

**ACTIVITY:** Probable Homicide  
**CASE:** GSAF 1935.04.25  
**DATE:** Thursday April 25, 1935  
**LOCATION:** Coogee, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** James Smith  
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 40-year-old male.

**NARRATIVE:** A fisherman hooked a small shark off Coogee. A four-metre tiger shark then took the smaller shark and it was caught, too. Instead of dumping the catch, cutting it up on the beach or taking it to the fish markets, the fisherman took it to the Coogee aquarium, where it was thought it would make a wonderful attraction for the following Anzac Day weekend.

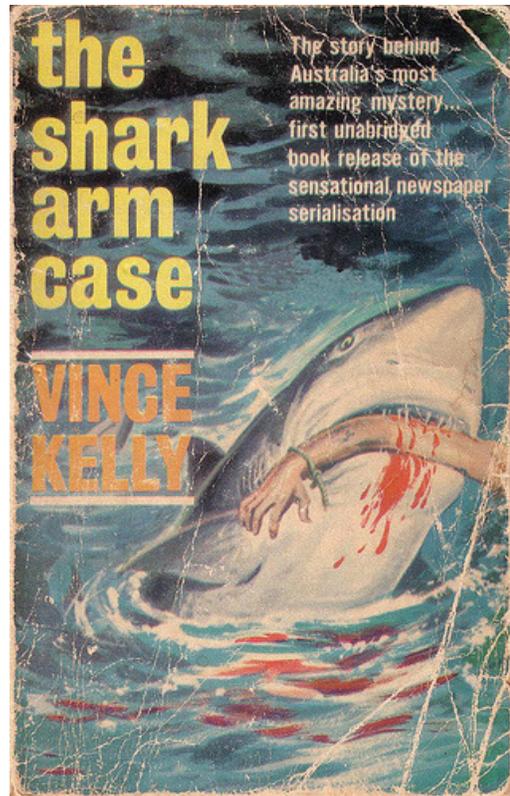
While spectators watched, the shark regurgitated a human arm. The tattoo on arm was identified by Edwin Smith; it was the same as that of his brother James Smith of Gladesville who had gone missing weeks before. James Smith's wife said a distinctive tattoo of a boxer on the arm "resembled" that of her husband who she had reported missing on April 8. James Smith was a former SP bookmaker and bankrupt builder with minor convictions and the fingerprints of the arm matched with police fingerprints.

Smith had last been seen drinking with his best friend, Patrick Brady, in a pub at Cronulla. Brady, well known to the law, was an expert forger. Another suspect, Reginald Holmes, tried to commit suicide, failed and accused Brady of the murder. Police let Holmes go and he was found shot dead.

Brady was charged with Smith's murder. However, the only evidence available to L.J. McKean, the senior crown prosecutor, was that Brady was the last person seen with Smith and that after being confronted by the police, he had told a large number of lies about his whereabouts and movements. The judge directed a verdict of not guilty. Brady, a World War I veteran, died in Concord Hospital in 1965.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Tiger shark, about 14 feet in length

**SOURCES:** Multiple, this was Sydney's most famous murder case and has been the subject of television documentaries, a book, and articles including Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shark\\_Arm\\_case](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shark_Arm_case)



## CAPTURED SHARK DISGORGES HUMAN ARM

### Coogee Aquarium Discovery

**SYDNEY, Thursday.**—Visitors to the Coogee Aquarium were horrified this afternoon when a 14ft. shark on exhibition thrashed the water to foam and disgorged a human arm. The limb was that of a man, and bore a tattooed picture of a boxer. There was a piece of rope tied round the wrist. The arm was comparatively well preserved.

The shark was caught on Thursday, and immediately placed in the pool. Since it has been in captivity it has refused to eat. Detectives have attempted to take fingerprints in the hope of establishing identification of the victim.



*James Smith*



*Smith's arm*