

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1990.03.24

DATE: Saturday March 24, 1990

LOCATION: The incident took place in the South Pacific Ocean off Laucala Island, Fiji.

8.1°S, 178.4°E

NAME: Ola Stillman Rockefeller

DESCRIPTION: He is a 30-year-old male, a member of America's wealthy Rockefeller family.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, March 27, 1990

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 metres

DEPTH: Waist deep

NARRATIVE: Mr. Rockefeller was swimming alone at a resort when something “pulled” his right leg. Looking down, he saw his leg had been lacerated, apparently by two bites from a shark. He swam ashore and telephoned for help.

INJURY: The swimmer sustained lacerations to his right leg and ankle. His Achilles tendon was lacerated.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Resort workers treated the swimmer until a nurse from a village clinic took charge. When Dr. Viliame Taoi arrived several hours later the swimmer was in stable condition. Early the next morning he was flown to a hospital in Lautoka. He returned to the USA accompanied by a medical team from Australia. .

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Sydney Morning Herald, March 27, 1990, page 13; The News, March 27, 1990, page 6, citing the Fiji Times.

Rockefeller suffers shark attack in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Ola Stillman Rockefeller, scion of one of the world's richest families, was bitten by a shark while swimming at an exclusive island resort once owned by Malcolm Forbes.

Rockefeller, 30, was injured Saturday in waist deep water off Laucala Island, according to The Fiji Times newspaper. He said he felt his right leg being pulled and looked down to see cuts caused apparently by two bites.

He said he swam to shore and crawled to his bungalow, where he telephoned for help. At dawn Sunday he was taken by the Forbes private plane to a hospital in Lautoka, Fiji's second-largest city, and later flew to the United States.

Rockefeller is the grandson of James S. Rockefeller, who was a chairman of the City Bank of New York, which became Citibank.



VICTIM OF SHARK ATTACK — Ola Stillman Rockefeller, 30, grandson of James S. Rockefeller, lies in a hospital bed in Fiji Monday night after he was attacked by a shark while swimming Saturday at an exclusive resort owned by the estate of the late billionaire Malcolm Forbes. James S. Rockefeller was a chairman of the City Bank of New York, which became Citibank.

AP LaserPhoto

ROCKEFELLER FLOWN HOME AFTER ATTACK BY SHARK

SUVA, Tuesday: A 30-year-old member of America's wealthy Rockefeller family has left Fiji apparently after being bitten by a shark while swimming at an exclusive resort. The Fiji Times newspaper said Ola Stillman Rockefeller was injured on Saturday soon after he arrived at Laucala Island, about 200 kilometres north-east of Suva. The isolated resort is owned by the estate of the late American billionaire Mr Malcolm Forbes.

Mr Rockefeller, a bachelor, said he had been swimming alone about 30 metres offshore when he felt his right leg being "pulled". Looking down he saw it had been lacerated, apparently by two bites from a shark. He managed to swim to shore and crawl to his bungalow where he telephoned for help. Resort workers applied first aid before a nurse from a village clinic took charge.

Dr Viliame Taoi, who was brought in by boat several hours later, found Mr Rockefeller in a stable condition, but he "appeared to have lost some blood". His Achilles tendon had been lacerated and required stitches.

On Sunday, he was flown by the Forbes's private plane to a hospital in Lautoka, Fiji's second largest city. He left Fiji on an overnight flight to the United States accompanied by a medical team from Australia and with plaster around the right ankle. "I have not been discouraged by the experience," he said, maintaining that he would return for another holiday.

Ola Stillman Rockefeller is the grandson of James Rockefeller, who was a chairman of the City Bank of New York, which became Citibank.

SOURCE: Sydney Morning Herald, March 27, 1990, page 13