

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: [GSAF 2011.05.21.b](#)

DATE: Saturday May 21, 2011

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Indian Ocean at Leven Point, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Warren Smart

DESCRIPTION: He was a 28-year-old male from Richards Bay, a mechanical engineer and a founding member of the Zululand Spearfishing Club.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 77% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, May 17, 2011. Last Quarter, May 24, 2011.

ENVIRONMENT: Leven Point, on the edge of the iSimangaliso Wilderness, is only accessible by boat. Leven Point is 57km south of Sodwana, 23 kilometres north of Cape Vidal and 150 kilometers north of Richards Bay.

SEA CONDITIONS: Underwater visibility was "good".

TIME: Midday



Warren Smart with 2 Wahoo

NARRATIVE: Warren Smart, Andrew Mitchley, Trevor Hutton, and Neil Myburg, skipper of their skiboat *Dugout*, set out from Cape Vidal at 07h00. Five hours later Smart, Myburg and Mitchley were in the sea, while Hutton was in the boat. Smart had speared a king mackerel (couta) at a depth of about 12 metres and was in the process of bringing it to his hand to subdue it and get it off the spear. Then the shark, which had been after the struggling fish, struck, biting Smart on the thigh. "It all happened in a split second. Warren did not see the shark in time," Mitchley recalled.

As Hutton pulled the injured diver into the boat, the other divers swam back to the boat. They set course for Cape Vidal, calling a friend on the way to alert the medical teams. "But by the time we pulled him into the boat, he had already lost so much blood from his artery," said Mitchley.

INJURY: Fatal. He sustained severe lacerations to his thigh.

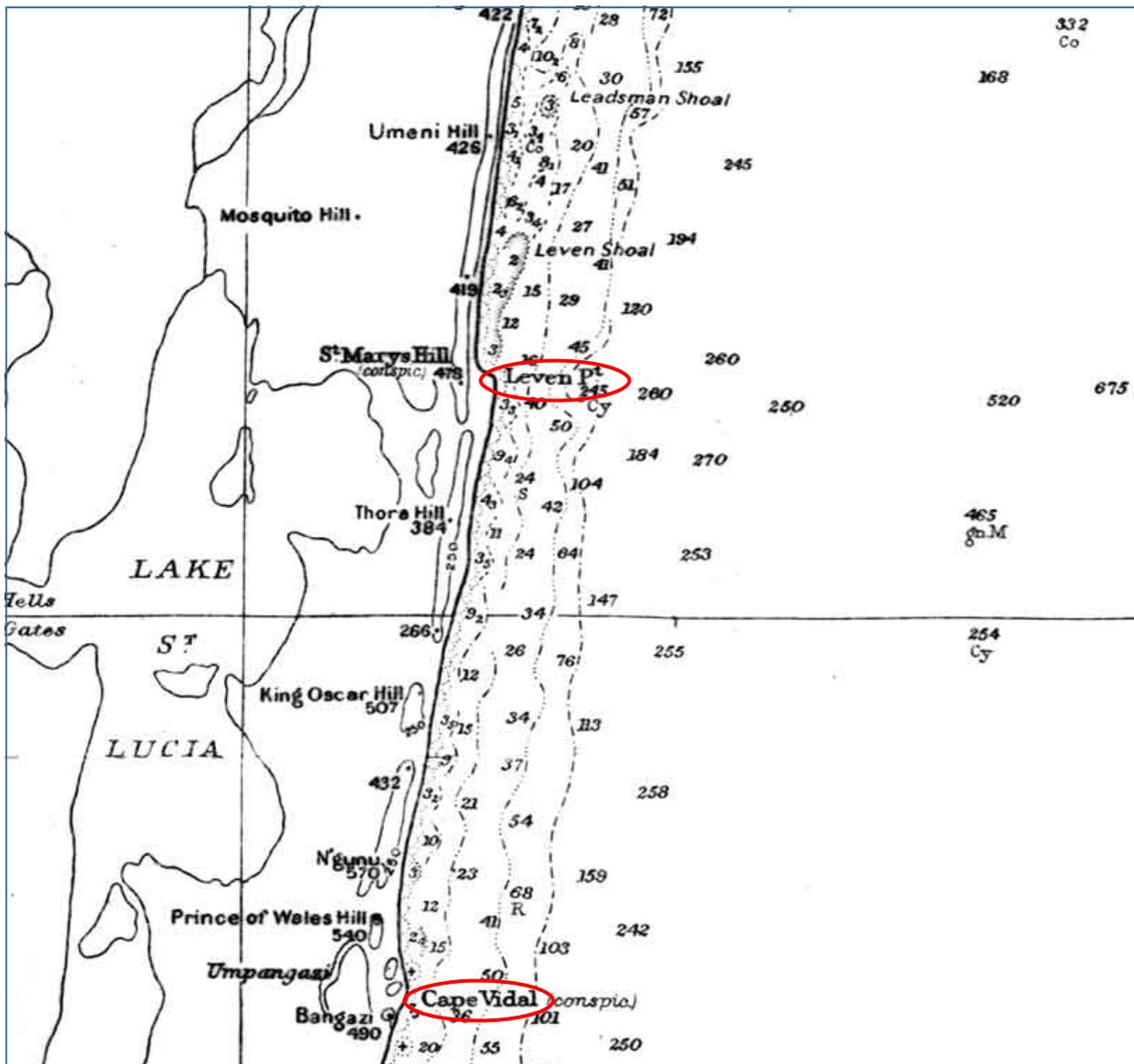
FIRST AID: His friends tried to stem the flow of blood from the wound with a tourniquet as they raced back to Cape Vidal. It took 40 minutes for the boat to reach Cape Vidal. "Ambulance services were already waiting for us and an air ambulance (the KZN-EMRS Red Cross AMS) arrived about five minutes later," said Mitchley. Medics tried to stabilise him but could not get a drip in because the diver's veins had collapsed from loss of blood volume. Smart slipped in and out of consciousness while medics worked on him, but he was

declared dead an hour later. The air ambulance flew the diver's body to Richards Bay Hospital.

SPECIES: The attack involved a Zambesi shark.



Warren Smart



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