

**ACTIVITY:**

**CASE:** [GSAF 1988.02.15](#)

**DATE:** Monday February 15, 1988

**LOCATION:** The incidents took place in the Indian Ocean at Brighton Beach, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

**NAMES:** Lifesavers Chris Bezuidenhout and 23-year-old Edward Moolman

**BOAT:** An inflatable rescue craft with a semi-rigid hull.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, February 17, 1988

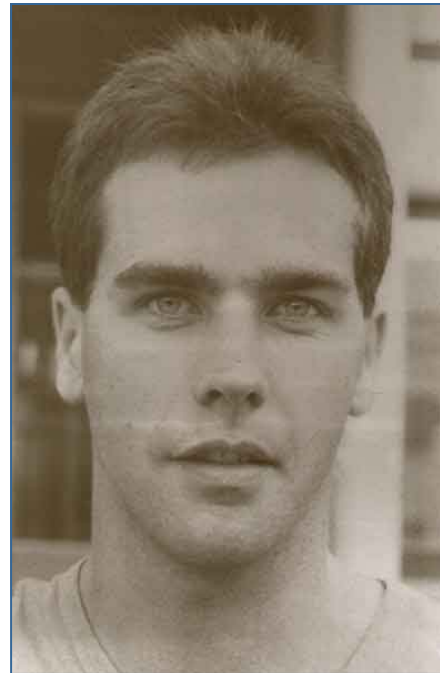
**NARRATIVE:** Two lifesavers spotted what they thought was a dolphin caught in the shark nets. As they neared the animal they realized it was a shark, but it was no longer moving and they thought it was dead. It wasn't; the shark was very much alive and bit into one of the pontoons, deflating the craft.

**INJURY:** The lifesavers were not injured.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a raggedtooth shark, two metres in length.

**SOURCE:** Natal Mercury, February 16, 1988

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Marie Levine



*Edward Moolman*

# Terror as 'dead' shark attacks

A DURBAN lifesaver who had a narrow escape when a 2 m shark attacked the inflatable rescue craft he and a fellow lifesaver were in, yesterday described the event as a 'bit of an adventure' and 'part of the job'.

'I didn't have time to get scared, it all happened so fast,' said 23-year-old Edward Möhlmann.

He and fellow lifesaver Chris Bezuid-

enhout, a schoolboy at Dirkie Uys High School, were patrolling the bathing area at Brighton Beach when they saw what they thought was a dolphin caught in the shark nets.

They decided to help the 'dolphin'.

'Even when we saw it was a shark, we weren't too worried as it wasn't moving. If sharks aren't moving, they are supposed to be dead.'

But the shark — believed to be a ragged tooth — was still very much alive.

'Well, I'll tell you one thing, I don't think I have ever seen



Lifesaver Edward Möhlmann.

anybody move as quickly as Chris did when the shark jumped at us. The expression on his face as he did a backward somersault through the air was one of pure terror,' he said.

'The shark went for him, but it missed and bit through one of the pontoons, deflating the craft. Chris eventually managed to climb back into the dinghy. Luckily the dinghy (which has a semi-rigid hull) is designed so that even if one of the pontoons is punctured, it can still stay afloat and we managed to wobble back to shore,' he added.

## Beach attack

Mr. Möhlmann said this was the first time he had been attacked by a shark since he had started lifesaving nine years ago. The incident would not affect his commitment to his work, he said.

The Natal Sharks Board said it would be removing the shark from the nets.

● In a separate incident on Saturday, teenager Belinda van Schalkwyk lost her leg after a 3 m ragged shark attacked her while she was surfing 100 m off Mtunzini beach in Zululand.