

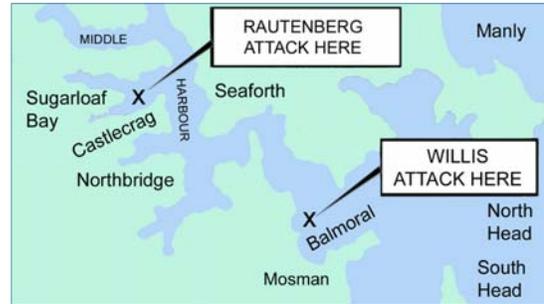
ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1955.02.05

DATE: Saturday February 5, 1955

LOCATION: Off Edinburg Road, Castlecrag, Sugarloaf Bay, Middle Harbour, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The incident took place close to where John Willis was killed by a shark 19 days earlier.

33°48'S, 151°E



NAME: Bruno Aloysius Rautenberg

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer was a 25-year-old male, an immigrant from Rumania. He boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wood in Edinburg Road, Castlecrag. Bruno was a very strong swimmer who swam almost daily in the bay, and on several occasions he swam across the bay to Sugarloaf Mountain and back.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a clear, sunny day and the air temperature was 80°F.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, February 7, 1955

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 15 feet

TIME: 14h35

NARRATIVE: Bruno Rautenberg and Ken Wood spend the morning cleaning out the shark-proof enclosure that adjoined Wood's home. At 14h00 [2:30 p.m.], Mrs. Wood called out that dinner was ready. Bruno said he would take a quick dip to cool off first, but it was low tide and the pool had not yet filled, so he stood on the seawall at the bottom of the lawn, kicked off his work boots and gloves and dived into the water. Ken was walking across the lawn when he heard Bruno scream, and at first thought he was joking, trying to get him to come into the water. He walked over to the seawall but saw no sign of Bruno, until his head broke the surface and he screamed again. "I could see the white underbelly of a large shark. The shark had Bruno's left leg in its mouth and was thrashing madly trying to drag him into deep water," said Wood.

Wood didn't know how to swim, but, determined to rescue the man. He picked up a 12-foot length of water piping and pushed it towards Bruno, intending him to catch hold of it, but Bruno was still beating the water. "I aimed the piping, like a spear and thrust it at the shark," said Wood. "The pipe hit the shark which leg go of Bruno's leg...Bruno swam towards the steps which led down to the water from my lawn. When he was about 10 yards from the steps the shark attacked again. I got a garden rake and waded towards him. I hit the shark with the rake as I got a hold under Bruno's arms. As I walked backwards toward the steps dragging Bruno with one hand, I fended off the shark with rake. When I got to the steps I did not have the strength to drag him out of the water. My wife, Wally, who had heard me yelling, lifted Bruno onto to my back as I kept the shark at bay."

INJURY: Fatal. All tissue was removed from the left leg between the knee and ankle, and his right leg was severely bitten.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Some contemporary sources report that the incident involved a 3.6 metre white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*. According to the Australian Shark Attack File, a bronze whaler shark was involved.

Shark Kills Swimmer In Australian Harbor

SYDNEY Australia. (UP)—A 12-foot shark killed German migrant Bruno Aloysius Rautenberg Saturday.

Rautenberg, 25, was attacked while swimming in Sydney harbor a few yards from shore.

The grey shark nearly tore one leg from his body. He died minutes after. It was the second fatal shark attack in the harbor within three weeks.