

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: GSAF 1940.12.28

DATE: Saturday December 28, 1940

LOCATION: Stockton Beach, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

34°54'S, 151°48'E

NAME: Clarence Hammond

DESCRIPTION: He was a 23-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a dull, cloudy day.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, December 29, 1940

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky due to recent rain. The sea temperature was 71.5°F

ENVIRONMENT: A channel was present. The incident took place on the seaward side of a sandbank or submerged reef.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards

DEPTH: Waist-deep

TIME: 09h00

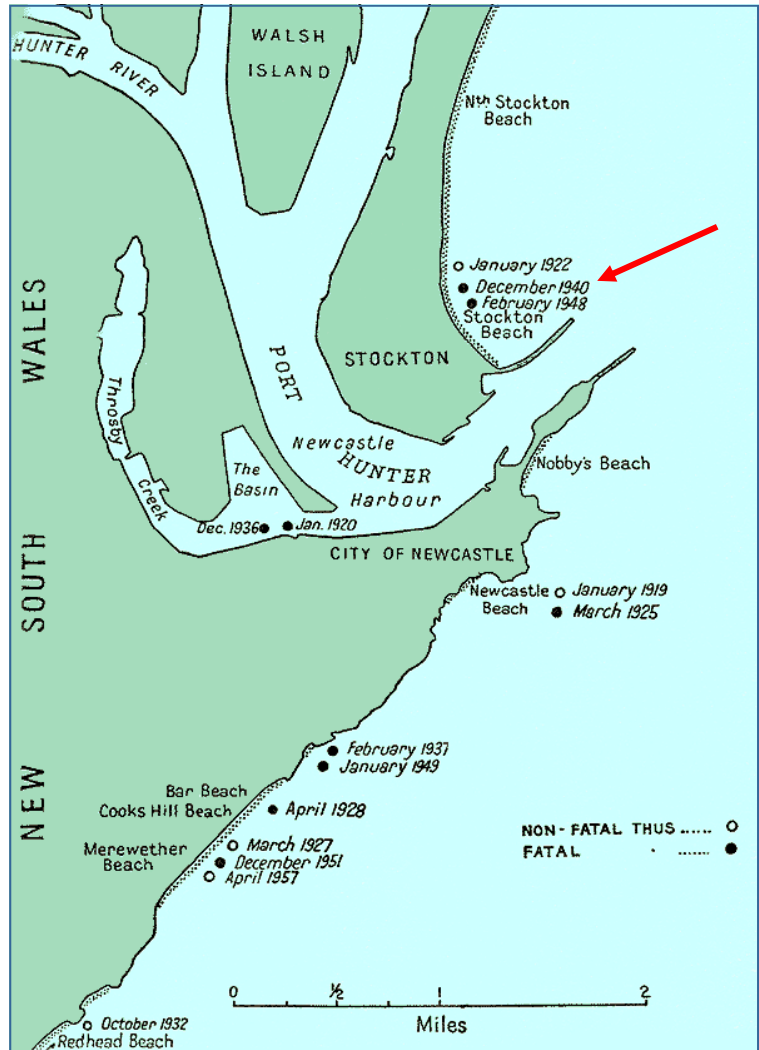
NARRATIVE: Others were seaward of Hammond and there were people around him when he was bitten (twice) by the shark.

INJURY: Fatal. His lower back was bitten and he died as he was being brought ashore.

SPECIES INVOLVED: No one saw the shark.

SOURCES: The Canberra Times, Monday December 30, 1940, page 2; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), page 235, Coppleson Archives, 1223/11, Item 3; Green, p.33

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



SHARK TRAGEDY

Bather Attacked at Newcastle

DIES AFTER RESCUE

SYDNEY, Sunday.

Clarence Hammond, 23, was killed by a shark in shallow, cloudy water at Stockton surf beach, Newcastle, yesterday.

Hammond was standing knee deep about 50 yards from the shore when the shark attacked and mauled him shockingly.

Stockton Surf Club members, Harry Devereux and Jack Jones, bravely went to Hammond's rescue, but he died as they dragged him from the bloody shallow water in which he was lying.

First hint of tragedy came when Jones, who had left Hammond to shoot the breakers about 30 yards further out, heard his friend's agonised cry.

He and Devereux, who was in the surf belt, called a warning to other bathers, and reached the dying Hammond together.

The victim never had a chance.

River fresh had muddied the water, and also brought down many small fish on which the sharks feed.

Yesterday's man-eater apparently made only one attack. No fin was seen, but the teeth marks show it was a big shark.

This is the first surf tragedy in New South Wales this season.

Hammond had lived at Stockton for some years.

The Canberra Times, Monday December 30, 1940, page 2