

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: [GSAF 1960.08.21](#)

DATE: Sunday August 21, 1960

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Sea Girt, Monmouth County, New Jersey, USA.

40°13'N, 74°03'W

NAME: John Brodeur

DESCRIPTION: He was a 24-year-old male, an accountant from Jersey City.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 22, 1960 at 05h15

SEA CONDITIONS: The tide was just coming in and the water was rough due to stormy weather throughout the week. The sea temperature was 69°F.

ENVIRONMENT: There were schools of baitfish near the shore just past the breaker line, and large fish kept jumping through the schools. Small fish were coming very close to the bathers being chased by fishes about 14 to 18 inches long (possibly bluefish).

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Knee-deep

NARRATIVE: Brodeur was visiting his fiancée, 22-year-old Jean Filoramo, a Jersey City school teacher who was working for the summer at a resort hotel. The couple was swimming off a part of the beach reserved for hotel employees. They were splashing in the surf when a breaker apparently carried the shark in toward them. "I'm bitten," said Brodeur as he staggered to shore. His fiancée flailed the water and drove the shark away. Her parents were on the beach and assisted Brodeur from the water.

INJURY: Right leg: An elliptical jagged deep laceration through the postero-lateral calf just at the level of the head of the fibula down to approximately two inches above the extensor malleolus. Multiple gashes over the anterior and medial aspects of the right leg. Laceration and trauma involved all the muscles of the calf (gastrocnemius and soleus muscles) causing a huge flap of the calf. Bones were involved; there was crushing through the upper end (neck and head) of the fibula, and laceration of the lower end of the fibula. The upper tibia was lacerated with wedge of bone removed. The veins were involved and the main arteries were traumatized.

FIRST AID: A hotel guest, Norman Porter, applied a tourniquet to Brodeur's thigh to stop the bleeding. The ambulance arrived about 10 minutes later and transported him to the hospital.

TREATMENT: Brodeur was treated at Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Neptune, New Jersey (now Jersey Shore Medical Center). Eight units of blood were administered



Jean Filoramo and John Brodeur



and he was treated for shock. A four-hour surgical procedure to restore circulation to the leg was unsuccessful and 10 days later the leg was surgically amputated. The attending physician was Dr. Charles Samaha.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not positively identified, but thought to involve a tiger shark.

SOURCES: Jane Filoramo; Dr. Charles Samaha; Herbert Axelrod; Evening Star (Washington, DC) August 22, 1960

Shortly after Brodeur was bitten, this 17-foot tiger shark was caught just a half-mile away.

