

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: **GSAF ND.0013**

DATE: Prior to July 1913, and three days after the attack on a young Scotsman.

LOCATION: The incident took place at Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He was a native (Zulu) fisherman.

NARRATIVE: After the attack on the young Scotsman in front of the Beach Hotel, notices were put up that a man-eating shark was about. Three days later “a native fisherman was seized and practically cut in two. The police set to work and caught the shark and found the loin cloth of the native inside it.”

INJURY: Fatal.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCE: Excerpt from Rural New Yorker, July 19, 1913 edition.

SHARKS and BATHERS

When staying at Durban, Natal, South Africa, at the Beach Hotel, I bathed for months at the same spot in front of the hotel where a rope was attached to posts, chiefly for ladies. I used to wade in as far as I could and come back with a wave. The landlord and I had returned to dress one morning and two young Scotchman took our places.

Shortly there was a yell and we saw one struggling with the other, a shark having seized him by the leg which was simply stripped of flesh in the struggle. We got the poor fellow out, but he died immediately. The extraordinary thing was he was just above the knees in water. (GSAF 1905.04.06 — Anderson?)

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My friend and agent, Mr. Rodwell a well-known citizen of Port Elizabeth, had just got hold of the jetty ladder when his leg was taken off above the knee. He now goes about with a false one in the best of health. (GSAF 1886.01.28)

I think it is a well known fact that a shark, like a lion or tiger, once tasting human flesh will always prefer it and dare a lot to get it.

Durban was fast becoming the favorite seaside resort for the tired-out gold-seekers of Johannesburg, etc., in apposition to Cape Town and these shark tragedies so alarmed the corporation that he immediately drove piles out into the sea and surround them with shark-proof netting, which has been a great success.

Might I ask H.H.S. if he ever saw or heard of a fight between a Sword-fish and Thresher versus a whale. A most extraordinary fight as I saw it!

Port Jefferson, N.Y. J.R. B

SOURCE: Rural New Yorker, July 19, 1913, page 858 (see issue of June 28, page 795)