

**ACTIVITY:** Sea Disaster

**CASE:** [GSAF 1966.05.20.a](#)

**DATE:** Friday May 20, 1966

**LOCATION:** The incident took place off the east coast of Australia.  
*35°09'S, 150°56'E (approximate location)*

**NAME:** Daniel Mangel

**DESCRIPTION:** He was 38-year-old male, clad in a light brown shirt, grey trousers, grey socks, red and off-white kapok life jacket.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The air temperature was 53°F.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, May 20, 1966

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water temperature was 62°F.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Scattered wreckage of the ship was found the next day by *H.M.A.S. Vendetta*. Bodies of four other men, untouched by sharks, were recovered but no trace was found of 13 other men

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Seven miles

**TIME:** After dark

**NARRATIVE:** No details. Ships searched the area throughout the night. Scattered wreckage from ship was found the next day (May 21, 1966)

**INJURY:** Fatal. The autopsy report describes the wounds: "Massive tissue loss from left shoulder to hand. Humerus, radius and ulna exposed and scored by teeth marks. Brachial artery torn away. There were many sets of varying-sized teeth marks on the body. The largest was a complete set of linear incisions which formed an ellipse on his abdomen. This bite measure approximately 35 centimetres in the long axis and was quite superficial involving skin and superficial fascia only. Several smaller bites of sizes ranging from five to 10 centimetres were found on the trunk and thighs and these also constituted near perfect sets of teeth marks without tissue loss. A small bite (some eight centimetres wide) had taken the left nipple and underlying pectoral muscles and a similar bite in the left popliteal fossa had involved the popliteal vessels. Autopsy revealed dry lungs and no cause of death other than the wounds described here."

Next day (May 21, 1966) human remains being bitten by seven sharks (unidentified species). "A body was snatched from a grapnel by sharks during recovery attempts and was lost. This description, together with the variety of bite sizes on the body previously described seems to indicate 'pack feeding' in the area. Four bodies of drowned men untouched by sharks were recovered. Thirteen other men remained missing."

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The report continues, "I would think the White Pointer (white shark) was responsible. These sharks are prevalent and frequently caught by game fishermen in this area."

**SOURCE:** C. Barker and Robert J. Ritson, Surgeon Lieutenants, Royal Australian Navy