

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: GSAF 1916.07.01

DATE: Saturday July 1, 1916

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Beach Haven, Ocean County New Jersey, USA.

NAME: Charles Epting Vansant

DESCRIPTION: He was a 23-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, June 30, 1916

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 15 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Five feet

TIME: 17h00

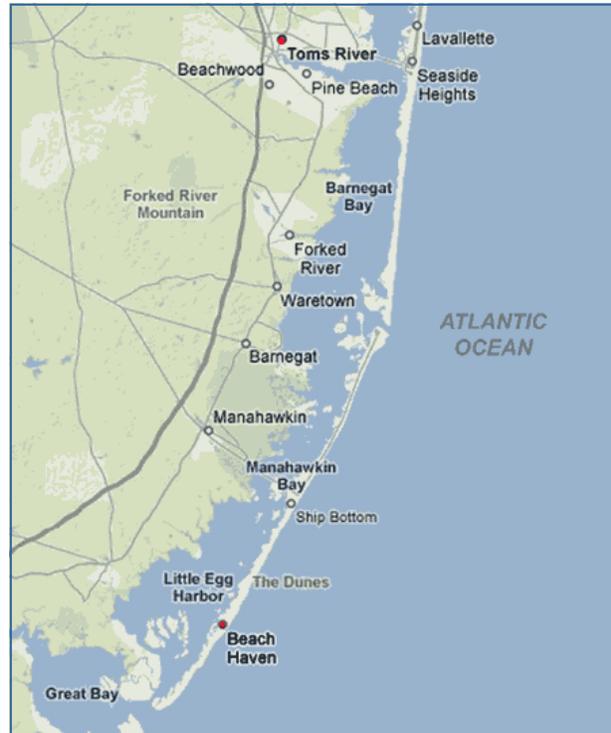
NARRATIVE: Charles Vansant had been swimming and playing with a dog in the surf opposite Centre Street when he heard warning shouts from beachgoers who saw a shark closing in on him. He was only able to advance a few feet and while he was standing, the shark bit his left thigh.

Alexander Ott, a former US Olympic swimmer, raced to his aid and eventually brought the injured man to shore with the help of a quickly organized human chain. Another account tells of Vansant being dragged to shore with the shark grasping his leg until both Vansant and the shark were in only 18 inches of water.

INJURY: Fatal. Vansant's upper left thigh was denuded of flesh and his femoral artery was severed. According to Vansant's death certificate, the attending physician reported the primary cause of death to be "hemorrhage from femoral artery, left side" with the contributory cause "bitten by a shark while bathing." He was buried in South Laurel Hill Cemetery.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Despite the use of a tourniquet placed around Vansant's upper thigh, he died at 18h45 in a Toms River hospital due to blood loss and shock (progressive hemorrhagic shock).

SPECIES: The accident was thought to involve a white shark. Eyewitnesses on the beach told Vansant's father, Dr. Eugene L. Vansant, the shark was nine feet in length, weighed about 500 pounds, and was black in color.



CASE INVESTIGATOR: Richard Fernicola, M.D.



CHARLES EPTING VANSANT