

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE** GSAF 1940.12.20 / SA-065

**DATE:** Friday December 20, 1940

**LOCATION:** The accident took place at Inyoni Rocks, Amanzimtoti, 26 kilometres southwest of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. In 1940, Amanzimtoti was not the popular resort that it is today; it was an isolated beach but there was a tea room under construction behind the dunes. 30°03'S, 30°53,4'E



**NAME:** Desmond Chandley

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer, a 17-year-old male, was 1,73 metres tall and weighed 73 kilograms. He was wearing swimming trunks, but it is not known if he wore any jewelry or had any injuries before the attack. He was a volunteer life-saver with the Amanzimtoti Surf Life-saving Club and a pupil at Glenwood High School.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Reports vary; according to the press the day was warm and sunny and no rivers were in flood. The Durban meteorological station records indicate that a high pressure cold front moved through the area the day before the incident, 0,3 millimetres of rain fell, the sky remained overcast throughout the day and winds were from the southwest and south-south-east. On the day of the attack, the air temperature ranged from 20° to 28°C, and 1,5 millimetres of rain had fallen. At 08h00 there was 7/8 cloud cover and a gentle eight-knot northeasterly onshore breeze.

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, December 22, 1940

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was dirty and brown-colored. A 1,5-metre swell was present and no channel was evident.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Karanteen *Sarpa salpa* were caught along the south coast but no one was fishing and no dolphins had been seen at Amanzimtoti when Chandley was bitten by the shark.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 45 metres

**DEPTH:** 1,2 metres

**TIME:** 10h00

**INCIDENT NARRATIVE:** Desmond Chandley and four friends (Kingsley Connell, Eric Jensen, Oswald Welch and Geoffry Rawlings) had been in the water about an hour, but some of the boys left the water because of the numerous jellyfish. Chandley was north of Inyoni Rocks and seawards of his companions when he was bitten by the shark. Eric Jensen said that Chandley screamed and clawed past him to the beach, "Before we had time to do anything Desmond swam inshore himself."

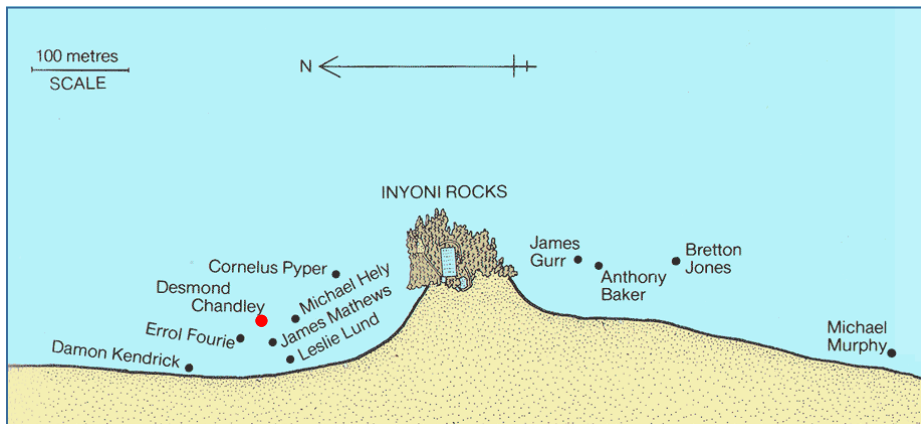
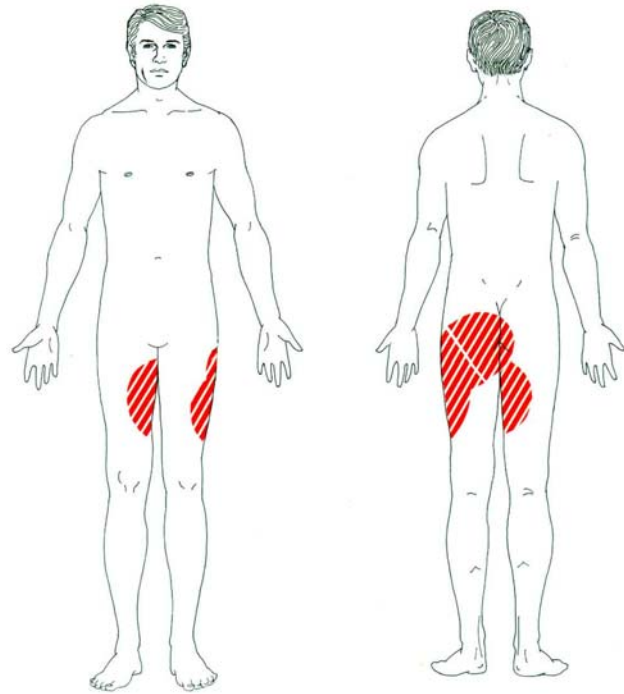
**INJURY:** Chandley suffered multiple injuries to his legs and buttocks. He had been bitten at least three times: the inside of his right thigh was mauled and the femoral artery was severed.

**FIRST AID:** When he reached the beach, a tourniquet was applied. A woman in the

tearoom called for an ambulance to be sent from Durban, and provided blankets for Chandley. He was taken by car to Dr Frickel's surgery where he was given an "injection". The ambulance arrived in Amanzimtoti 90 to 120 minutes after the attack. Chandley was dead on arrival at Addington Hospital. The Inquest report, dated December 21, 1940, recorded that "death was due to shock and haemorrhage after being badly mutilated by a shark."

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine



Map of Inyoni Rocks showing locations of this and other 10 other accidents. (From Wallett)

YOUTH FATALLY BI  
SHARK

21 DEC 1940

30 YARDS FROM SHORE AT  
INYONI ROCKS

**D**ESMOND CHANDLEY, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Chandley, of Umbogintwini, was fatally bitten by a shark at Inyoni Rocks yesterday morning. Chandley was bathing about 30 yards from the shore to the left of the rocks with four companions.

Suddenly he shouted: "There's a shark." His companions, who were farther inshore, looked round and saw Chandley swimming rapidly towards the beach. He was helped out of the water by bathers.

While Chandley's companions ran to the lifesavers' hut for a tourniquet and sal volatile, an unknown man, believed to be a visiting doctor, applied a tourniquet and put Chandley into his car.

A bather telephoned for an ambulance which met the doctor's car half-way to Durban. Chandley died on his way to Addington Hospital. His leg was badly mutilated.

#### FOUR COMPANIONS

The four boys who went swimming with Chandley yesterday morning were Kingsley Connell, Eric Jensen, Oswald Welch and Geoffrey Rawlings.

Eric Jensen told "The Natal Mercury" that they had been swimming since nine o'clock and that they had taken the life line out about 100 yards.

"We put the line away," he said, "and went back for a swim in the surf. Desmond was a little apart from the rest of us and we suddenly heard him shout, 'Shark.'"

"Before we had time to do anything, Desmond had swum in towards the shore himself and was being helped through the breakers."

#### RECENT SHARK VICTIMS

**T**HREE recent victims of shark attacks were:  
Frederick Hooper (18).  
Leslie Lund (17).  
Joe Lees (25).

Hooper was attacked at Wardenoone on January 7. A few weeks later Lund was killed at Inyoni Rocks. Three days before his marriage in March, Lees was fatally injured at Winkle Spruit.



**DESMOND CHANDLEY**

At the time of the accident two of the boys, Geoffrey Rawlings and Oswald Welch, had left the water because they had been stung by jellyfish. They had been swimming at the same spot as young Chandley.

#### **WOMEN WARNED**

About an hour after the accident three women entered the water, but were warned by a police officer that a shark had been in the vicinity. They immediately left the water.

Desmond Chandley was a pupil of the Glenwood High School and was a member of the Second XV Rugby team. He was a good swimmer and most popular with his school fellows.

His father, Mr. P. Chandley, is on the staff of the Native Affairs Department. Desmond was the eldest child and has two brothers and two sisters.

The Amanzimtoti Town Board has under consideration a scheme for making a safety bathing enclosure within the Inyoni Rocks

## **SCHOOLBOY KILLED BY SHARK**

*Down sharks* 2 Jan. 1941  
The death, in an ambulance, between Amanzimtoti and Durban, of Desmond Eugene Chandley, aged 17, after he had been attacked by a shark, formed the subject of an inquest held by Mr. W. V. D. Cellarius in the Durban Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The verdict was death due to shock and haemorrhage after mutilation by a shark.

Carel A. Hollenbach (17), of Amersfoort, Transvaal, was spending a holiday with Mr. P. E. Chandley, "Athlone Park," Amanzimtoti, as a guest of his son, Desmond. On the morning of December 20 the two youths went to Inyoni Rocks to bathe.

Hollenbach sat on the beach while Chandley went into the water with two friends of his. Presently Chandley came out and got a stick from Hollenbach, stating he wanted to kill a jellyfish. Chandley swam out about 50 yards and almost immediately turned and shouted for help, swimming hurriedly for the shore.

"When he reached shallow water two men caught hold of him," said Hollenbach, "and carried him to the beach. I saw a streak of blood behind him in the water. He was bleeding profusely from a wound on the inside of the right thigh.

"One man, who had helped to take him from the water, applied a tourniquet. Another man, who said he was a doctor, examined the tourniquet, and took Desmond to Dr. Frickel's surgery at Amanzimtoti by car. I went with them.

Dr. Frickel gave Desmond an injection. The first doctor then took Desmond by car to Durban. I, and the two men, were in the car with him.

"Midway between Umbogintwini and Isipingo we met the motor ambulance coming for Desmond, and transferred him to it. He was then taken on to Addington Hospital. I went with him in the ambulance. On arrival at the hospital it was found that Desmond was dead."