



ACTIVITY: Windsurfing

CASE: [GSAF 1983.01.10](#) / SA-308

DATE: Monday January 10, 1983

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Western Cape Province off Sunrise Beach, Muizenberg, False Bay. Muizenberg is 106 kilometres from Table Bay.
34°06,6'S, 18°28,2'E

NAME: Richard Crewe

DESCRIPTION: He is a 22-year-old male, 1,91 metres tall and weighs 79 kilograms. He was clad in a blue and red full-length wetsuit but wore no booties. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries before the incident.

WINDSURFER: The 3,65-metre white foam-filled Rocket windsurfer had two black skegs on the under-surface. The sail, which was in the water when the incident occurred, was white with Rocket's green wave logo.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was sunny and a moderate 15-knot southwesterly breeze was blowing, according to Crewe. The Cape Point meteorological, located 34 kilometres away, recorded temperatures from 16,3° to 22,3°C and no rain. At 08h00 there was 3/8 cloud cover and a 11-knot north-northeasterly breeze, at 14h00 there was 7/8 cloud cover and a moderate 15-knot



Richard Crewe

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northwesterly breeze.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 12% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, January 14, 1983

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was warm and there was a 1,5-metre swell. It was low tide and waves “were breaking a long way out”, said Crewe.

ENVIRONMENT: No one was fishing, nor were any shoals of fish seen. No dolphins or seals were observed by Crewe.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: The incident occurred beyond the breakers, about 200 metres from the beach.

DEPTH: 3,5 metres

TIME: 18h15

NARRATIVE: No other people were in close proximity to Richard Crewe but there was a lone windsurfer 500 metres to his left. Crewe had fallen off his windsurfer and was reattaching the mast foot, with his left leg dangling in the water, when he was bitten. Crewe was facing seaward when the shark bit his foot. The shark made a single bite; Crewe felt a tug on his foot and the shark let go and swam off. He did not see the shark before being bitten and believed the shark approached him from behind (shoreward).

INJURY: Crewe sustained three lacerations on the lateral aspect of his left foot.

DAMAGE TO WINDSURFER: None

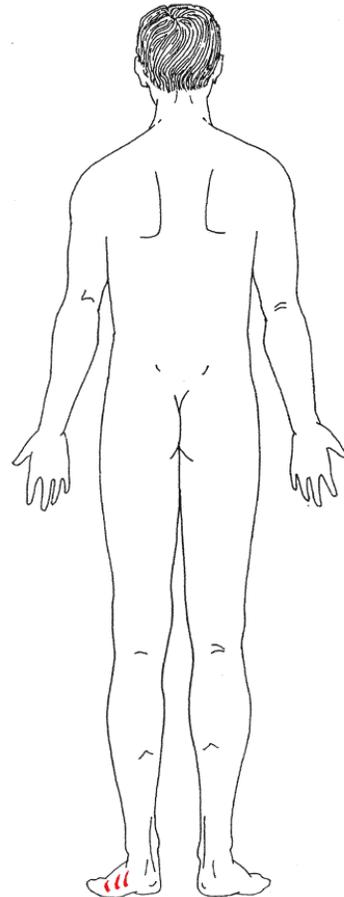
FIRST AID: Lifesavers were engaged in practice when Crewe reached the beach. They washed and put a temporary dressing on the wound after which Crewe drove to his doctor's office.

TREATMENT: The injury was treated by Crewe's personal doctor, Dr Brian Lipschitz, who closed the wound with eight stitches and prescribed a course of antibiotics to prevent infection.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCE: Crewe family.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Marie Levine



Urgent call to shark victim

Staff Reporter

THE Western Pro Lifesaving Association has made an urgent call to the unidentified boardsailor whose foot was lacerated by a shark at Sunrise Beach near Muizenberg on Tuesday evening, to contact them and see a doctor for treatment.

Confirming that the surfer's injury was caused by a shark, the association's public relations officer, Mr David Hersch, said yesterday: "Without the correct treatment, toxin from the shark's teeth will prevent healing. I cannot emphasize how important it is for this man to contact us."

The man, who is white and gave his age as 24, was attacked beyond the surfline about 6.30pm. The lacerations on his right foot were given a temporary dressing by

off-duty lifesavers training nearby.

"The man disappeared almost immediately afterwards and he is most likely still in a state of shock from the attack. He is actually a very lucky man as the shark most likely came at him as he was climbing back on to his board after a fall and basically missed him," Mr Hersch said.

He said the lifesavers would have been able to treat the man's wound with a special shark-attack kit kept at every lifesaving clubhouse but he had left before this could be done.

Mr Hersch appealed to the man to see a doctor and contact Mr Hersch as well.

Mr Hersch can be contacted at work at ☎ 21-7910, at home at ☎ 44-4733, or through his paging number ☎ 45-8511, code 1409.

Boardsailor identified

Staff Reporter

THE boardsailor whose left foot was lacerated by a shark on Tuesday yesterday contacted the WP Lifesaving Association after reading an appeal in the Cape Times.

Mr Richard Crewe, 22, a shipping agent of Bergvliet, was back at work yesterday, his foot bandaged.

He had been sitting on his board at Sunrise Beach with his feet over the edge. "All I felt was a sharp tug on my left leg," he said. Lifesavers dressed three lacerations.

Mr David Hersch, WPLA public relations officer, asked the then unidentified boardsailor to contact him or a doctor because sharks' teeth toxin prevents healing.