

ACTIVITY: Scuba diving

CASE: GSAF 1980.06.26

DATE: Thursday June 26, 1980

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean, three miles northeast of San Clemente Island, California, USA.

NAME: Valerie Taylor

DESCRIPTION: She is a 44-year-old female from Sydney, Australia. A diving icon, Valerie Taylor is also an underwater photographer, videographer, scriptwriter, marine conservationist, and a painter. In 1969 she played herself in the film *Blue Water White Death* and has twice graced the cover of National Geographic. Valerie, together with her husband has captured live shark footage and successfully tested mesh suits for shark bite protection and an electronic barrier against sharks.



Valerie Taylor

NARRATIVE: Valerie and her husband Ron Taylor were testing underwater photo equipment when she was bitten by a shark.

INJURY: She sustained a four-inch laceration to her leg.

TREATMENT: Taylor was flown by helicopter to the mainland, then transported by ambulance to University Hospital where her wound was sutured.

SPECIES: The incident involved a blue shark.

SOURCES: Stan Waterman, Shark Research Institute

The Bonham Daily Favorite (Bonham, TX), Friday June 27, 1980, page 1

The Valley Independent, Friday, June 27, 1980.

NOTE: Valerie Taylor was subsequently the recipient of the American Nature Photographer of Year (1997), the Golden Palm Award at Antibes, France (1998), and she was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame (2000).

After two "Jaws" movies underwater photographer, Valerie Taylor was aware of what a shark could do to a person. Today she has first hand knowledge.

One of the underwater photographers for "Jaws" and "Jaws II" was attacked Thursday by a blue shark while testing photo equipment off the California coast.

Meanwhile, across the country, off the tip of Long Island, the real-life model for Capt. Quint of "Jaws" - Frank Mundis - harpooned a 10-foot great white shark weighing more than a ton.

The Coast Guard in San Diego said the blue shark attacked Valerie Taylor, 44, of Sydney, Australia, ripping a 4 inch long gash in her leg, while she and her husband Ron were testing photo equipment in waters 3 miles northeast of San Clemente Island.

Mrs. Taylor was airlifted by helicopter and taken by ambulance to University Hospital where she received stitches. She later was released in good condition.

The attack was apparently unprovoked, blue sharks are plentiful in Southern California waters but rarely attack humans.

Shark attacks photographer for 'Jaws'

One of the underwater photographers for "Jaws" and "Jaws II" was attacked Thursday by a blue shark while testing photo equipment off the California coast.

Meanwhile, across the country, off the tip of Long Island, the real-life model for Capt. Quint of "Jaws" — Frank Mundis — harpooned a 15-foot great white shark weighing more than a ton.

The Coast Guard in San Diego said the blue shark attacked Valerie Taylor, 44, of Sydney, Australia; ripping a 4-inch-long gash in her leg, while she and her husband Ron were testing photo equipment in waters 3 miles northeast of San Clemente Island.

Mrs Taylor was airlifted by helicopter and taken by ambulance to University Hospital where she received stitches. She later was released in good condition.

The attack was apparently unprovoked. Blue sharks are plentiful in Southern California waters but rarely attack humans.

After a 65-minute battle with his great white shark, Mundis announced he'd sell the teeth — equipped with an autographed photo of the captain, for \$400 each.

Mundis' shark was so heavy, it broke the hook on the Montauk scales, which can hold up to 2,000 pounds. He was last seen with the shark on a flatbed truck heading toward a coal company scale in nearby East Hampton.