



ACTIVITY: Scuba Diving

CASE: ND.0086

DATE: Before 1975

LOCATION: The attack allegedly took place in the Solomon Sea in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Papua New Guinea.

NAME: Dan Hogan

BACKGROUND

SEA CONDITIONS: "The water was calm and clear".

ENVIRONMENT: "The incident took place in a channel with a flat coralline sand bottom."

NARRATIVE: "Dan Hogan and his crew of divers swam through a deserted area where the coral was long since dead and devoid of fish life. No sharks had been in sight for several days.

"Hogan's expedition were engaged in taking geological samples across a section of the channel which ran between the islands and the mainland. Every hundred yards they would

stop to collect a rock or piece of coral and bag with a marked tag to indicate its position. On the surface above them, a flat-bottomed motor launch carrying supplies traced their progress through this silent marine desert. They were all experienced divers for whom sharks held little terror. They knew that a hard enough prod or blow with a shark billy would usually prove enough to deter even the most inquisitive squali; it as simply a matter of timing and cool nerves.

“As they crossed a dark trench in the ocean floor, Hogan veered momentarily to one side, scooping up a sample of lifeless coral. From out of nowhere a shark between 15 and 20 feet in length swept directly towards him on his blind side. There was little time for heroics, shark billies or evasive action. Hogan’s horrified companions watched stupefied as the blunt snout of a Tiger shark ‘bumped’ Hogan from behind. Dipping its head, the fish took him by the legs, almost gently at first, before shaking its jaws furiously from side to side as a dog might shake a rat. Hogan’s brief struggles ceased as the predator snapped through his spine to devour first the lower limbs then the upper torso, aqualung, oxygen tanks and all. Only Dan Hogan’s face mask and the fingers of one hand were left to drift slowly to the sea bed for later recovery and burial.” ...*Felix Dennis*

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES INVOLVED: A 15 to 20 foot tiger shark.

COMMENT: There are no records of a shark consuming a diver and his scuba tank. This account reads like bad fiction. GSAF considers it a highly questionable incident.

SOURCE: Felix Dennis, pages 15 and 18