

ACTIVITY: Wading
CASE: GSAF 1940.02.04
DATE: Sunday February 4, 1940
LOCATION: North Brighton, Botany Bay, New South Wales, Australia.
 33°57'S, 151°

NAME: John William Eke
DESCRIPTION: He was a 55-year-old male, an accountant who lived at the Salvation Army Hostel. He was wearing a white shirt, buttoned at the wrists, over his bathing costume for protection from the sun.

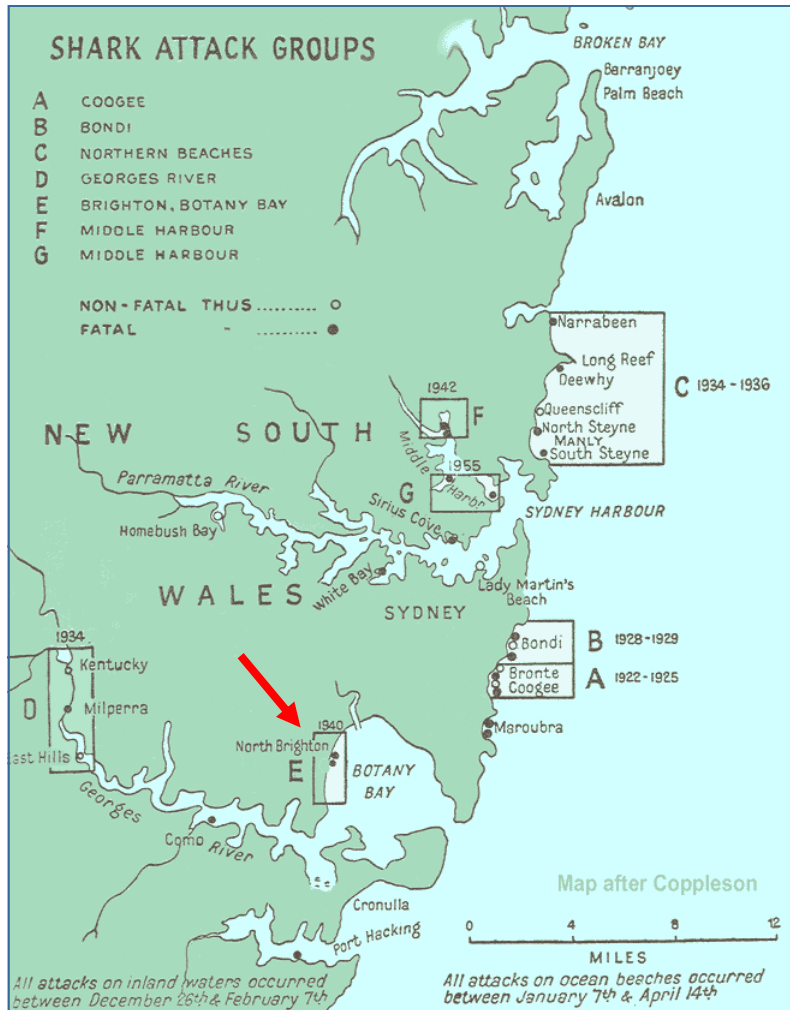
BACKGROUND
WEATHER: It was a clear day and the air temperature was 86°F.
MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, February 1, 1940
WATER CONDITIONS: Low tide was at 14h00. The sea temperature was 73°F.
ENVIRONMENT: In early January several dogs were taken by a large shark/s in the George's River and 12 days earlier Max Farrin was fatally injured by a shark at the same beach.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 40 feet
DEPTH: Waist-deep
TIME: 14h00

NARRATIVE: John Eke was alone when he was bitten by the shark. He was swimming feebly towards the beach, bleeding profusely, when someone shouted, "Shark!" Bill Kennington and his 14-year-old son, Wallace, ran into the water and dragged him ashore.

INJURY: Fatal. His arms were severely bitten. It was thought that the shark bit him twice.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Eke was unconscious when he reached the beach. The Kenningtons applied tourniquets and tried to stop the flow of blood. Despite their efforts, Eke died at St. George Hospital a few hours later.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified



SOURCES: The Canberra Times, February 5, 1940, page 1; Victor M. Coppelson (1958), pages 69 & 235; Coppelson Archives, 1223/11, Item 3

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Richard D. Weeks, Global Shark Accident File

SHARK HORROR

MAN'S ARM TORN FROM SHOULDER

DEATH FROM INJURY

SYDNEY, Sunday.

Terribly mauled when attacked by a shark in about five feet of water at North Brighton this afternoon, John William Eke, 55, of St. Peter's, died in hospital soon after admission.

His left arm was torn from the body at the shoulder.

He was assisted from the water by William Cannington and his son, Wallace, and taken to hospital.

The attack occurred at almost the exact spot where a boy was mauled last month.