



ACTIVITY: Floating

CASE: [GSAF 1900.09.05](#)

DATE: September 5, 1900

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Joe Hartman

DESCRIPTION: Male, manager of the Cosmopolitan saloon.

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 feet

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: Joe Hartman and Joe Collins were bathing in the surf when a Hartman thought he saw a board in the water but “paid little attention to the matter and continued to swim farther from shore. I turned on my back and floated. I was in this position when I heard a muffled snap and felt a vicious tug on my bathing suit...turning over, I saw the immense fish...pass out from under me. Collins was standing about 50 feet away and he distinctly saw the shark as it passed me.”

INJURY: He sustained “the imprint of the brute’s teeth” on his body.

SPECIES: According to Hartman, the shark was seven to nine feet in length.

SOURCE: The Honolulu Republican, September 6, 1900, page 8

IN THE JAWS OF A VORACIOUS SHARK.

Joe Hartman's Narrow
Escape From Death
While Bathing.

HIS BATHING SUIT TORN AWAY.

THE IMPRINT OF THE BRUTE'S
TEETH ON HARTMAN'S
BODY.

The Thrilling Encounter Between
Man and Monster Occurred at
Waikiki—The Story Told by
the Mixologist.

Joseph Hartman, manager of the Cosmopolitan saloon, had a thrilling experience yesterday afternoon while bathing in the surf near Waikiki Annex; an experience which Hartman narrates with great trepidation, for Hartman came near meeting a shocking and horrible death in the vise-like grip of a monster shark. He escaped death, he contends, owing to the fortuitous circumstance that he was floating at the time when the shark made the attack, his hands and feet being close together, preventing any portion of his body being vulnerable to onslaught of the voracious brute.

Hartman was accompanied by his friend, Joe Collins. They were quite a distance out when suddenly Hartman was attacked by the shark. Hartman's bathing suit was completely torn from his body and the imprint of the brute's teeth are plainly visible on the fleshy part of his body. The shark, after inflicting these injuries, disappeared as suddenly as he had appeared. Hartman, after realizing what had happened, called lustily to his companion to look out, and with all haste struck out for the shore. Last night Hartman told about his thrilling and miraculous escape.

"I am in the habit of bathing," said he, "quite often at Waikiki. Joe Collins and myself were out yesterday and started to swim quite a ways out. When a hundred or more feet out I noticed what I supposed to be a board on the water, quite a distance ahead. I paid little attention to the matter and continued to swim farther from shore.

"I turned on my back and floated. I was in this position when I heard a muffled snap and felt a vicious tug at my bathing suit. My first thought was that my friend was playing a joke on me, but, turning over, I saw the immense fish, measuring from seven to nine feet, pass out from under me. Collins was standing about fifty feet away and he distinctly saw the shark as it passed me.

"Before attacking me the fish probably turned over on its back, as sharks always will when about to bite. It was evidently in this position when I heard the vicious snap of its teeth as it closed on the folds of my suit. In righting itself it gave the suit a twist

which almost pulled me under. The twist caused the suit to part.

"The shark, evidently frightened, made off in one direction while I went in an opposite direction. It will be some time before I disport in the water at Waikiki again.

"I have read a great deal about sharks not biting men, but now I know that such statements are false."