

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 1982.03.07

**DATE:** Sunday March 7, 1982

**LOCATION:** The attack took place at Tallow Beach, south of Cape Byron, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Marty (or Allan) Ford

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 20-year-old male from Wynnum.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, March 10, 1982

**ENVIRONMENT:** There were sharks in the area because of the mackerel season, according to police.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 metres

**TIME:** 12h00

**NARRATIVE:** Allan Ford was surfing with five friends when they saw him suddenly go under the surface as the shark bit the surfer and his board. His friends pulled him back onto his surfboard and carried him back to the beach.

**INJURY:** Fatal. The surfer's legs were severely bitten by a shark.

**FIRST AID/TREATMENT:** He was not bleeding by the time he reached shore. His friends applied a tourniquet to his leg and he was transported by ambulance to Byron Bay Hospital. He was non-responsive on arrival at the hospital.

**SPECIES:** White shark

**SOURCES:** The Canberra Times, March 8, 1982, page 3; Daily Herald (Chicago, Illinois), Monday March 8, 1982; The Intelligencer, March 8, 1982; Alan Sharpe, pages 86-87



### **Shark kills surfer**

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A shark killed a surfboard rider Sunday in Australia's second fatal shark attack in a week.**

**A police spokesman said 20-year-old Allan Ford was 200 yards off a beach near Byron Bay, about 400 miles north of Sydney, when the shark "rose up underneath him and belted into the board. It took a huge chunk out of the board and both his legs, particularly the left."**

**Ford's companions got him to the beach but he was dead on arrival at a hospital, police said.**

**A week earlier a great white shark killed a man in Tasmania, Australia's southern island state.**

# *2nd shark fatality in week in Australia*

**SYDNEY, Australia (UPI) — A shark Sunday attacked and mauled a 20-year-old man who managed to get back on his surf board but died later in Australia's second fatal shark attack in a week.**

**"It (the shark) rose up underneath him and belted into the board," a police spokesman said about the midday incident at Byron Bay, 400 miles north of Sydney.**

**Martin Ford was surfing with friends when the shark "took a huge chunk out of the board and both legs, particularly the left leg...Mr. Ford was screaming in agony but climbed back on his board and his mates helped him to the beach."**

**The spokesman said Ford's friends carried him to an ambulance but he died from shock and loss of blood in the few minutes it took to reach a hospital.**

**Police said Ford's friends indicated the shark was a white pointer but did not say how large it was.**

**Professional fishermen armed with high powered rifles later patrolled the beach and surrounding waters searching for the shark, but did not spot it.**

**Last Sunday, Geert Talen, 32, was attacked by a 16-foot white pointer shark in a secluded bay south of Hobart on the island state of Tasmania. Talen's body was not recovered and the shark disappeared.**

# Surfboard rider dies after shark attack

SYDNEY: A 20-year-old surfboard rider died yesterday after he was attacked by a shark at Byron Bay on the NSW North Coast.

Mr Martin Allan Ford, from the Brisbane suburb of Wynnum, was surfing with five friends 200 metres out from the unpatrolled Tallow Beach, south of Cape Byron, when the shark attacked.

Two friends, who saw Mr Ford go under the water and come up screaming for help, pulled him on to his surfboard and floated him to the beach.

They used a surfboard leg rope as a tourniquet for his left leg.

Ambulance station officer Athol Stroud-Watts, who was called to take Mr Ford to the Byron Bay hospital, said a large chunk had been taken from below the knee but Mr Ford was not bleeding when his friends brought him to shore.

There had been many other bite marks on the leg and a few on Mr Ford's right leg.

Ambulance officers had given Mr Ford mouth-to-mouth respiration and cardiac massage but he had been dead on arrival at the hospital.

Police said Mr Ford was attacked under the Byron Bay lighthouse on the southern side, which faces the ocean and not the bay.

There were sharks in the area because of the mackerel season, police said.

The shark had not been identified but was described as being the colour of a dolphin with no stripes.

Police said four people in the Byron Bay area been injured seriously in shark attacks in the past three years.

Yesterday's was believed to be the first fatal attack in NSW since January, 1963, when actress Marcia Hathaway was taken in Sydney's Middle Harbour.

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Professional shark catchers in Tasmania are hunting a seven-metre white pointer shark believed to have killed Mr Geert Talen, 32, of Victoria, while he was spearfishing in South Cape Bay, south-west of Hobart, last Sunday.