

ACTIVITY: Swimming

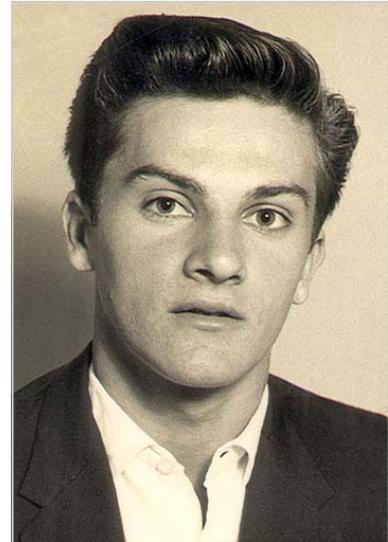
CASE: [GSAF 1963.12.25 / SA-0172](#)

DATE: Wednesday December 25, 1963

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Gonubie Beach near the mouth of the Gqunube River, 13 kilometres northeast of East London Harbour, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. $32^{\circ}56'S, 28^{\circ}02, 1'E$

NAME: Chester Graham Wienand

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer, an 18-year-old male, was physically fit. He played cricket and obtained a cap in the Border Nuffield Team in 1961. Wienand represented Border at soccer and also played for East London at inside forward position. He gained attention on the tennis court as a two-handed player. His father was also a well-known Border sportsman; a Springbok soccer player, he represented Border at soccer and cricket.



Chester Graham Wienand

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, December 23, 1963

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was very rough. High tide was at 16h15, but it was neap tide.

ENVIRONMENT: The Gqunube River is navigable four kilometres upstream and its mouth is usually open. There is a deep channel adjacent to the rocks on the northern bank, and the wide Gonubie Beach stretches for more than a kilometre from the southern bank of the river.

TIME: 1545

NARRATIVE: Chester Wienand entered the water at 15h30 with his sister, Jennifer, but a strong backwash swept them and two other swimmers out of their depths. The sole lifesaver on duty, Mr A. Brussow, brought Jennifer to the beach, and the other swimmers managed to reach shore unaided. Brussow swam back out to Wienand and kept him afloat while another man attempted to swim to them with a life-line, but he was unable to reach the two men and Brussow had to swim back to retrieve the line. Brussow succeeded in fastening the life-line to Wienand and gave the signal to pull him ashore. The lifesaver saw Wienand slip below the crest of a wave but thought he was being winched to the beach. Then Brussow rescued the man who had come out with the life-line and was in difficulty. Wienand's body was recovered in the Gonubie River the next evening.

INJURY: There were shark bites on both arms, shoulders, abdomen and feet. Wienand's parents believe that their son drowned and his body was subsequently scavenged by a shark/s. Dr P.B. Koch, Senior District Surgeon of East London, performed the post-mortem and testified that Wienand's death was "due to being savaged by a shark", thus this was the verdict of the inquest held before Mr D.S. de Jean at the Magistrate's Court in East London on August 14, 1964.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCE: Interview with G.V. Wienand

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