

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: **GSAF 2000.11.18**

DATE: Friday November 18, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico opposite the Casa Bonita and Dolphin Way condominiums at Hickory Point in Bonita Springs, Lee County, Florida, USA.

26.4°N, 81.7°W



NAME: Colin Shadforth

DESCRIPTION: He is a 73-year-old male, a visitor from Market Rasen in Lincolnshire, Great Britain. He is a retired General Practitioner and visits Florida every year with his wife, Margaret.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 11h53, Fort Myers airport recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 79°F [26.1°C], dew point 68°F [20°C], humidity 69%, sea level pressure 30.09 in [1018.7 hPa], and wind direction was ESE at 8.1 mph [13 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, November 18, 2000

ENVIRONMENT: Bonita Springs is charming small beach town located north of Marco Island and between Naples and Fort Myers. At the time of the incident shark were migrating south toward the Florida Keys.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE:

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three feet

TIME: 12h00

NARRATIVE: I was doing my usual morning swim when he noticed a dark shape in the water. "Then it tugged my right leg," said Shadforth. "It clamped down on me and wouldn't let go. I gave one heck of a kick, and tried to get out of the water. I was kicking and kicking. I gave one last big kick with all my might and it worked. I moved towards the shore and yelled for help." A friend, Fritz Hoffman, heard his shouts and helped him out of the water.

INJURY: He sustained 30 lacerations and puncture wounds just below his right knee.

FIRST AID: Dr. Shadforth put his thumbs over his wounds to control bleeding, and asked Mrs Hoffmann to gather towels from a nearby apartment block and use them to staunch the blood. He asked another holidaymaker to telephone for an ambulance, The Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue District was notified at 1:17 p.m.

TREATMENT: He was transported to Lee Memorial Hospital for treatment that included more than 100 stitches.

SPECIES INVOLVED: It was though that the incident involved 1.2 m to 1.8 m [4' to 5'] shark, possibly a sandbar shark or a small sharpnose or blacktip shark.

SOURCE: South Florida Sun Sentinel, November 19, 2000, page 6B



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