

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 1926.01.26.R / SA-047

**DATE:** Reported Tuesday January 26, 1926

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Hamburg, a coastal resort three kilometres south of the wide Keiskamma River mouth and 30 kilometres south of East London in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.  
33°17,5'S, 27°29'E

**NAME:** Mr Bennett

**DESCRIPTION:** He was described as a youth from Peddie.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, January 28, 1926

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Keiskamma River is usually open to the sea and has a tidal estuary rich in birdlife and bait organisms. The crescent-shaped beach is adjacent to an area of rocks and reefs long regarded as an angler's paradise. Several sharks had been seen in the vicinity of the site in the days preceding the incident.

**NARRATIVE:** The *Cape Argus* newspaper reported that young Bennett was swimming in the breakers when a shark "tackled him and secured a grip on his thigh. A terrific struggle ensued, Bennett finally breaking loose...he managed to get ashore."

**INJURY:** His thigh was badly lacerated.

**FIRST AID:** Unknown

**TREATMENT:** Bennett was "rushed to Dr Chute who is living in the vicinity". Dr Chute closed the wound with seven stitches.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The incident was said to involve a "blue shark" and it was the opinion of the reporter that "the shark was not fully grown otherwise Bennett would never have got away".

**SOURCE:** Cape Argus, January 16, 1926 edition.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine

