

ACTIVITY: Gaffing a harpooned shark

CASE: GSAF 1931.06.13

DATE: Saturday June 13, 1931

LOCATION: Pearl Harbor, O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, USA.

NAME: Lieutenant Williamson

DESCRIPTION: He was a male.

NARRATIVE: He was attempting to gaff a harpooned shark and bring it onboard the boat. The shark bit the two-inch-diameter oak shaft of the gaff in two and took off the tip of one finger.

INJURY: The tip of one of his fingers was severed.

SPECIES INVOLVED: A tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, 10 feet in length. The following items were found in the shark's stomach: hind leg of a mule, a soldier's belt buckle, a pint of buttons, two horseshoes, anchor chain, two small anchors, corner of a wooden soapbox and assorted bolts, nails and copper fittings.

NOTE: This is considered a provoked incident because the fish displayed aggression only after it was harpooned.

SOURCES: George H. Balazs & A.K.H. Kam; Jim Borg, page 70; Leighton Taylor (1993), pages 96-97

