

ACTIVITY: Lying in water

CASE: GSAF 1999.08.16

DATE: Monday (or Wednesday) August 16, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place near the 6000 block of North Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Christopher Handley

DESCRIPTION: The boy is a 10-year-old from Richmond, Virginia (Chesterfield County).

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Myrtle Beach is located along South Carolina's northern coast. It is the center of the Grand Strand, 60 miles of beaches that stretches from the North Carolina border to Georgetown. The beach was packed with thousands of summer tourists.

DEPTH OF WATER: Two feet.

TIME: 17h40

NARRATIVE: Will Handley, his two younger brothers and his parents were on the beach and playing in the surf. Will was lying prone in the water when something hit his head. He thought his brother stepped on him, but when he stood up and felt his ear, he saw blood on his fingers. Handley's four-year-old brother saw the shark's fin. Afterwards beach patrol officers cleared the ocean from 30th Avenue North to the north city limits, just past 82nd Avenue North.

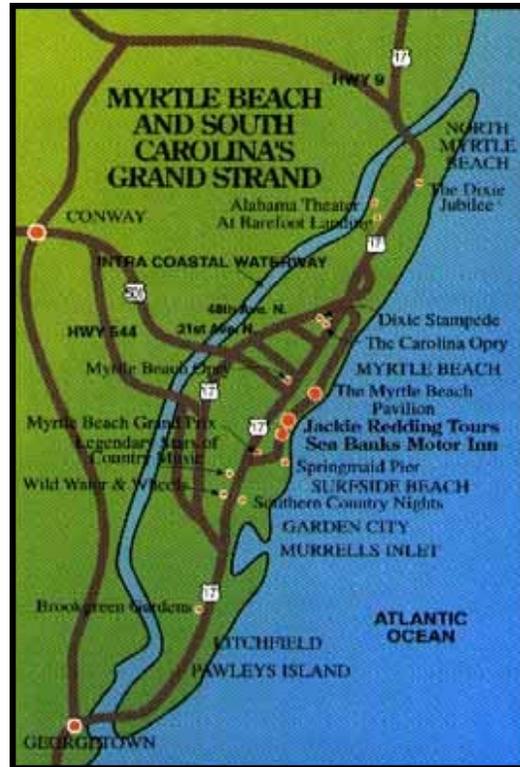
INJURY: The boy's ear was severely lacerated and he had cuts on his ear, scalp and back (arm and shoulder)

TREATMENT: The boy was admitted to Grand Strand Regional Medical Center and released the next day. His injuries were repaired with 200 stitches by Dr. Jarratt Lark. He was expected to make a full recovery.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Unknown. It was thought the shark was six feet [1.8 metres] in length with a mouth eight inches wide.

SOURCES: The Charlotte Observer, August 18, 1999, page 4C; Richmond Times-Dispatch, August 19, 1999 & August 25, 1999, page B1; Roanoke Times, August 25, 1999

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF



Boy, 10, bitten by a shark on South Carolina coast

A 10-year-old boy spent a night in the hospital after being attacked by a shark just off the Grand Strand, a beach area in South Carolina popular with summer tourists.

The attack prompted the beach patrol to evacuate swimmers.

Christopher Handley of Richmond, Va., was released Tuesday from Grand Strand Regional Medical Center after being bitten on the neck and head.