

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1955.01.15 / SA-112

DATE: Saturday January 15, 1955

LOCATION: The accident took place at a ford known as Brodie's Coffin in St Lucia Bay. The ford, which is near the St Lucia estuary, is about 2,4 kilometres in length. It is 24 kilometres from the sea and 220 kilometres northeast of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

28°24'S, 32°27'E

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He was a Zulu male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was partly cloudy and the weather was mild with moderate southerly breezes. In Durban the noontime temperature was 26°C and humidity was 59%.

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 16, 1955

WATER CONDITIONS: Durban surf temperature was 22°C, presumably the water in St Lucia Bay was warmer.

ENVIRONMENT: St Lucia, with an area of about 300 square kilometres, is the largest estuarine system in Africa. St Lucia Bay was landlocked when this attack took place.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 800 metres

DEPTH: 0,5 metres

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: He was one of a party crossing the bay at the ford when he was bitten by a shark

INJURY: Fatal. His leg was severely bitten.

FIRST AID/TREATMENT: He bled to death before he could receive medical attention.

SPECIES INVOLVED: No species identification was made, however, the habitat suggests that the accident involved a Zambesi shark.

SOURCE: Natal Daily News, January 17, 1955

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