

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming  
**CASE:** GSAF ND.0066

**DATE:** Unknown

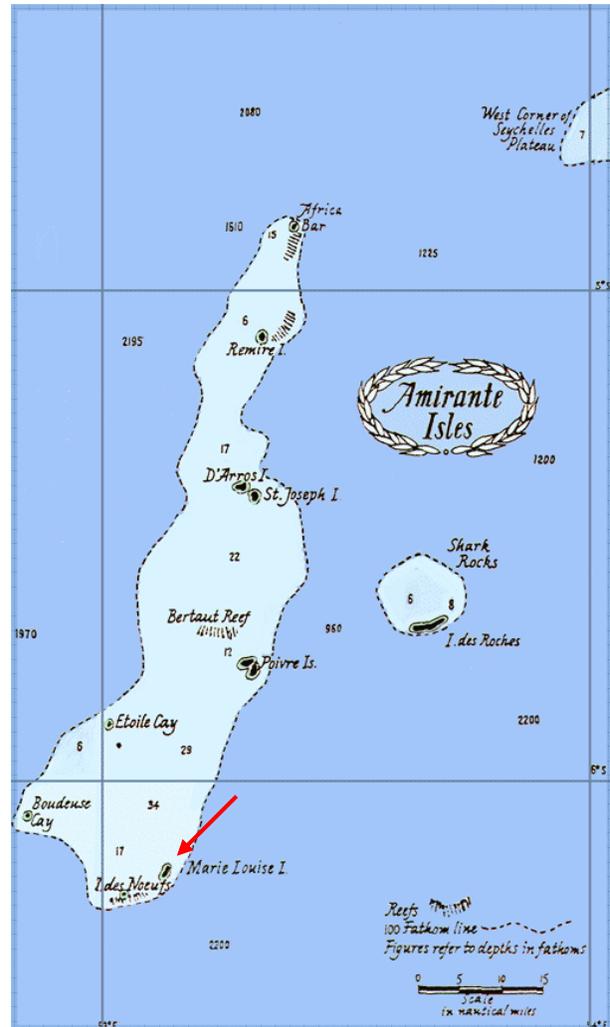
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Marie Louise Island, Amirante Group, Seychelles.

**NAME:** Aristede

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a male, a laborer.

**ENVIRONMENT:** “This particular locality just offshore, was renowned for the number of the size of tiger sharks that lurked there, for the islet lay on a spur of the main Amirantes Bank and there was deep water within half a mile of it on three sides. . . Sure enough, just before sunset two long, heavy shadow slid silently past the *Golden Bells*, hugging the bottom. Blunt heads, short dorsals - tiger sharks!”

**NARRATIVE:** Ton Milot related to William Travis the details of a shark attack he witnessed there some time before: “We had come to Marie Louise to discharge stores. . . It was not easy though, for there was a heavy *raz marée* (ground swell), and the pirogues had great difficulty in riding the surf. Eventually, one of them capsized and all the provisions went to the bottom. As for the men in it, they all went with the waves and made the beach except for one who was frightened of the breakers. He turned round and swam out to our schooner, which was anchored. . . A bare 50 yards from the shore. He had got to within five yards of us, and already we were reaching down to help him out of the water, when we saw a great black shadow come up beneath him. I caught a glimpse of white as the shark’s snout came upwards; then it opened its jaws and the fellow in the water gave a terrible scream and was drawn down and backwards. In a moment he was back on the surface again with both hands outstretched towards us, his mouth wide open but no sound coming from it. From below his armpits we could see nothing, for all was obscured in a great cloud of blood. Then his neck went limp, his head rolled on his shoulders, and he sank down into the darkness of his blood and disappeared. We could follow the black cloud downwards as it sank, but could not see what was happening for some minutes until there was no more blood and the water became clear. Then we saw what was left, a half-man with everything missing below the waist, rolling about on the sand beneath our keel. As far as I could judge there had been just one attack, the first, which had chopped him in two as neat as you like, and the lower portion had been swallowed. . . All the afternoon that poor remnant of a man rolled about on the sand there, right under us. It was a full moon that night and he was still there until three in the morning. I know, because I could not sleep, neither could I prevent myself peering over the side



periodically to look at him. Then he disappeared and I saw him no more.”

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SPECIES RESPONSIBLE:** A tiger shark. “One of the islanders suggested laying out a set-line for the shark that had taken Aristide, but nothing was done about it, mainly because no one liked the idea of opening up the brute afterwards and finding the missing half.”

**SOURCE:** William Travis, pages 326-327

