

ACTIVITY: Swimming / Walking

CASE: **GSFAF 1985.07.19**

DATE: Friday July 19, 1985

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Folly Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, USA
32°40'N, 79°58'W

NAME: Julie Steed

DESCRIPTION: She is a 10-year-old female from Tifton.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: There were numerous sandbars in the area. It was thought that the shark could have found itself trapped in a channel between sandbars.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: 1.2 metres. "The water was just a little bit above my knees," said Julie, "and when a wave would come, to the bottom of my bathing suit."

NARRATIVE: Julie was playing in the surf with her father, David Steed, and a friend, Brittany Walker. "They were actually coming in when she was bitten," said Julie's mother. "They had a two-man raft and just wanted to ride that last little surf in." When the shark bit her leg, Julie says, "It was a total surprise, but I tried not to panic. I tried to stay calm." Julie's father held on to her and the shark, perhaps feeling the resistance, released its hold on the girl's leg and swam away.

INJURY: Two-thirds of her calf muscle was removed by the shark. The bite was about 14 inches in length.

TREATMENT: She was admitted to Roper Hospital in Charleston, then transferred to Emory University Hospital. Julie's mother said that her daughter would "have to undergo extensive reconstructive and cosmetic surgery." Doctors were confident that she would be able to walk again.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Julie did not see the shark, however, it was thought that a tiger shark, 2.4 metres to 2.7 metres [8' to 9'] in length, was involved.

SOURCES: Daily Herald (Chicago), Sunday July 21, 1985; The Atlanta Constitution, July 23, 1985, page A.18; Daily Herald (Chicago), Sunday July 21, 1985

