

Photo courtesy Cape Argus

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1982.06.24 / SA-328](#)

**DATE:** Friday June 15, 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place Cemetery Beach, Muizenberg, False Bay, 106 kilometres from Table Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Selwyn Doran

**DESCRIPTION:** A 27-year-old male.

**SURBOARD:** He was using a black-trimmed white surfboard.

*Selwyn Doran and his surfboard (looks as if the photo was taken outside the Cape Argus building in Cape Town).*

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The sky was clear.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, June 13, 1984

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was murky and colder than usual; estimated water temperature was 12°C to 13°C.

**TIME:** 17h30

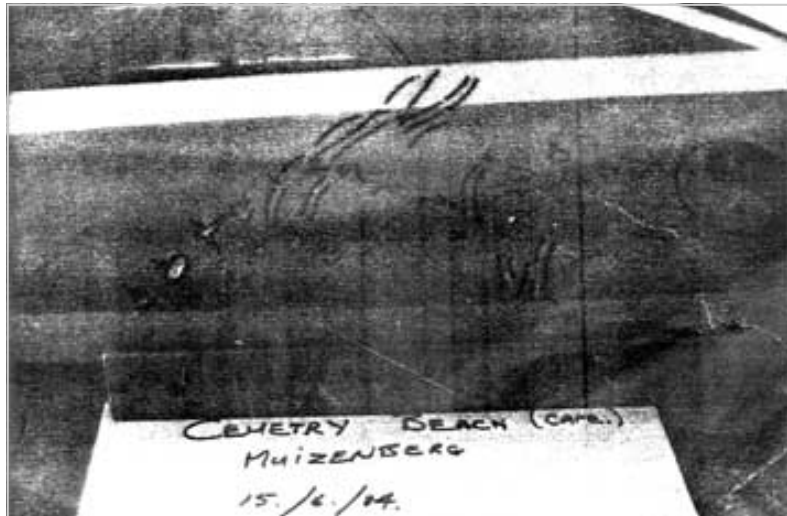
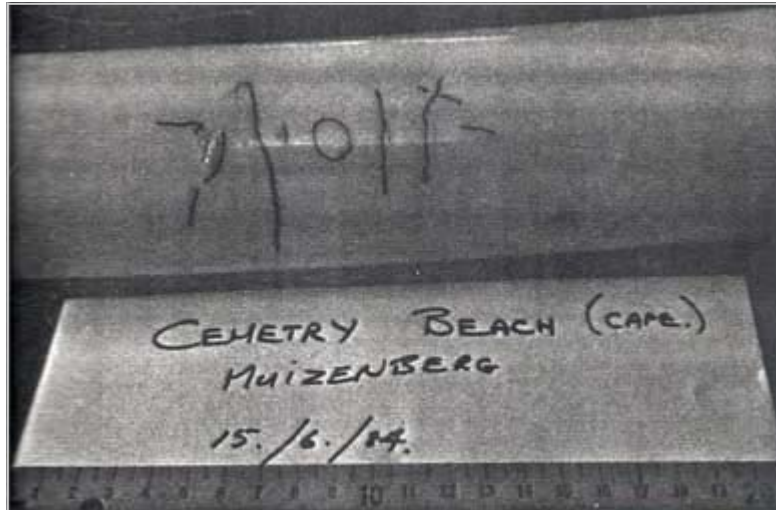
**NARRATIVE:** Selwyn Doran was paddling seaward when his surfboard was “suddenly stopped” and he was catapulted into the water. “The shark approached my board in a curled position from the right side”, said the surfer. As he watched, the shark swam down beneath him and brushed against his lower legs. The shark continued to swim around the board, despite the fact that Doran kicked it on five occasions, and “was not at all eager to go away”.

**INJURY:** The surfer was not injured.

**DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD:** The shark seized the board for a moment, then released it. The damage consisted of very shallow scratches and puncture marks on the under-surface of the board.

**SPECIES:** A tooth fragment, less than two millimetres in length, was retrieved from the board; it was the apex of a tooth, flat on one surface and convex on the other, and resembled a tooth from the lower jaw of a white shark. The tooth impressions on the surfboard indicate the shark had a jaw width of 20 centimetres, suggesting that the shark was less than 2,4 metres in length.

**SOURCE:** The Argus, June 16, 1984



# 'Kelp' beneath surfer was shark

Weekend Argus Reporter

**AN EVENING** surfing session turned into near disaster for a Wynberg surfer when he paddled over a shark and mistook it for a piece of kelp.

Selwyn Doran, 27, was surfing at Cemetery — a surfing spot between Muizenberg and Strandfontein — late yesterday.

Although he had not seen kelp while paddling out, he assumed that a piece had risen beneath him.

He changed his mind when the "kelp" gently rose, tumbled him from his board and took on the distinct outline of a shark.

"I was so scared I could not even scream — and then I began to panic and started kicking at the shark," said Mr Doran.

"I think I actually connected it a few times but it kept brushing past me. I suppose it lasted only a few moments, but it seemed like hours to me.

"I know it was not a dolphin or a seal. It was about 1,5 metres long — not a big shark but a shark all the same."

Finally it moved away, Mr Doran climbed back on his board and paddled as fast as he could for the shore, where other surfers crowded around to find what had happened.



**A shaken Selwyn Doran with his board in Muizenberg today.**