

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 1995.06.02

**DATE:** Friday June 2, 1995

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Sheung Sze Wan Beach at Clearwater Bay, 25 kilometres east of Kowloon, Hong Kong.

**NAME:** Herman Lo Cheuk-Yuet

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 29-year-old male, a hairdresser.



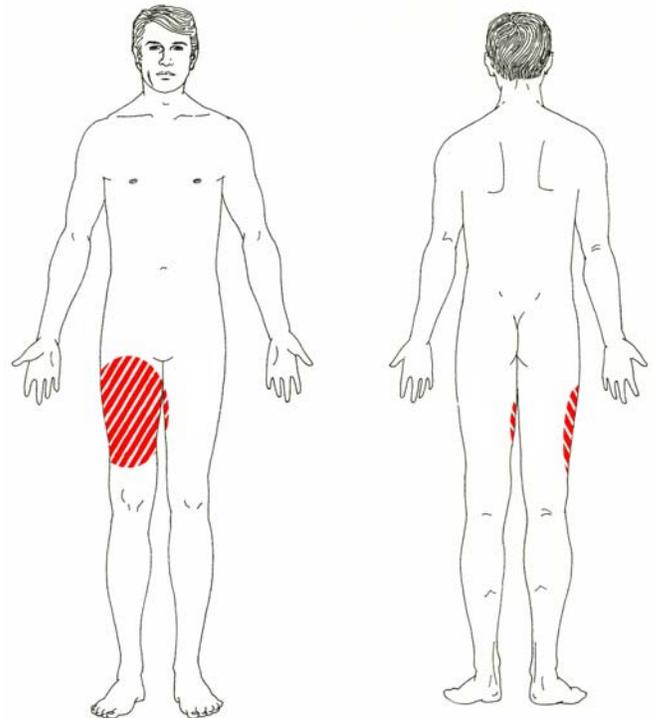
### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, June 6, 1995

**ENVIRONMENT:** Friday was a local holiday and huge crowds were on beaches. Many came to participate in the annual Dragon Boat races, a traditional festival celebrating a legendary sea rescue. According to the legend, a minister expelled from high office attempted to commit suicide by throwing himself in a river, but fishermen prevented him from being eaten by a fish by beating the water with their paddles. Three hours before this incident, a shark was reported in the area. Although the beach had no lifeguards or shark nets, it was crowded with about 200 people at the time of the incident.

**TIME:** 14h30

**NARRATIVE:** Herman Lo Cheuk-Yuet went to the beach with his 27-year-old girlfriend, another female friend, and Mr. Lo Kwok-wai early in the morning. The shark alert sounded while they were on the beach and for that reason his friends opted to swim closer to shore. Herman was slightly seaward of them when he was bitten. "I heard a shout for help and saw him swimming towards the shore," said Mr. Lo Kwok-wai. At first, we thought he was drowning. We started swimming out to him but when we were halfway there, someone yelled out that there was a shark and not to go out any further. We swam back and rowed out in a sampan but he was sinking and disappearing." They put him into the boat and took him ashore.



**INJURY:** Fatal. The swimmer's right thigh was bitten and his femur exposed, and his left leg was lacerated.

**FIRST AID:** An ambulance was waiting as the swimmer was brought ashore. "He was nearly unconscious on the beach, said Tseung Kwan) station sergeant Chan Kwan-shing. Ambulance personnel tried to revive him on the 25 minute journey to the hospital. Three police motorcycles had to clear a route along Clearwater Bay for the ambulance as holiday-makers headed for the beach and the Dragon Boat Festival. The swimmer was dead on arrival at United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Witnesses said the shark was 1.8 to 2.1 metres [six to seven feet] in length.

**REPORTED BY:** John Wong, GSAF



© Global Shark Accident File, 1995. All rights reserved. This report may not be abridged or reproduced in any form without written permission of the Global Shark Accident File.

CHARLESTON,  
ELISABETH TACEY  
and MAGDALEN CHOW

ALL Sai Kung beaches have been declared dangerous after a hairdresser was mutilated in the second fatal shark attack this week

Witnesses said the water filled with blood seconds after Herman Lo Cheuk-Yuet, 29, screamed for help and was dragged underwater at the non-gazetted Sheung Sz Wan beach yesterday.

The attack happened at 2:30 pm - 24 hours after the body of the first victim was pulled from the water.

Yesterday's tragedy came only three hours after a shark was reported in the area.

The man's right thigh was mauled to the bone before he could be pulled out of the water by two men on a sampan.

The victim's friend, Lo Kwok-wai, said he heard a

## INSIDE

- PAGE 3: Experts play down fears
- PAGE 15: Great white misadventure

shout for help and saw the victim swimming towards the shore.

"I was with two other swimmers close to the shore and at first we thought he was drowning.

"We started swimming to him but when we were halfway there, someone yelled out that there was a shark and not to go out any further.

"We swam back and rowed out a boat but he was sinking and disappearing," he said.

"He was injured seriously and I even saw bone," he said.

Mr Lo said he had heard the shark alert on the way to the beach and had decided not to go into the deep water with his friend.

PHOTO BY WALTERS PHOTO. I saw a pool of blood behind him as he was swimming in. But no one dared to help him.

"He lost his strength and sank."

Tseung Kwan O station sergeant Chan Kwan-shing said a sampan rushed the victim to shore and into a waiting ambulance.

"When we got to the scene, the man was nearly unconscious on the beach," he said.

Officers tried in vain to revive him on the 25-minute journey to United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong.

Lo Cheuk-Yuet, had gone to the beach from his Yau Ma Tei home with his 27-year-old girlfriend, another female friend and Mr Lo Kwok-wai early in the morning.

His employer had planned to join them but changed her mind.

She said she had made jokes about sharks and asked them not to go.

"When I heard the news, I was very sad. I couldn't quite believe it," the salon owner said.

She criticised the Government for not sealing off the beaches after the first incident.

A Regional Council spokesman said it did not see the need to raise flags after the discovery of 44-year-old Tso Kam-sun's body on Thursday because it was only a suspected shark attack.

Although Sheung Sz Wan has no lifeguard or shark nets it was crowded with about 200 people during the attack.

Three police motorcycles had to clear a route along Clearwater Bay Road for the ambulance as holiday-makers headed for the beaches to make the most of the Dragon Boat Festival holiday.

The body of Mr Tso, a teacher, was discovered off nearby Siu Chuk Lam, near Silverstrand with his right

# Big fin seen before attacks

2 June 95

# Hong Kong swimmers scared by three deadly shark attacks

**Hong Kong beaches attracted sightseers hoping for a glimpse of the animals that struck within 17 days.**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG — The beaches of Sai Kung are usually packed on the holiday for the Queen's birthday, but the glittering water was mostly deserted Monday.

Instead of swimmers, northern Hong Kong beaches attracted binocular-toting sightseers hoping for a glimpse of the shark — or sharks — that have killed three swimmers in 17 days.

The attacks have occurred close to shore — one just 45 feet out to sea.<sup>4</sup>

Merchants have grumbled about lost trade; authorities have faced pressure to solve the problem.

Then there are the shark-spotters — professionals with sonar gear and landlubber amateurs like Daniel Cheng, who go from beach to beach with binoculars in search of sharks.

Experts say the Hong Kong killings are the work of Tiger sharks.

TV viewers have seen striking footage of a dark hulk, some 12 feet long, gliding just below the water's surface. Newspapers have published photos of a dead victim being hauled from the water, with missing chunks of flesh on both legs.

On Monday, as the British colony celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's birthday, there were shark sightings around Sai Kung, but no attacks were reported.

Snack shop owner Lam Tsuen is haunted by the attack of June 2, in

which a shark killed a 29-year-old swimmer.

"We saw the man struggling as though he was drowning. We tried to swim to his rescue, but then somebody shouted 'sa yue' (shark) and we hurried back to shore," said Lam, 33. "I then saw a pool of blood welling up around the man's body." By the time rescuers arrived in boats, it was too late.

Since then, swimmers have gone elsewhere. Lam says he has lost most of his business.

At government-managed beaches, warning flags feature a shark's fin and helicopters and lifeguards in boats patrol for sharks.

The government has resisted a full-scale shark hunt. "If we kill one or two sharks, it may give people a wrong impression that the danger is over," government spokesman Michael Chui said.

*Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Tuesday June 20, 1995, page 7A*