

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1951.10.22

DATE: Monday October 22, 1951

LOCATION: The incident took place at Kissing Point Swimming Baths, The Strand, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

19°14S, 146°50'E

NAME: Arthur Joseph Kenealy

DESCRIPTION: He was a 43-year-old male from South Townsville. He was wearing swim trunks.



The Rock Pool and the Strand at Kissing Point

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sea was clear.

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, October 23, 1951

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place inside a wire enclosure that was constructed to protect bathers from sharks.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 24 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three feet

TIME: 19h10

NARRATIVE: Arthur Kenealy, his mother and a family named Hinspeter went to the Baths. They all had a swim and then Arthur went swimming alone. Richard Hinspeter, who was in the water a short distance from shore, heard a splash and then saw a big swirl of water. He didn't see Arthur at the time, but saw him a short time afterwards holding onto the netting at the far side of the enclosure.

Arthur called out, "Eddy, Eddy" to which Hinspeter replied, "Hang on for a minute, mate, and I will be with you." Hinspeter then took the two children he had been holding and put them on the beach. Then he saw Arthur sink from the wires into the water and disappear.

A search was made and Police found Arthur's body at 19h55 about 52 yards on the eastern side of the enclosure washed up on the beach. He had apparently been dragged by the shark through a hole in the fence.

INJURY: Fatal. An examination of the body by Dr. D.I. McCracken, Resident Medical Officer, Townsville General Hospital, indicated that the injuries included "complete stripping of the muscles from the right thigh, total absence of the right leg, removal of skin and subcutaneous tissue from the penis, scrotum and left thigh." Cause of death was "Amputation of Right Lower Extremity by Shark."

NOTE: Subsequent investigations indicated that some of the wire netting was corroded and missing from the enclosure. At the time of the accident there would have been about seven feet of water in the enclosure at the furthest point from the shore and it would not have been possible to see that the lower portion of the netting was missing.

SOURCES: The Sydney Morning Herald, October 23, 1951, page1; Canberra Times, Tuesday October 23, 1951, page 1; Police reports submitted to the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane, Queensland; Alan Sharpe, pages 98-99

MAN TAKEN BY SHARK IN BATHS

BRISBANE, Monday.
—Albert Arthur Kenealy, 42, a waterside worker, was taken by a shark in Kissing Point baths, Townsville, to-night.

His shockingly mutilated body was found about 20 yards outside the baths at 7.10 p.m.

The right leg was missing below the knee and the right and left thighs were torn.

Police said the wire-netting surrounding the baths was rotten. Kenealy was the only person swimming in the baths at the time. He was about to climb out when there was a swirl in the water and he disappeared.

CALLED "EDDIE"

A Mr. Hinspeter, his wife, and four children, friends of the dead man, had gone to the baths with him.

They had just left the water, and were standing on the bank when they heard him call: "Eddie."

Then he disappeared in a swirl of water.

Recently an appeal was made to have the baths made shark-proof again.

The Sydney Morning Herald

MAN DIES AFTER SHARK ATTACK

BRISBANE, Monday.

A shark fatally mauled a man in the swimming baths at Kissing Point, Townsville, shortly after 7 o'clock tonight.

The man, Albert Arthur Ames Kenealey, 42, a waterside worker, had his right leg torn off at the thigh.

The pool is a wire enclosure in the surf.

Kenealey went swimming with a friend, Eddy Hinspeter, who hearing his friend say that he was going in for a final swim, watched him swim out about 15 yards to the fence around the enclosure, and swing on a wire there.

He suddenly heard Kenealey cry out, and saw a swirl of foam rising on the water.

Kenealey clung to the wire for a moment, and then disappeared.

His body was later found by police about 20 yards on the south side of the bathing enclosure.

Canberra Times