

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1961.12.18.a

DATE: Monday December 18, 1961

LOCATION: The incident took place in Laguna Bay, at the extreme southern end of Noosa Heads surfing beach, Queensland, Australia.

26°25'S, 153°2'E

NAME: John Grayson Andrews

DESCRIPTION: He was a 22-year-old male from Sherwood, Brisbane, a dentistry student.

SURFBOARD: He was using a red surfboard.



Laguna Bay

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, December 15, 1961 at 18h06

SEA CONDITIONS: The tide was full.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 to 25 yards from the high water mark.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Two feet

TIME: 06h15

NARRATIVE: Andrews was surfing alone. He rode his surfboard into thigh-deep water, and it was believed that the shark followed him in towards the beach, attacking as he alighted from his board and started walking ashore. Two fisherman, Rawdon Paine and Keith Bain, were leaving the beach when they heard Andrews scream and saw the shark attacking him in the shallows. The fishermen, together with Leslie Gilbert Hood, an airman, pulled Andrews from the water which was about 18 to 24 inches deep. The shark was still thrashing about in the surf about 10 yards out.

INJURY: The surfer's left leg was severed at the thigh, and his right hand and wrist were severely lacerated.

FIRST AID: First aid was administered by an Oral Surgeon, Dr. Harold H.M. Finemore, assisted by Roy Cronk of Noosa Surf Lifesaving Club who applied a tourniquet fashioned from a waist cord taken from a pair of swim trunks. Dr. A.G. Harold and Dr. H.W. Harbison arrived on the shortly after the attack. Medical equipment was taken from the First Aid Room of Noosa Surf Lifesaving Club to the scene and both doctors treated Andrews on the beach, administering glucose-saline and dextran. Blood loss was stopped and he was placed on a truck awaiting the arrival of the Cooroy ambulance.

TREATMENT: He was transported by ambulance to Nabour General Hospital where he received blood transfusions, and then he was transferred to Brisbane General Hospital. He died at 13h30 on December 24, 1961 as result of injuries received in the attack.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The beach was closed after the attack and baits were laid to catch the shark. A three-metre shark, identified as a "whaler" by Mr. March (or Marshall), the Government Ichthyologist, was caught and landed on the morning of December 19 on a baited buoy 200 yards from the beach. A portion of Andrew's leg was recovered from the shark's gut.

SOURCES: Sgt. L. G. Zillman; J.E. Linnane; L. Seaman, A. G. Harold, M.D.; Natal Daily News and Cape Argus (Cape Town), December 18, 1961; Sydney Morning Herald, Dominion (Wellington, NZ), Rhodesia Herald (Salisbury), December 20, 1961; Victor M. Coppleson (1962),



The shark caught with Andrews' leg in its gut.

NOTE: The press report (at right) erroneously implicates a grey nurse shark in this incident, a species which lacks the dentition to sever a human leg.

KILLER SHARK DEAD

BRISBANE, Dec. 19.—The 12ft grey nurse shark which mauled a young dentistry student yesterday was found dead on set lines 200yds offshore at Hoosa Heads, 112 miles north of Brisbane, today.

The shark had drowned after taking the bait on one of five lines set overnight by lifesavers, near the scene of yesterday's attack.

Meanwhile, John Graydon Garth Andrews, 22-year-old victim of the attack, is still in a dangerous condition in a Brisbane hospital.

Andrews, of Sherwood, a Brisbane suburb, was attacked yesterday while surfing at Laguna Bay, Hoosa Heads.

His left leg was torn off at the knee, and his left arm mauled.

Shark mauls man —caught next day

From Our Correspondent

Canberra, Tuesday.—Lifesavers at Noose Head, north of Brisbane, today hooked a shark which yesterday badly mauled John Andrews (22) in shallow water near the beach. The shark was got on a baited buoy 200 yards from the beach. A human leg was found in its stomach.