

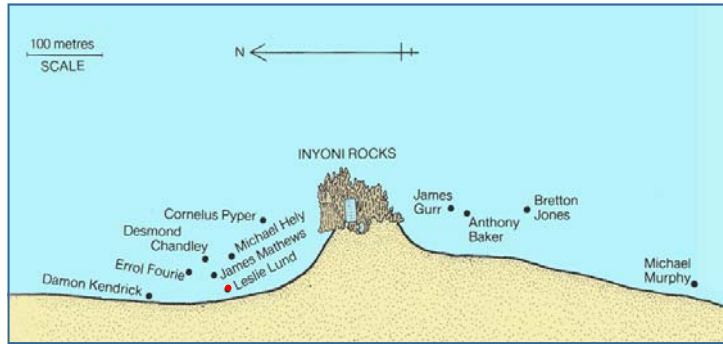
ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1940.02.22 / SA-062

DATE: Thursday February 22, 1940

LOCATION: The incident occurred in the Indian Ocean at Inyoni Rocks, Amanzimtoti, 26 kilometres southwest of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

30°03'S, 38°53,4'E



Map of Inyoni Rocks showing locations 10 incidents.
(From Wallett)

NAME: Leslie Plummer Lund

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer, a 17-year-old male, was slim and 1,7 metres tall. He was a member of the Amanzimtoti Surf Life-saving Club.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: According to the Durban meteorological station temperatures ranged from 20° to 29°C. At 15h00 there was 3/8 cloud cover and light 2-knot east-northeasterly airs.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, February 8, 1940

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was described as “clean” but a channel was present.

ENVIRONMENT: An open sandy beach stretches for more than seven kilometres from the Manzimtoti Lagoon on the south to Umbogintwini on the north, but the main bathing area is located at Inyoni Rocks. A half-century ago it was a quiet and isolated beach, far removed from the city. Today Amanzimtoti is the largest holiday resort and commercial centre on the upper south coast.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Three to six metres

DEPTH: One metre

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Leslie Lund was swimming alone when he was bitten by a shark. He reached shore unaided but collapsed on the beach.

INJURY: Fatal. Lund's left knee and thigh were bitten. He sustained two bites below the knee and, “around the thigh all flesh was severed almost to the bone”. The incisions made by the individual teeth of the shark were nearly 2,5 centimetres across. About 23 centimetres below the knee there was another large gash.

FIRST AID: A tourniquet was applied to his thigh and he was rushed to the hospital in a lorry.

TREATMENT: Lund was treated by Dr James Fraser but died in Addington Hospital the next day at 17h30. According to the inquest report, “death was due to haemorrhage from lacerated wound of the left leg inflicted by a shark”.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Mr H. Robson, Chairman of the Albatross Angling Club, examined the wound and, based on the tooth pattern, believed it was caused by a 160-kilogram [353-pound] white shark.

SOURCES: Natal Mercury, February 23, 24, 26 and April 2, 1940 editions

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Marie Levine

**KILLED BY
INYONI ROCKS**
23 FEB 1940
**Shouted For Help 25
Yards From Shore**
**VAIN LORRY DASH
TO HOSPITAL**

LESLIE LUND, a 17-year-old Warnadoone youth, was killed by a shark at Inyoni Rocks yesterday afternoon. He was bathing alone about 25 yards from the shore when he shouted for help.

He managed to walk out of the sea unaided, but collapsed on the shore. An unknown man, believed to be a Johannesburg visitor, immediately applied a tourniquet to Lund's badly gashed thigh, and a doctor who was on the beach also attended, and rushed Lund to Addington Hospital in a lorry, where he died a few minutes after admittance.

"ONLY UP TO HIS WAIST"

Mrs. J. Robson, of Amanzimtoti, told a "Mercury" reporter last night that she passed Lund on the sands as she was on her way to the children's pool.

"Five minutes later I saw a crowd collected and heard of the tragedy. I was told that Leslie was only up to his waist in the water when he shouted for help."

The doctor who attended Lund said he was on his way to bathe when the tragedy occurred.

"Lund had a big gash round his thigh and was bitten to the bone. There was another gash below his knee. A

man was attending him when I arrived and we rushed him by lorry into Addington."

A witness alleged that a motorist when asked to take Lund to hospital "jibbed," on the grounds that he would be unable to see his wife home. He also said he did not know the way.

Won Bursary

Leslie Lund's parents live at Warnadoone, where his father is a lorry driver in the Roads Department. He was a pupil at the Durban High School and got a first class matriculation pass last year, and was awarded a bursary. He was to study engineering at Howard College this year.

Mr. J. Robson, a well known South Coast fisherman, in an interview last night said he had hooked a big shark off the Inyoni Rocks on Tuesday.

"I was flabbergasted to hook a thing of that size," he said, "and more flabbergasted when I recognised it as a blue pointer—a man-eater. My right hand was paralysed in the struggle and I had to sit on my reel.

Close To Bathers

"It finally got away. I was fishing 70 yards from the bathers. I have lived in these parts for 18 years, off and on, and I have never known the sharks to come so close in as they do these days."

Attacks by sharks on the Natal South Coast were quite unknown until Mr. Fred Hooper, an 18-year-old life-saver, was killed off the Warnadoone beach on January 7 this year, at a spot two miles from the present tragedy.

Hooper was swimming about half-a-mile from the shore when a shark attacked him. He was brought to the beach by a friend and taken to hospital, where he died.

Shark fishermen maintain that the Durban south coast is teeming with sharks, but they are not aggressive and rarely attack. Several have been recently caught from the West Street jetty, while bathers on the South Beach received a severe shock a few weeks ago when they saw two large sharks cruising not far from where they were bathing.

27 FEB 1940

PROTECTION OF BATHERS AT INYONI ROCKS

Consternation has been caused at Amanzimtoti as a result of the shark fatality at Inyoni Rocks on Thursday, in which a 17-year-old youth, Leslie Lund, was the victim.

The chairman of the Town Board, Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, is taking steps to call a meeting of the Board at an early date to consider what steps should be taken for the protection of bathers.

SHARK TRAGEDY
is RECALLED
Bathing — 2 APR 1940

INQUEST ON LESLIE LUND

The Inyoni Rocks tragedy on February 22 was recalled in an inquest held by Mr. W. V. D. Cellarius in the Durban Magistrate's Court on Leslie Plummer Lund (16) of Doonside.

The verdict was that Lund's death was due to haemorrhage from lacerated wounds of the left leg inflicted by a shark.

Dr. James Fraser, medical officer, African Explosives and Industries Ltd., Umbogintwini, said that just after 4 p.m. on February 22 he arrived at Inyoni Rocks with the intention of bathing in the sea. Immediately on his arrival he heard a call for assistance from the water's edge.

LARGE WOUND

About 30 yards away he saw a man kneeling alongside another individual who was prostrate. He went to them and found a European youth suffering from a large wound which encircled the left thigh, severing all the flesh almost down to the bone. About nine inches lower down, below the knee, was another large gash. Lund's eyes were glazed, the pupils dilated and he looked as if he were dead.

The man with Lund had put on an improvised tourniquet made from the belt of his bathing costume. This Dr. Fraser adjusted. The manipulation seemed to revive Lund.

Lund was removed to Addington Hospital. Shortly after admission to hospital Lund died.

"We removed Lund from the edge of the beach while transport was being arranged for him," said Kenneth G. W. Cocks, a clerk in the South African Railways.

"He asked for a drink of water which I fetched for him. After he had a drink he said to me 'I was only about five yards out when it attacked me, and I pushed it off.' I asked him what size the shark was. Lund replied he had not actually seen it."