

ACTIVITY: Sea disaster

CASE: GSAF 1983.07.26

DATE: July 25, 1983

LOCATION: Off Lodestone Reef, Great Barrier Reef, north of Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Linda Ann Norton

DESCRIPTION: She was a 21-year-old female, the cook of the *New Venture*.

BACKGROUND

TIME: 04h00

NARRATIVE: The 14-metre prawn trawler, *New Venture*, capsized and sank in heavy seas. He was one of two survivors in the water when a shark seized her by the chest and took her beneath the surface.

INJURY: Fatal.

SPECIES: 5 m [16.5'] tiger shark

SOURCES: The Day (New London, CT), Wednesday July 27, 1983, page 16; Hugh Edwards, pages.103-104; Alex MacCormick, pages 110-112; Philadelphia Daily News, Wednesday July 27, 1983, page 18; Daily Herald, July 27, 1983; Hugh Edwards, pages 103-104.

Sharks kill 2 off Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A boat captain said today that sharks bit off his deckhand's leg and killed his female cook, leaving him the lone survivor after their trawler sank in rough seas.

The deckhand, Dennis Murphy, 24, bravely swam away from his companions to give them a chance to escape the man eaters before he died, said skipper Ray Boundy, 28.

But the sharks returned a few hours later and grabbed Linda Ann Horton, 21, Boundy said.

Two huge waves swamped and sank the trawler *New Venture* off Townsville, 690 miles northwest of Brisbane, on Sunday night.

In the last reported shark killings in Australian waters, two men died in separate incidents in March 1982.

Adrift, skipper watches as shark devours 2 shipmates

TOWNSVILLE, Australia (UPI) — The skipper of a capsized shrimp boat said Tuesday he watched helplessly as a 15-foot shark seized and dragged away his two crewmembers, one of them as he clutched her hand.

Ray Boundy, 28, skipper of the fishing vessel *New Venture*, told his tale of maritime horror a few hours after being rescued from Loaders Reef, 45 miles northeast of Townsville. He had been in the sea off Australia's northeast coast for 36 hours and had himself be bitten on the left knee by the shark.

Boundy said from his hospital bed that deckhand Dennis Patrick Murphy, 24, of Brisbane and his cook Linda Anne Horton, 21, of Townsville were attacked by a shark he estimated at 15 feet long as they clung to the capsized vessel.

Boundy said his boat turned turtle Sunday night in heavy seas 60 miles east of Townsville.

"THE DECKIE (Murphy) was on deck and jumped straight into the water, but Lindy and I were caught in the wheelhouse. We all ended up sitting on top of the upturned hull wondering what we were going to do," Boundy said.

They clung to wreckage, which included a surfboard, a life ring and pieces of Styrofoam from shrimp boxes as the trawler sank. Boundy said the shark approached Monday night.

"We weren't taking much notice of him thinking that if we didn't antagonize him he might leave us alone," Boundy said. "He took a bite at my leg under the surfboard so I kicked him with my other foot and he let go," Boundy said.

About 10 minutes later, the shark struck.

"He's got my leg, the bastard's got my leg." Boundy quoted Murphy as screaming.

"YOU'RE JOKING," I said. "But then I could see the blood coming to the surface through the water."

"I didn't know what to do. We'd been hanging together so well for so long... pushed ourselves so hard. I just didn't know how to deal with it because we had no dinghy. We had nothing to use as a tourniquet, even if we stopped the bleeding. The shark was still going to come back and I just didn't know what to do.

"The shark came back and I said to 'Smurf' (Murphy) 'What do you want to do?' and he said, 'You bolt. Gather in all the stuff. Leave me' and he swam off about four or five paces," Boundy said in an emotion-choked voice.

"Everything seemed to be going all right for a couple of hours. I got Lindy to get her spirits back up and we seemed to be traveling along all right and I knew we'd get to the reef sometime in the morning," Boundy said.

About 4 a.m., a shark struck again.

"LINDY WAS sitting in the sling of the lifebuoy when I saw him come along again.

"I was pretty sure he was the same shark this time. He came along as slow as you like beside me then slowed around and grabbed Lindy around the arms and the chest," Boundy said.

"I was still holding her by the hand as he shook her about three or four times. She only let out one little squeal as soon as it hit and I knew almost instantly that she was dead," Boundy said.