoto and a native boy. The shark attacked Oscoto soon after he commenced diving, but he managed to get back to the boat and scramble aboard. The native boy had then to get in touch with the lugger, and after Oscoto had been taken aboard, the other boats had to be called back to the lugger, before it set out for Cairns.

### Boy mauled by shark Savage attack while diving for shell

Cairns, Wednesday: A 16-year-old Japanese trochus shell diver, Guisnie Oscoto, was severely mauled by a 13ft shark at Arlington Reef, near Green Island, and although he did not reach port until six hours later he bore his wounds with considerable fortitude.

It is stated that the lugger put a number of boats out at different points to seek trochus shell while it went on to Green Island.

Oscoto and a native boy were in one boat. While the Japanese was diving he was attacked by the shark, but managed to get back to the dinghy and scramble aboard.

The native boy then had to get in touch with the lugger, and after the victim had been taken on board other dinghies had to be picked up before the boat could come to Cairns.

#### Remained conscious

Although the accident happened at 10 o'clock, port was not reached until 4.15pm. Despite his painful injuries and the loss of blood, the youth did not lose consciousness.

At the Cairns Hospital a doctor found that the victim's lower left arm had been bitten to the bone, but it has been saved from amputation. The shark also inflicted wounds to the back, and side of the left thigh and left heel. His condition to-night was serious.

## **MAULED BY SHARK.**

### **REMARKABLE RECOVERY.**

### **DIVER LEAVES HOSPITAL.**

Badly mauled by a shark off Arlington Reef some six or seven weeks ago, when diving for shell, a Japanese diver, Giichi Ohpa, was conveyed to Cairns by lugger in a very serious condition, and admitted to the Cairns District Hospital, where he has made a remarkable recovery.

He was treated for injuries which consisted of a lacerated wound on the left arm, bone deep, lacerated wound to the palm of his left hand, teeth marks from outside his left thigh across the back to inside the right thigh, a large lacerated wound to his left heel, and in all 100 stitches were inserted in the unfortunate youth.

This week, however, Ohpa left the institution, and although he is still an outpatient, he appears little the worse for his experience except for a slight stiffness in the left arm. He is now residing with countrymen in Sachsstreet awaiting the return of the lugger Cuckoo, which he intends joining again.

*Cairns Post, Thursday June 11, 1936, page 6*