

ACTIVITY: Body surfing

CASE: GSAF 1944.01.20 / SA-074

DATE: Thursday January 20, 1944

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Indian Ocean at North Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

29°51,1'S, 31°02,4'E

NAME: Anthony Bunn

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer, a 22-year-old male, was serving as a telegraphist with the Union Defence Force.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 18, 1944

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was slightly discoloured and the surf was choppy.

ENVIRONMENT: The day before the attack at 17h15 a shark had been seen in the breakers and bathers were warned to stay out of the water.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 metres

DEPTH: More than three metres

TIME: 13h15

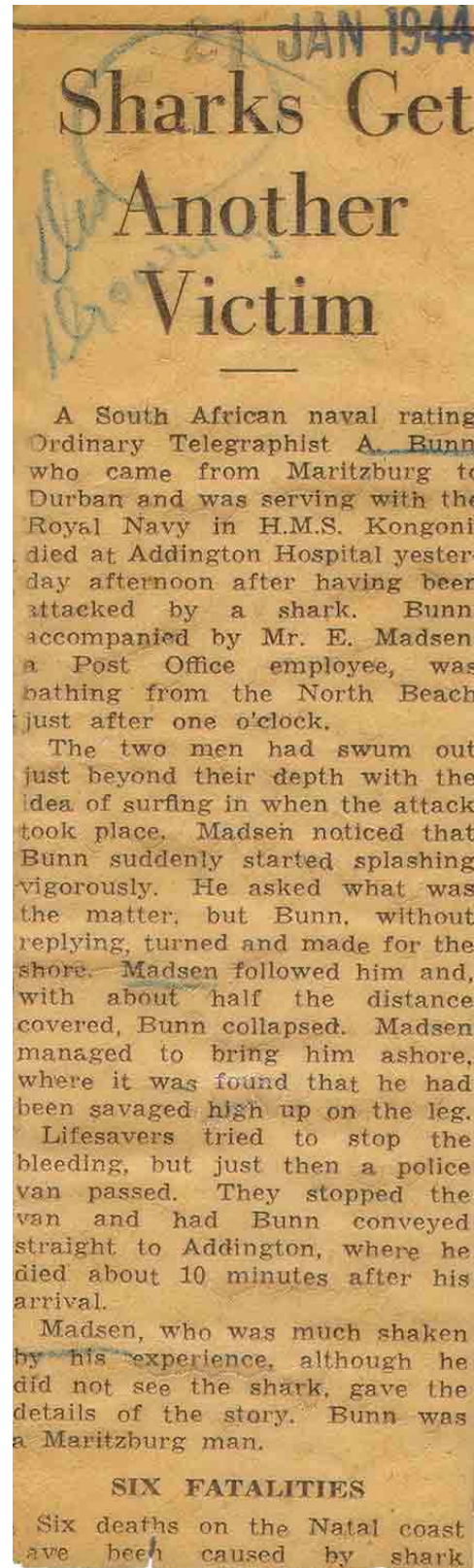
NARRATIVE: The beach was almost deserted. Anthony Bunn and a friend, Mr E. Madsen, were body-surfing when Bunn started splashing the water vigorously. "I asked him what was the matter, but he didn't answer," said Madsen. "Then he headed for shore and I followed." When Bunn was half-way to shore he collapsed and Madsen brought him to the beach.

INJURY: Bunn was bitten "high up on the leg" and his femoral artery was severed.

FIRST AID: Life-savers attempted to control the bleeding and the swimmer was rushed to Addington Hospital in the Police van.

TREATMENT: Anthony Bunn died ten minutes after reaching the hospital. The inquest report states that death resulted from haemorrhage due to laceration of the femoral artery and vein, resulting from the bite of a shark, or other large fish.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. Next day a large



19 FEB 1944

INQUEST ON SHARK VICTIM

The death on January 20 of Anthony Bunn (22), a South African attached to the Royal Navy, formed the subject of an inquest held by Mr. R. G. Chambers in the Durban Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The verdict was that Bunn's death was due to haemorrhage owing to laceration of the femoral artery and vein resulting from the bite of a shark or other large fish on January 20 when Bunn was bathing at the North Beach, Durban.

