

**ACTIVITY:** Sea disaster

**CASE:** GSAF 1983.07.25.b

**DATE:** July 25, 1983

**LOCATION:** Off Lodestone Reef, Great Barrier Reef, north of Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

**NAME:** Dennis Patrick Murphy

**DESCRIPTION:** He was the 24-year old deckhand on the *New Venture*.

**BACKGROUND**

**TIME:** Night

**NARRATIVE:** The 14-metre prawn trawler, *New Venture*, capsized and sank in heavy seas. He was one of three people in the water when a shark bit his leg and dragged him beneath the surface.

**INJURY:** Fatal.

**SPECIES:** 5 m [16.5'] tiger shark

**SOURCES:** The Day (New London, CT), Wednesday July 27, 1983, page 16; Hugh Edwards, pages 103-104; Alex MacCormick, pages 110-112.

# Sharks kill 2 off Australia

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP) —** A boat captain said today that sharks bit off his deckhand's leg and killed his female cook, leaving him the lone survivor after their trawler sank in rough seas.

The deckhand, Dennis Murphy, 24, bravely swam away from his companions to give them a chance to escape the maneaters before he died, said skipper Ray Boundy, 28.

But the sharks returned a few hours later and grabbed Linda Ann Horton, 21, Boundy said.

Two huge waves swamped and sank the trawler *New Venture* off Townsville, 690 miles northwest of Brisbane, on Sunday night.

In the last reported shark killings in Australian waters, two men died in separate incidents in March 1982.

### ATTACK ON BOAT ACCIDENT VICTIMS — QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

On the night of 25th July 1983 three people on a fishing trawler east of Townsville Queensland were thrown into the water when their boat capsized. Ray, the skipper, Dennis the deckhand and Linda, Dennis' girlfriend. They stayed afloat with a surfboard, some foam and a lifesaving ring. Although they had seen sharks in the water they thought they would be rescued. By the next night a large shark began circling them.

The skipper of the boat, Ray Boundy, was lightly bitten on the knee. A few minutes later all three were knocked off their float by a wave. When they had resurfaced, a shark had hold of Dennis' leg. He called out, "The bastards got my frigging leg". The shark then tore off his leg. Blood was pouring out of the wound and Dennis realized the blood would attract other sharks. He didn't want to put Ray or his girlfriend Linda in danger so he swam away from the float. He asked Ray to take care of Linda. He was again attacked not far from the float. Ray later said, "He was just screaming and I couldn't believe that anyone could have that much guts to get his mates out". . ."It was like watching a human being fed through a mincer. Linda was hysterical. . ."

At 4 am in the morning the shark was again noticed circling the float. The shark suddenly pounced on top of Linda and pulled her down. Ray later said, "It flung itself into the air and got the top half of her and turned her upside down. It was just so quick and she squealed and it shook her like a rag dog . . .She didn't say anything but was mumbling. . ."

A few hours later the shark returned but before it attacked, Ray caught a wave over a reef and managed to escape.

Soon after a rescue plane arrived and he was saved. Ray thought it was the same shark responsible for all the attacks but experts disagreed with him.

**SOURCE:** <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bilsons/Sharks&htm>