

**ACTIVITY:** Body surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 1950.02.11 / SA-097

**DATE:** Saturday February 11, 1950

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean just south of the XL tea room at South Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. South Beach is located a half-mile north of the entrance to Durban Harbour and less than a mile north of the whaling station on Durban's Bluff.

29°51,5'S, 31°02,6'E.

**NAME:** Clive Heath Gordon Lewis Dumayne

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer, a 14-year-old male, had a slight build but was a powerful swimmer and had represented Durban schools in intertown competitions.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** According to the Durban meteorological station temperatures ranged from 18° to 25°C. The previous day 4,8 millimetres of rainfall was recorded, but there was no rain on the day of the attack. At 08h30 there was 7/8 cloud cover and a light five-knot west-southwesterly breeze, at 15h00 there was 5/8 cloud cover and a light five-knot south-easterly breeze.

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, February 9, 1950

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was rough and dirty. Water was murky with very little visibility. A channel was present, and the attack occurred just above a large hole. Mean low tide was at 17h18.

**ENVIRONMENT:** A number of milk sharks, *Rhizoprionodon acutus*, were caught at the beach, along with bonnet rays, grunter, bream, kingfish.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 metres

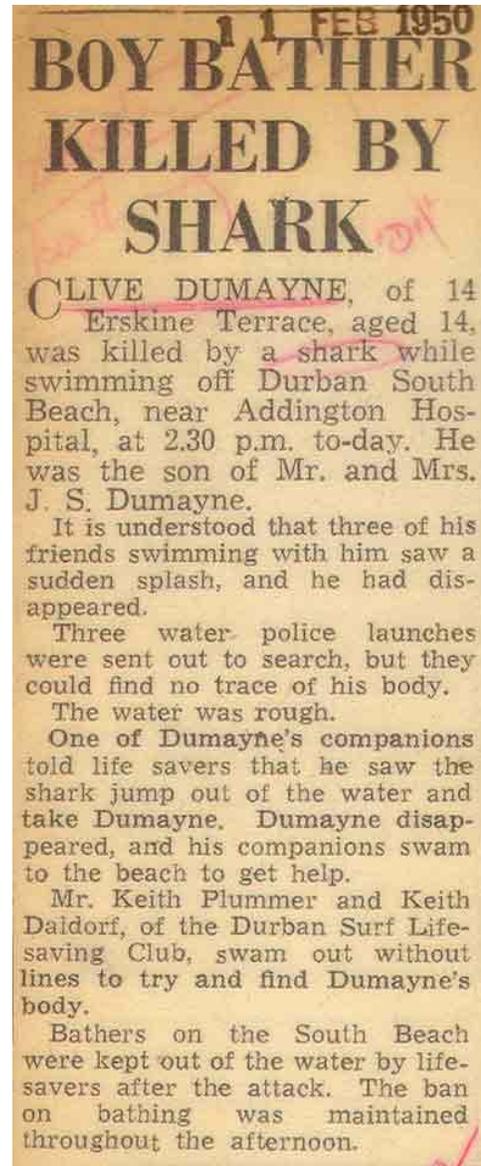
**DEPTH:** 3,6 metres

**TIME:** 14h30

**NARRATIVE:** Clive Dumayne was body-surfing with four companions and was the closest to the shore. The shark broke the water between Dumayne and his companions. Johnny du Plessis said the shark's dorsal fin was very big, "As the shark passed me I looked up at its fin. Then the shark took Clive." Dumayne surfaced once, screamed, and the shark pulled him below the water.

**INJURY:** Fatal; his body was not recovered.

**SPECIES:** According to witnesses, the attack involved a white shark about 12 feet [3.7 metres] in length and weighing 680 kilograms.



**SOURCES:** Interview with M. Dumayne (mother); Natal Daily News, February 11, 1950; Natal Mercury, February 12, 1950

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine

# Boy Taken By Shark, Cried Out Warning

(Sunday Tribune Staff Reporter) 2 FEB 1950

**T**HE last thoughts of 14-year-old Clive Dumayne when he was killed by a shark at Addington Beach, Durban, yesterday afternoon were for his three friends who were swimming with him.

As he was fatally bitten, Clive shouted: "Look out! Shark —" and disappeared under the water. Clive was killed about 50 yards from the shore in rough, dirty water.

The spot where he was attacked was deep, just above a large hole.

His three companions were Louis Havenga, of Southern Residences, Point Road; Peter Plough, of 212a Point Road, and Edgar de Beer, of 297a Point Road.

Louis Havenga told me: "We were out about 60 yards and met Clive in the water. He was nearest the shore.

"Clive said: 'Hullo, Louis,' and the next second screamed 'Look out, Shark.' The shark got him and when I looked down I saw a huge tail.

"The shark broke water between Peter Plough and Clive and we never saw Clive again.

### LIFESAVERS CALLED

"When we got to the shore, we told Clive's friend, Lawrence Prinsloo, to run for the lifesavers."

Mr. Keith Plummer, captain of the Durban Surf Life-saving Club squad on duty yesterday afternoon at the South Beach, said that two young boys rushed up to him on the South Beach and asked for help.

Mr. Plummer added: "I arranged with members of my squad that if I wanted help I would signal with towels. When I got to the spot, the water was rough and dirty. I signalled for the others and five of us went into the water and searched for 15 minutes, but could not find a trace of the body.

"After 15 minutes I called the fellows out, because of the possibility of the shark being around in the dirty water.

### LAUNCHES SEARCHED

"We notified the police and the water police and within a matter of minutes two water police launches and one harbour launch searched the area. They searched for an hour, but could not find the body.

The attack occurred at a spot 50 yards from Addington Harbour baths. It is not a recognised swimming area and no lifeguards were on duty.

Mr. Colville Dumayne, Clive's elder brother said he was driving from a wedding to the reception when a car pulled up next to him and a neighbour of his told him about the accident.

Clive was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Dumayne, of 14 Erskine Terrace, Point, Durban. He was in Standard VII at Glenwood High School and was a powerful swimmer who represented Durban schools in inter-town competitions. He was a daily swimmer at Addington Beach.

He is the second Glenwood High School boy to be killed by a shark. On December 20, 1949, 17-year-old Desmond Chandley was killed at Inyoni Rocks, Amanzimtoti.

Yesterday afternoon's shark attack was the 22nd since 1940. The death roll now totals 10—an average of one a year.

This compares with 17 shark attacks, of which nine were fatal, in 16 years in New South Wales—reputed to be the "worst shark coast in the world."



**Clive Dumayne**

11 FEB 1950  
**BOY BATHER  
KILLED BY  
SHARK**

**C**LIVE DUMAYNE, of 14 Erskine Terrace, aged 14, was killed by a shark while swimming off Durban South Beach, near Addington Hospital, at 2.30 p.m. to-day. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Dumayne.

It is understood that three of his friends swimming with him saw a sudden splash, and he had disappeared.

Three water police launches were sent out to search, but they could find no trace of his body.

The water was rough.

One of Dumayne's companions told life savers that he saw the shark jump out of the water and take Dumayne. Dumayne disappeared, and his companions swam to the beach to get help.

Mr. Keith Plummer and Keith Daldorf, of the Durban Surf Life-saving Club, swam out without lines to try and find Dumayne's body.

Bathers on the South Beach were kept out of the water by life-savers after the attack. The ban on bathing was maintained throughout the afternoon.

18 FEB 1950  
**BATHERS  
HEEDLESS  
OF PERIL**

Although 14-year-old Clive Dumayne, of 14 Erskine Terrace, Point Road, was killed by a shark on Saturday afternoon at the Durban South Beach, bathers yesterday did not heed the lifesavers' warnings.

One man was charged with deliberately disobeying the life-savers after he had been ordered to move into the safe bathing zone. He was charged by a professional lifesaver, who has the power of arrest in such matters.

Altogether there were 10 rescues at the South Beach yesterday. They were mostly due to a very strong "channel." No rescues were reported at the Country Club and North beaches.