

ACTIVITY: Diving

CASE: GSAF 1965.06.18

DATE: Friday June 18, 1965

LOCATION: Atlantic Ocean, 150 miles southeast of Cape Kennedy, Florida, USA..

NAMES: Sgt. James Lacasse and Sgt David Milsten

DESCRIPTION: The men were USAF divers.

BACKGROUND

Titan was a family of US expendable rockets launched between 1959 and 2005. A total of 368 rockets of this family were launched.

NARRATIVE: The divers were attempting to retrieve a film package from a Titan 3C rocket when they were chased by a shark.

INJURY: Neither diver was injured by the shark.

SPECIES: The incident involved 15-foot [4.6-metre] oceanic whitetip sharks.

SOURCES: The Sydney Morning Herald, Sunday June 20, 1965, page 2; Evening Standard (London) June 9, 1965; Sunday Express (London), June 20, 1965

DIVERS FIGHT SHARKS TO SAVE FILM

CAPE KENNEDY, Florida, Saturday.—Two U.S. Air Force parachute divers fought off a pack of sharks in the Atlantic yesterday to retrieve a film package dropped from the Titan 3C rocket as it sped into space.

The men dived into the sea about 150 miles south-east of Cape Kennedy from a helicopter to pick up the film, which is expected to show the separation of two rockets from the Titan.

“The men said the package was sinking and they had to dive for it. When they did, they met a great number of white-tipped sharks. One was estimated to be up to 15 feet long.”

Eventually, the two divers recovered the package and were hoisted aboard the helicopter without injury.—BUP.

Frogmen defy sharks for space film

NEW YORK: Two American Air Force frogmen jumped from a helicopter into a school of sharks yesterday to retrieve a camera capsule ejected from a space rocket 160 miles south-east of Cape Kennedy.

As Sergeants James Lacasse and David Milsten dived from the helicopter the sharks surrounded them. One chased Lacasse, he reported later.

The frogmen grabbed the capsule and signalled the pilot to hoist them back into the helicopter—quickly.

Leapt into shark pack

CAPE KENNEDY, Saturday (A.A.P.).—Air Force divers Sergeants James Lacasse and David Milsten leaped from a helicopter into a school of sharks to recover a camera capsule ejected from the giant Titan rocket here yesterday.

The camera contained photographs of the separation of the booster stages and would have sunk if not recovered quickly as its flotation bag was torn.

A Titan 3C rocket

