

Statement of accidents occurred to the Divers &c of the Master Attendants Office during the last few years

Names of Divers

Time of occurrence

Nature of accident.

Coopers 1854 July

Was bitten by a shark whilst making a rope fast (under water) to an anchor of the barge "Vager" and he was brought on shore dead.

Cundappen 1856 June

Ditto whilst making a rope fast to the anchor of a Native Craft, but his body was not found.

Chellappan Deputy Cattamaram 1857 January

Fell into the surf by the upsetting of a Cattamaram and was immediately seized by a shark, he however extricated himself with the help of his right hand, and was picked up and conveyed to the hospital, but he died soon after.

Moonien Licensed Cattamaram 1856

Was pulled to pieces by a shark on the upsetting of his Cattamaram.

Yagappan a crew of B.L. 1859

Having fallen over board in the act of climbing up a ships side, and was seized by a shark and carried away.

Collen Private Diver 1856

Was seized by a shark and carried away in the act of diving at the wreck of the ship. Last Edition opposite Ice houses and his body was found on the St. James Beach.

Master Attendants Office }
Madras 2 May 1857

True Copy

M. B. M. M.

Secretary, Marine Board

Signed / Chris. B. B. B.

Master Attendant

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From N^o 1721

J. J. Franklin Esq^{re}
Secretary Marine Board.

To

J. Pycroft Esq^{re}
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir, dated 4 May 1857 N^o 1721

1 I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to bring to the notice of Government that great difficulties have for some time existed in recovering anchors in the Madras Roads in consequence of the numerous sharks with which it abounds, and which appear to be on the increase, a circumstance that may probably be ascribed to the greater amount of European shipping resorting to the port, the crews of which throw overboard the refuse of their food, principally meat, and thus attract these fish.

2 The mode hitherto adopted of raising anchors and cables has been to send down a diver, two of whom are authorized to be retained on the Master

Attendants

Received by the Marine Board
on the 26 of 1857
Per 4/55

1857
J. J. Franklin Esq^{re}
Secretary Marine Board
Fort Saint George
Recd of Sir J. Pycroft
4 May 1857

Shaken at 10 a.m. 1857
at the Marine Board
at the Marine Board
at the Marine Board
at the Marine Board

M. 1001 B.
M. 1001 B.

Attendant's establishment at a salary of $17\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees a month, to make fast a rope to the article to be recovered, which is then hove up by the large boatman, or if in the vicinity of the ship from which it has been lost, is raised by that ship's appliances.

3 So many painful accidents have occurred during the last few years from the divers and others being attacked by the sharks, that it has not only been found impossible to obtain men for this service, but the Board are desirous of seeing some other mode adopted which would afford better security to life than that now obtaining. It is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the Roadstead that anchors should not be allowed to remain at the bottom and the Government are aware that it frequently occurs that the whole of the ships in the port are forced to slip and leave their anchors and cables. The Board would therefore suggest that an anchor boat should be established at Madras having attached to it a diving bell to be employed

^{we}
employed on all occasions for the recovery of articles from the bottom of the sea, and that as soon as the necessary arrangements are completed, the present mode be discontinued.

4 The Master Attendant at Tuticorin was applied to as far back as July last, with the view of procuring men from that locality to undertake the duty of diving, there being numbers so employed in the Chank fisheries along the coast of Tinnevely, but he has failed in his endeavours, the divers refusing to engage on the plea of the number and voracity of the sharks to be found in these Roads.

5 That their objection is not without foundation will be seen by the annexed Memorandum of the accidents which have occurred during the last few years.

6 Should the Government feel disposed to view the Board's suggestion favorably, they will enter into further particulars regarding the size of the boat and the

establishment

establishment they would recommend.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

Madras
Marine Board Office

4th May 1857.
Ex^o MD

Matthew M.

Secretary.

25 May
1887

See also: 12 7/8 May

Mauve 1837 Department

From
the Secretary of Marine Board

7th Feb 1812

Feb 28th 1897

British 4th } May 1837

Mar 17 1901

Feb: 1
No. 181.

7 Nov

difficulties that for some time are
becoming and share the others

Good in consequence of the mag-
nitude of the work with which it was

and which appear to have the
meads and the mealy herbs
adapted of various and good & low

have been a great blessing a thing to
be ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ a peaceful neighborhood

occurred from the river being allowed to rise and the mud which

...more persons, suggest that in Anchor

to it a dining hall for the employees
on all occasions and that as a

as the necessity of arrangement will
complicate the present matter.

[Signature]

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The first & foremost suggestion
concerns the election of
a committee to receive the
further presentation of
the concluding paper