

Swimmer dead for 10 minutes

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By Paul Malley, Sunday Mercury

A Midland holidaymaker was brought back to life after a surfing accident in Australia left him dead for ten minutes.

Steve Logue, 52, was knocked unconscious after a huge wave threw him off his board in the rough sea off Sydney.

Surfer Tom Atkins, just 15, spotted the Briton drowning, dived in and hauled him back to shore before he could be dragged away by the fierce undercurrent.

Steve, from Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, slipped into unconsciousness and for more than 10 minutes paramedics could find no pulse. They assumed that he had died.

But the surfer literally came back from the dead. He regained consciousness as he arrived at hospital, has now made a full recovery and is continuing with his four-week break Down Under.

His teenage rescuer has just received a bravery award from New South Wales Ambulance Service.

The drama took place at the beautiful Curl Curl beach which has some of the most treacherous waters in Sydney.

After the pair were reunited last week, Steve recalled how he made a promise to Tom just as he slipped into unconsciousness.

"I said 'I won't die on you'," he revealed. "I gave him my word that I would pull through."

Reliving his dramatic rescue act, Tom said he had just finished a surfboard training course when he realised that Steve was being swept away.

"I didn't think, I just ran in there," he said. "I am so glad he pulled through."

Tom's proud father, also named Steve, said: "He was dead, then he was a vegetable and now he's here alive and kicking."

He added that Tom had taken the rescue in his stride - apart from losing his board.

"Actually Tom worried more about how he shouldn't have lost his board rather than the fact that he saved someone."

A recent study rated Curl Curl among Australia's most dangerous beaches.