



North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following article describes a fatal shark attack that occurred on July 15th, 1957, off Atlantic Beach in Carteret County. This article appeared in the *Trenton Evening News*, July 16th, 1957.

Shark Kills Swimmer Leg Wounds Fatal 600 Yards Out

ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C. (UP) — A 57-year-old long distance swimmer, attacked by a shark about 600 yards offshore, bled to death yesterday before help could reach him.

Doctors said Rupert Wade of nearby Morehead City had died from two gaping wounds in his leg.

Wade, a World War I veteran, was a familiar sight for many

years as he took his daily 10-mile swims well offshore. He was the only person permitted to swim outside the lifelines at this popular coastal resort.

Lifeguard Bill Shaw spottted a man swimming in deep water yesterday and, not knowing it was Wade, swam out to warn him to return to shore. He said that when he discovered it was Wade he started back to shore.

The lifeguard said Wade suddenly shouted he had been attacked by a shark. Shaw said he first thought Wade was joking but then realized that the swimmer was in trouble.

He said Wade, who was "swimming strongly," told him to go to shore for a raft and that he would be able to stay afloat until the raft reached him.

When two men reached the scene with a raft they were unable to find Wade. They called the Coast Guard and Coast Guardsmen using small boats found Wade floating face down in the water. He was pronounced dead at the Morehead City Hospital.



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