

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming  
**CASE:** GSAF 1958.11.23  
**DATE:** Sunday November 23, 1958  
**LOCATION:** The attack took place at Surfer's Paradise, Queensland, Australia.  
27°56'S, 153°29'E

**NAME:** Peter Gerard Spronk  
**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 21-year-old male.

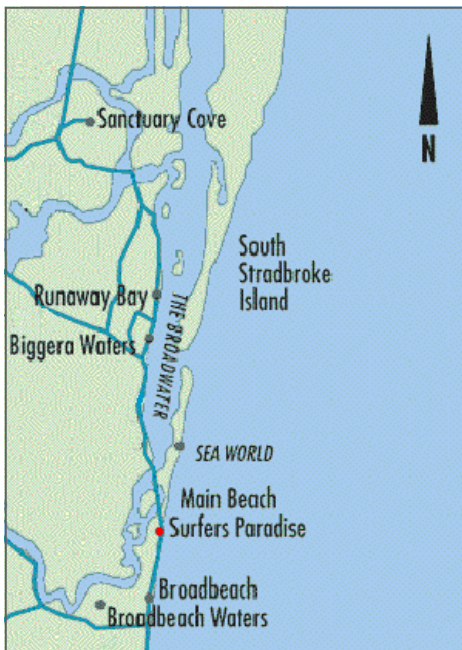
**BACKGROUND**  
**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, November 26, 1958  
**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 250 yards  
**TIME:** 15h15

**NARRATIVE:** See press clipping

**INJURY:** Fatal. His chest and both thighs were severely lacerated.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified. The shark was 12 feet in length.

**SOURCES:** Victor M. Coppleson (1962), page 245; Alan Sharpe, page 100; Jack Green, page 35; Aiken Standard and Review (Aiken, South Carolina, Monday November 24, 1958



## Lifeguards Lose Battle With Shark

**SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (UPI)** — Hundreds of persons at this fashionable swimming resort watched five lifeguards battle a killer shark for the life of a youth Sunday. The shark won the battle.

The 20-year-old youth was dead when the five lifesavers got him back to the beach. He was identified as Peter Gerard Spronk of Brisbane.

Hundreds of persons were sunbathing on the Riviera — like beach, which is a playground for the wealthy, when the 12-foot shark attacked the youth as he swam 250 yards from shore.

Within minutes the blue Pacific was churned into a bloodstained arena as the sleek killer shark turned on its back and dived in to attack the helpless youth.

The five lifeguards plunged through the surf breakers and raced to his aid, while the shark circled and then swam off.

They found the shark had bitten through his thigh to the bone on both legs and had savagely mauled his chest.

The beach is on Australia's east coast. At this time of the year schools of sharks are attracted to the warm currents running down its coastline.

Air patrol and lifesavers in towers on beaches keep a constant watch for line killer sharks which break off from the pack to swim inshore and attack persons swimming in the Pacific rollers.



1959: Surfers Paradise

Brisbane Times?