

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 1972.01.01.c / SA-216

**DATE:** Saturday January 1, 1972

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at St. George's Strand, 12 kilometres from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Jacob Nkomo

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 20-year-old black male.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, December 31, 1971

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was rough; at least 21 swimmers drowned that week in the eastern Cape.

**NARRATIVE:** Jacob Nkomo, was swimming with his brother when they were hit by a strong wave and Nkomo disappeared.

**INJURY:** Fatal. Nkomo's body was recovered soon after he disappeared. A post-mortem examination was performed on January 3, 1972 by Dr Kock but the body had been so badly mutilated by a shark/s that the exact cause of death could not be determined. The verdict of "death presumably by drowning and shark attack" was recorded in the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court on August 8, 1972.

**SPECIES:** Not identified.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine

# Attack by <sup>E. van</sup> shark 8/8/72 presumed

A VERDICT of death presumably by drowning and shark attack was recorded in the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court today.

The Magistrate, Mr E. van Rensburg, was giving his findings at the inquest on Jacob Nkomo, 20, who disappeared while swimming at St George's Strand on New Year's Day.

Mr Daniel Nkomo said that his brother and others were hit by a strong wave while swimming and disappeared. His brother was later found dead.

Reporting on the post-mortem done on January 3, Dr P. B. Kock said that the body was so badly mutilated and so many organs were missing it was not possible to establish an exact cause of death.

From what he found he gave an opinion that death resulted presumably from drowning and shark attack.