

ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: **GSAF 1985.08.22**

DATE: Thursday August 22, 1985

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Palmetto Dunes, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Joseph Friedlander

DESCRIPTION: A 67*-year-old male from Lake Forest, Illinois.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Dolphins were in the water.

DEPTH OF WATER: Four feet



NARRATIVE: Joseph Friedlander and his wife were wading in the surf when something brushed his leg, then bit him

INJURY: He was bitten on his right calf and suffered less serious injuries on his left foot.

FIRST AID: First aid was administered by the Hilton Head Beach Rescue Squad. Then he underwent three hours of surgery at Hilton Head Hospital.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: The Sumter Daily Item, Friday August 23, 1985, page 7
Charlotte Observer, June 11, 1988, page 1B

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF

NOTE: The press report lists his age as 87.

Shark bite victim in fair condition

HILTON HEAD ISLAND (AP) — An Illinois man apparently bitten by a shark while wading in waist-deep water recuperated today at a hospital intensive care unit in fair condition, authorities said.

Joseph Friedlander, 87, of Lake Forest, Ill., underwent nearly three hours of surgery Thursday at Hilton Head Hospital after he was brought in suffering bites on his right calf and left foot, hospital spokeswoman June Branham said.

Friedlander told a rescue worker he saw a fin but did not see a shark. Beach-goers said they saw a shark in the area but the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department had not confirmed that Friedlander was attacked by a shark.

Friedlander and his wife were wading in the surf when he felt something brush his leg and was bitten, his granddaughter, Mary Oliver of Lake Forest, told the Hilton Head Island Packet.

Officials said Friedlander and his wife were staying at the Palmetto Dunes resort while visiting relatives on the island.

Ed Ford, of Matthews, N.C., said he had seen porpoises in the water before the attack, and when he first heard people yelling about a shark, he thought they had mistaken the porpoises for a shark.

"Then I realized they were screaming for help and saw the lady holding her husband up in the water," he said.