



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1986.03.05

DATE: Wednesday March 5, 1986

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at King's Beach, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

33°58'56.39"S, 25°39'54.41"E

NAME: McDonald van der Merwe

DESCRIPTION: He is a 23-year-old honours student at the University of Port Elizabeth.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, March 4, 1986

NARRATIVE: McDonald van der Merwe was surfing with a friend, Neil Teubes, at a spot, known locally as The Fence some 150 to 200 metres from the harbour wall. The surfers noticed the fin, but assumed it was that of a dolphin and remained in the water. Moments later Van der Merwe caught a wave and surfed to within 25 metres of the beach. As he remounted his board, "something suddenly gave the board a tremendous whack from underneath". He saw nothing and was paddling back to where Teubes was lying on his board when his friend screamed a warning. "Then I saw the shark", said Van der Merwe. "It was massive and circling between us. It must have been about two metres long. We decided that it would be a very good idea to get away from there quickly, and paddled to shore as fast as we could."

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INJURY: The surfer was not injured.

SPECIES: Not identified. The shark was about two metres [6.75'] in length.

SOURCE: Eastern Province Herald, March 6, 1986