



ACTIVITY: Snorkeling

CASE: [GSAF 2010.12.05](#)

DATE: Sunday December 5, 2010

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Red Sea just north of the Hyatt Regency Resort, at Middle Garden, Sharm El-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt.

27°54.878'N, 34°21,143'E

NAME: Renate Seiffert

DESCRIPTION: She was a 71-year-old female from Markdorf, Germany, and a regular visitor to the Hyatt Regency Resort. She was on holiday with her husband, 78-year-old Rudolf.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 12h00, Sharm El-Sheikh recorded clear skies and air temperatures of 84.2°F [29°C], dew point 35.6°F [2°C], humidity 18%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches and wind direction was North at 8.1 mph.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, December 5, 2010.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 82°F [28°C] to 84.2°F [29°C], warmer than usual for this time of year.

ENVIRONMENT: Naama Bay is Sharm El-Sheikh's main centre, and is lined with hotels, luxury resorts and sandy beaches.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 to 22 yards

DISTANCE FROM THE JETTY: According to Niclas Westmar from Jonkoping, Sweden, who witnessed the attack, Renate was next to the jetty, but the distance has yet to be

confirmed.

DEPTH OF WATER: According to another witness, Ellen Barnes from Horsham, West Sussex, England, Renate was standing chest-high in the water when she was attacked by the shark, but this too remains unconfirmed.

TIME: "Around noon" [12h00]

NARRATIVE: Renate was thought to be snorkeling near a reef when she was attacked. She called for help. A lifeguard brought her to shore, but resuscitation efforts failed.

This attack occurred a day after Sharm El-Sheikh reopened its beaches following four non-fatal shark attacks on November 30 and December 1, 2010.

INJURY: Fatal. Her injuries were not survivable.

Right arm: Severed below the elbow.

Right leg: Severed at knee. Femur denuded of flesh from hip bone along the length of the femur; entire femur exposed.

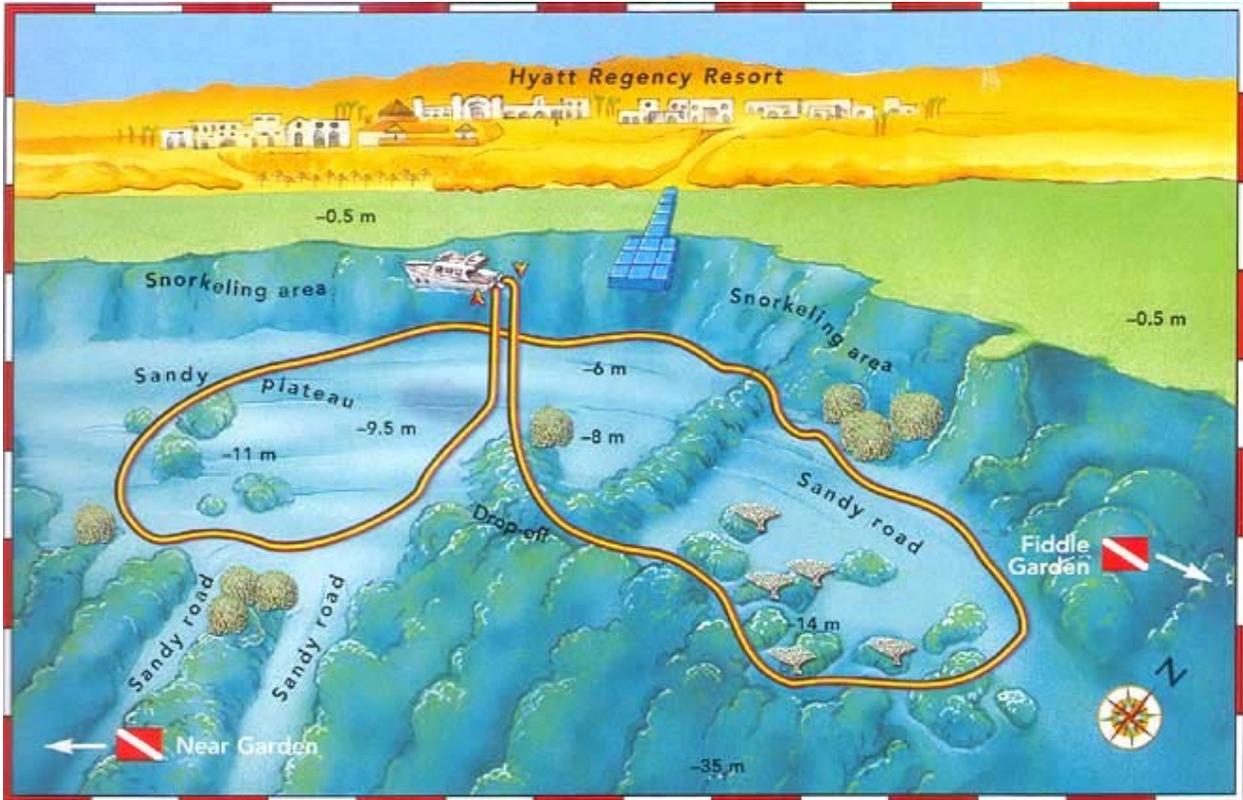
Abdomen: Bite marks

Buttocks: Removed by the shark

SPECIES: Niclas Westmar claimed there were two sharks. Renate's wounds indicate that the attack involved a oceanic whitetip shark about three metres in length. A large female oceanic whitetip shark has been observed at the sites of the recent attacks and, as of December 8, 2010, was in the general area. The shark appears to be following a pattern of traveling between the eight-kilometer stretch of coast in which the attacks occurred to Ras Mohamed National Park and back within two to three days. The severity of the attacks and the amount of tissue removed (and possibly consumed) indicates abnormal behavior. Unlike most oceanic whitetip sharks — briefly grabbing at potential prey — the shark/s apparently considers swimmers and snorkelers as potential food sources.

NOTE: In this case, as in the attack on November 30th on Olga Martsinko, the shark removed the victim's hand and buttocks. It may be that the shark/s has previously been fed by dive operators who brought the sharks close for guests and underwater photographers. Until shark feeding was prohibited, divers fed the sharks by hand and kept additional food in waist packs behind their back. Of interest, too, is the time of day of these attacks. All five of the victims were attacked around the same time of day, which suggests that the sharks had become accustomed to being fed at that time.

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Moustafa Fouda, MSEA, Mohammad Salem, EEAA; Nasser Galal, CDWS; Marie Levine, Shark Research Institute and Global Shark Accident File & GSAF; Ralph Collier, Global Shark Accident File & Shark Research Committee; Erich Ritter; Leonard J. V. Compagno, Shark Research Institute.



Suggested route for divers at Middle Garden



The attack site

© Global Shark Accident File, 2010. All rights reserved. This report may not be abridged or reproduced in any form without written permission of the Global Shark Accident File.



The attack, filmed by a tourist on the beach



SOURCE: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/12/07/egypt.shark.attack/index.html>