

ACTIVITY: Playing or Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1985.00.00.f

DATE: 1985

LOCATION: The attack took place at Lamap, on Malakula Island, Vanuatu (formerly, New Hebrides).

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: An infant or a young boy.

NARRATIVE: “A chilling shark story came from Lamap, on Malakula’s SE corner. The story changed depending on who told it, but all agreed that in 1985 some Americans anchored their yacht in Port Sandwich Bay. A child was in the water, and was taken by a shark.



“One version was that a woman was playing with her friend’s baby by dipping it in and out of the sea from a zodiac tender, and when she brought it up one time, there was only half a baby there; then the shark returned and took the rest of it.

“Another version was that a young boy was swimming from the zodiac to the shore when he was taken by a shark.

“I was told all these stories (except the doctor’s account of the Swedish tourist – Case 1983.00.00.c) in Bislama, which is a fairly vague language, so it’s easy to get the details wrong.”

“This was the only shark attack I heard about that had no local custom explanation.”

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCE: Stan Combs, scombs@aol.com, <http://members.shaw.ca/scombs/vanuatu.html>
“Vanuatu - a Canadian’s Perspective”



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