

ACTIVITY: Bathing
CASE: [GSAF 1945.06.15](#)
DATE: Friday June 15, 1945
LOCATION: Trinity Beach, Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Private E. J. McHugh
DESCRIPTION: He was a young Australian serviceman.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, June 18, 1945
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: "A few yards"
TIME: 16h00

NARRATIVE: He was rescued by two other servicemen, but died soon after being brought ashore.

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Cairns Post, June 19, 1945, page 3; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 87 and 238; Courier Mail, Tuesday August 6, 1945, page 3; Gilbert P. Whitley (1951), p. 193 — Note: Whitley lists a date of June 18, 1945 for this incident; Alan Sharpe, page 97



Trinity Beach

SHARK FATALITY

AT TRINITY BEACH.

A young Australian serviceman was attacked by a shark while swimming only a few yards from the shore at Trinity Beach last Friday afternoon, June 15. He died before he was brought to the shore by two other servicemen who were on the beach when the tragedy occurred soon after four o'clock. This is the second shark attack at Trinity Beach in the last three years. On the former occasion an R.A.A.F. officer lost a leg as the result of an attack by a shark.

Cairns Post, Tuesday June 19, 1945, page 3

Dared Lurking Shark

F. H. Canning, a Brisbane radiographer staff sergeant of the 2/2 A.G.H., aged 26, and R. Kelly, of Middle Park (V.), both members of the A.I.F., went to the rescue of Pte. E. J. McHugh, who had been bitten by a shark while bathing at Trinity Beach, via Cairns, on June 15, 1945. They brought him to shore, but he succumbed to his injuries.

Eye-witnesses said that they saw a shark swimming near McHugh as he was brought ashore.

Kelly was also awarded the silver medal.

Courier Mail, Tuesday August 6, 1945, page 3