



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1987.03.30.b](#)

**DATE:** Monday March 30, 1987

**LOCATION:** Fourth Beach / Twiligh Beach, 8 km from Esperance and 700 km southeast of Perth, Western Australia

**NAME:** Grantley Raymond Butcher

**DESCRIPTION:** He is an 18-year-old male from Perth.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 metres

**TIME:** Evening

**NARRATIVE:** Grantley said the drama began when he was joined by what he thought was a playful dolphin. The shark circled Grantley twice and then swam under his board and its tail knocked the surfer into the water. "I think that at that stage he was playing with me, but then he got dinkum and decided to have a go," said Grantley. "I climbed back on to the board and started paddling for shore."

"Then the shark came back for another go at me.' He grabbed my foot and dragged me off the surfboard. He pulled me down and started shaking me around under water. I thought I was gone," said the surfer. He said the shark had bitten his leg rope off at his ankle and appeared to choke on it.

"He let me go and I got back to the surface," the surfer said. He saw his board floating about 10 m away and swam desperately towards it. "The shark was going crazy nearby, swimming in a frenzy in circles. I was very lucky to be alive." The surfer caught a wave to the beach and crawled over sand dunes to his car.

**INJURY:** Severe laceration to calf

**TREATMENT:** The surfer drove to Esperance District Hospital where he collapsed on the steps of the hospital foyer. He had lost about half of his blood volume. Hospital staff rushed to his aide and doctors inserted 100 stitches in his gaping leg wound.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a bronze whaler shark, two to three metres in length.

**SOURCES:** Courier-Mail, Thursday April 2, 1987, page 1  
Terry Peake, Global Shark Accident File