II
300—3-8-95.

ORDINARY, MS.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 7-6-95
No. 162-63

No 162a/.

When given for copying. 10/6

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the
Under Secy of State,
copy of a commun-
from the I.G. of
Police regarding
the disappearance
of Mr Pottinger, 3rd
officer of the S.S.
"Mzandtchy"; and
addressing the Govt.
of the French Settle-
ments in Ind.

BACK PAPER, No. of 189

FURTHER PAPER, No. 448 of 1895.
525.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

Govt of India
Govt of Pondy

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

[despd.]

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT. — } — A
Ackg. 8th 3.95

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—
A — Copy in full.
B — Not to be copied.
P — Copy abstract only.
Q — Copy heading only.

Mr. Pottinger

md. /

H. E. the Governor

H. E.

I have issued letter to the French Government enclose [illegible] of letter to U. S. of S. Please desp. it on the next Mail day with copy of letter from the I. G. of Police.

9/6
[illegible]

[illegible]
7/6/95

but the fisherman being alarmed made off ~~[illegible]~~ ~~was afraid~~ ~~afforded~~ affording any assistance ~~but apparently no assistance.~~ ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~.

2. It was also ascertained th the body of a European was washed asho at Ponnithittu, a French village close to English territory, and that although the fact was reported to the French Pol no notice was taken of the matter and the body was permitted to remain on the beach. When the English Police arrived at the spot only the bones remained and all chance of identif~~[illegible]~~ication was therefore lost. ~~This is most unfortunate as the parents of the missing man are anxious to obtain definite proof that the body was that of their son.~~

3. In the event of the foregoing statement being confirmed by the enquiries which I trust Your Excellency will cause to be instituted I venture to express the hope that some notice may be taken of the supineness of the local police authorities which has resulted in its being impossible to identify the remains and thus satisfy the parents of the missing man that they were those of their son, ~~which~~ as at present there is only circumstantial evidence, on this point

FDB
31-V-95.

4/6/95.

---

territory. The conduct of the French Police in not instituting enquiries when the finding of the body was first reported to them will be brought to the notice of the Governor of the French Settlements in India.

1/6/95

[illegible]
No. 163

Despd 7/6

TO

His Excellency the Governor of
the French Settlements in
India, Pondicherry.

Your Excellency,

On the 2nd September last Mr. Pottinger, the 3rd Officer of the British S.S. M. Meanatchy, then at anchor at Negapatam, disappeared in one of the vessel's boats and has not since been heard of alive. The result of enquiries made by the British Police is that a boat was washed ashore at Keerapolliyam, a village within Your Excellency's jurisdiction, and was broken up; and that previous to that a fisherman (name unknown) had seen a European in a boat some miles out at sea opposite French territory, that he was naked and making signals of distress,

W
2 June

but

Marine Department.

~~18~~ NP

Annexure 1, D 7th June 1895 No. 162

dated 12-6-95 with copy of I.G.P.'s letter No. 3657.

copied 10/6

LETTERS

TO

The Under Secretary of State for India.

SIR,

In continuation of my letters dated the 2nd and the 29th April 1895, Nos. 95 and 122, respectively, I am directed to forward copy of a communication from the Inspector General of Police dated the 24th Ultimo, No. 3657, regarding the ~~loss~~ disappearance of Mr. Pottinger, 3rd officer of the S.S. ''Meanatchy''. It will be seen that the substance of the Inspector General's report is the same as that of the account contained in the correspondence transmitted with my previous letters and that all information available was communicated to Mr. ~~Pottinger~~ Pottinger's father on the 6th May.

W 2 June

No. 395

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the matter did not attract the earlier attention of the British authorities, but this is accounted for by the fact of the body which there seems to have been but little doubt was that of Mr. Pottinger, having been washed ashore in French territory

---

CURRENT No. 395

Mar / Marine (1895) DEPARTMENT.

Mar. Go. No. 122 D 29-4-95 mis
95 D 2-4-95 mis

~~Mar~~ Go. No. 185 mar. D 24-6-95

FROM

M. Hammick Esq. I.C.S.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.

CHIEF SECRETARY
27 MAY 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

No. 3657

Dated 24 } May 1895.
Received 27 }
Regd 28

C. 166 with 9 Enclos. and C. 257 with 4 enclos. retd.

No.

SUBJECT.

Reporting with reference to Endorsement No. 771 of 5th April 1895, J.D., referring letter from the Presidency Port officer, Madras, regarding the loss of Mr. Pottinger, 3d officer of the S.S. Meanatchy.

bout them. I learn from the Superintendent of Police, South Arcot that no intimation of either the washing ashore of the boat or the discovery of the body was made to the Police of that District and nothing was known of the matter until the Negapatam Police came to the District to make enquiries.

12. I regret the delay in replying to the reference but I only had the final report from the Tanjore Police on the 30 April and I then made a reference to the South Arcot District Superintendent to know whether any further light could be thrown on the matter by the Police of that District.

13. From the enquiries made it seems almost certain that the unfortunate officer must have lost control of his boat and upset her. He was probably drowned in trying to swim to shore.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedt. Servt.

Hammett

Inspector General of Police

8. The spot where the bones were fo[illegible] was just bet[illegible] English and Fren[illegible] terri[illegible] our Pol[illegible] not appear to have heard of the [illegible] of the body in the first instance. The plac[illegible] is at the [illegible] probably [illegible] body was first found the place was difficult of acce[illegible] the north-east m[illegible] heavy there and the country often flooded. Probably the diffi[illegible] of getting to the spot [illegible] the French [illegible] making a [illegible] when the matte[illegible] first reported to them.

9. The only other possible trac[illegible] that [illegible] consists of a hat which [illegible] village [illegible] French territory. The hat has been se[illegible] British India Agents for identification and will doubtless be sent [illegible] Pottinger's father. It does not [illegible] to the description [illegible] hat [illegible] by Mr Pottinger.

10. The above is all that [illegible]

11. [illegible] body [illegible] not [illegible] that [illegible]

about or 80 miles north of Negapatam. The prevailing wind and current in the Autumn of the year would have carried a boat from Negapatam up the coast towards Pondicherry.

7. The third piece of evidence in the matter is afforded by the discovery of some bones, certified by the District Surgeon to be those of an adult male which were found close to the sea at the village of Pannithittu, a French village close to English territory. It appears from enquiries made of the villagers that the finding of the body to which these bones belonged was originally reported to the French Police who, however, took no notice of the matter. The villagers stated to our Police that the body was that of an European aged about 25. The [illegible] decomposed and when our Police reached the spot they found merely the bones. These bones were taken eventually to Negapatam and [illegible] British India Company's Agent and they were buried [illegible] the remains of Mr Potting[illegible] in the [illegible]

to Pondicherry with orders to work down the coast making careful enquiries on the way.

5. It was then ascertained that at Keerapolliyam, a French village south of Pondicherry, a boat had been washed ashore and broken up. The French Police denied the fact, but from local enquiry it seemed almost certain that the story told by the Keerapolliyam villagers was true.

6. Information was also obtained to the effect that a fisherman had seen an European in a boat, some miles out at sea opposite French territory, that the man had no clothes on at the time, and that he was apparently making signals of distress. The name of the fisherman, who originally brought back this story, could not be obtained, and, no doubt owing to fear that some trouble might come upon the man, he could not be found. It seems however improbable that the story was an invention and putting it with the story of the alleged washing up of the boat, it seems probable that the boat with Mr. Pottinger in it was seen by some local fishermen off French territory

sailing boat belonging to the S.S. Meanatchy of which vessel he was the Third Officer. The boat was seen from the "Meanatchy" to the north of that vessel. Mr. Pottinger had gone off in the boat against the wish of the Captain of the ship. The next day the S.S. Meanatchy left Negapatam and went up the coast. A look-out was kept for the missing boat but without success. This is all that is positively known about the missing boat and its occupant. Subsequent enquiry has, however, made it almost certain that Mr. Pottinger drifted up the coast until off Pondicherry when his boat appears to have upset and he appears to have been drowned and his body washed ashore.

4. In the first instance the loss of the boat and the disappearance of Mr. Pottinger was not formally reported to the Police but the Negapatam Inspector, on hearing of the occurrence, appears to have had the coast searched up and down from Negapatam without success. In January when I called for a further enquiry, the Superintendent of Police sent a party up the coast

to

No. 3657 CURRENT No. 395

~~CHIEF~~ OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,
Ootacamund ~~Madras,~~ 24 May 1895.

FROM

M. Hammick Esq. I.C.S.,
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,

TO

THE Chief Secretary
to Government,
Ootacamund.

SIR,

Enclosures.
Two.

I have the honor to reply to the Endorsement, No 771, dated 5th April 1895 on Current No 257 and to return the papers forwarded to me.

2. I had a letter myself on the 18th January 1895 from Mr Pottinger, the father of the officer on board the S. S. Meenatchy, who was lost in September last at Negapatam, and after having had a thorough enquiry made into all the circumstances, I wrote to him a full account of all that has been found out about his unfortunate son in my letter dated 6th May 1895.

3. Mr Pottinger was last seen about 5.30 p.m. on the 2d September 1894 off Negapatam when he was alone in a

sailing

CURRENT No. 257

No 1872

Marine (1895) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICER,
Madras,

To

THE CHIEF SECY. TO GOVERNMENT,
MARINE DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

No. 1684/82 G

Dated 26 } March 1895.
Received 27/3. }

Enclosures. 4. Ament No 166.
9 enclosures returned

No.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT * GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS * 27 MAR 1895

Subject.

Returning with remarks papers regarding the missing officer of the S. S. "Meenatchy".

Fwdg
B 10/4

Endt. No 771.
Forwarded to th
Inspector Genera
of Police for Enqui
and report.

Fredrick Price
Chief Secreta

Fort St. George
5th April 1895

No. 3657 CURRENT No. 395

To W. S. Carlyon Esqre,
Acting Port Officer,
Negapatam

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter No 18/143 of the 16th instant, I regret to say that I can give you no further information with respect to my late 3rd Officer, although I have tried to get information at the different Ports I have called at.

I am informed here at this Port that the Police Inspector is making all the enquiries he can, and has promised to let me know should he discover his whereabouts.

Yours faithfully
(Sd) R. J. Phillips.
Commander.

(True Copy)
(Sd) W. S. Carlyon
Ag: Port Officer.

True Copy
Walter Powell
Commander R. I. M.
Presidency Port Officer

A

3657

CURRENT No 395

To W. S. Carlyon Esqre,

No 18/143

Port Office
Negapatam 16th March 189

From
W. S. Carlyon Esqre,
Acting Port Officer,

To
Captain Philipps,
S. S. "M. Meanatchy"

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Presidency Port Officer, Madras, to make full enquiries regarding any further details which may have transpired regarding the disappearance of Mr Pottinger — late 3rd Officer of the "M. Meanatchy" — in the autumn of last year, together with a boat belonging to the ship; and I take the opportunity of your being in Port to ask you for any news, however vague, which may serve to relieve the anxiety of his bereaved mother. You have no doubt heard that a solar topee has recently been picked up along the Coast, and forwarded by the British India Agents to their head Office in Calcutta.

Belie me &c

(Sd) W. S. Ca

1899
Marine Dept.
Bundle No. 3
O. No. 257

No 18/142.

Port Office, Negapatam
16th March 1895.

From
W. S. Carlyon Esqre,
Acting Port Officer.

To
Messrs Adamson, Mactaggart & Co
Negapatam.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Presidency Port Officer, Madras, to institute further and full enquiries into the matter of the disappearance, in the autumn of last year, of Mr. Pottinger - then 3d Officer of the S.S. "M "Menatchy," together with a boat belonging to that ship; and I have the honor to request the favor of your furnishing me with any news, of which you may have become possessed, regarding either the Officer or the boat, and whether the solar topee, which was picked up on the Coast, and kindly forwarded by you to Calcutta, has been identified. An early reply is solicited.

I have &c
(Signed) W. S. Carlyon
Acting Port Officer.
(True Copy)
(Sd) W. S. Carlyon
Ag: Port Officer.

True Copy
Walter Bewell
Commander R. I. M
Presidency Port Officer.

English side. He in his turn declared
hat he had nothing to do with it, and neither

1895

[illegible] He [illegible] been declared [illegible]

[illegible] -ing to do with it, and neither [illegible] on the spot by all accounts. [illegible] body [illegible] numbers of natives, who were agreed that it was the body of an European [illegible] -ale, who they say had reddish [illegible]

It was [illegible] -ved to be [illegible] the beach [illegible] after Mr Bartells [illegible] given charge of the case, when his me[illegible] had traced [illegible] up to this, collected what was left [illegible] and covered them over on the spot wh[illegible] they re[illegible] until [illegible] -uary, wh[illegible] fully collected, packed and brou[illegible] to Negapatam. I regret to say the skull is missing and th[illegible] [illegible] -ld have [illegible] -ted perhaps [illegible] -st reliable means of [illegible] [illegible]

At my request Mr Bartells asked the [illegible] Surge[illegible] [illegible] -ne the remains, [illegible] -ning they were [illegible] packed, at the [illegible] [illegible] Mr Cadell of [illegible] [illegible] Johnson, [illegible] -rgart & [illegible] Dr [illegible] honed Oosman [illegible] [illegible] Bartells [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] spond fairly well

No 142.

[illegible]

16th March 189[illegible]

well with what [illegible] of Mrs Pattin[illegible] physique [illegible] was decided to repack [illegible] keep the box in in the custody of the Police for [illegible] week or two longer, in the hope of finding the skull [illegible] evidence after which it will be taken for granted that they are those of Mrs Pattingen [illegible] they will be accorded a proper [illegible] Mr Cadell has promised to do every thing in that way that he can.

The solar topee [illegible] to was picked [illegible] miles further north [illegible] where the body [illegible] found and the [illegible] hopes that another link in the chain of evidence may be forthcoming in the shape of [illegible] missing boat, or at least a portion of it.

A further report than this will no doubt be forthcoming from the Police later on, [illegible] from the foregoing it appe[illegible] [illegible] fate of Mr P[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] remains have been found.

[illegible] -sures of you[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

have been seen by the lookouts on the steamer, and if in shore she could have made for it even by sculling, had the occupant been strong, as Mr. Pottinger was by all accounts.

The next witness was a catamaran man, who states he was out in his catamaran fishing when he saw a water logged boat with an European in it who had no clothes on except a topee, and was sitting, or kneeling in the boat. The European made signs to him by beating his (the European's) stomach in the native signal of hunger style). He then became frightened and left with his catamaran for the shore, whilst the boat continued to drift northward. This was to the Southward of Pondicherry in English territory.

The next link is the finding that a body was washed upon the beach close to Pondicherry eight days after Mr. Pottinger was missed. It came ashore on what is described as neutral territory, and the matter was reported to the nearest French Police Officer, who referred it to the Officer in charge on the

the

Mactaggart & Co. and resulted in my oing with Mr. Mansfield —, one of their Assistants, and an acquaintance of Mr. Pottinger's to the Police Station, where we met Mr. Bartells, Inspector of Police, who gave us most important information egarding this case, which was only placed in his hands in *January*, and which appears to have been carefully and persistently followed up by him since then.

3. I trust I shall not be guilty of poaching in Police reserves if I give a brief resume of the evidence collected by Mr. Bartells and furnished to me and others as well, and I think that for Mr. Pottinger's mothers' sake it will be better to precipitate the matter somewhat.

4. A native states that he saw what he took to be a ships' boat with a sail a little to the Southward of Negore going N.N.E. on the afternoon of the day succeeding that on which Mr. Pottinger went sailing.

This — if true — is extraordinary, as the boat must have been close to the shore not to

have

Port Office Negapata
20th March 1895

No 18/151.

Encls: 3.

From

W. S. Carlyon Esqre
Acting Port Officer
Negapatam

To

The Presidency Port Officer,
Madras.

Sir,

Regarding your Memo: No 1684/250 P, dated 13th March 1895 giving cover to Marine Currenc No 166 and Government endorsement No 506/8-3-9 I have the honor to report as follows:

2. Letters of enquiry were addressed to Messrs Adamson Mactaggart & Co and the Commande of the S.S. "M. Meenalchy" (copies herewith enclosed) a reply being received on the same day from the latter a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

Before replying to me the former communicated with the Negapatam Police Inspector, asking for a copy of the letter referring to a solar topee having been found. This brought out a further communication from the Inspector, which was handed to me by Messrs Adamson

Mactaggart & C

I am sending him a copy of this letter and of all the papers on record in this office, leaving it to you to communicate to him direct, if necessary, the reference from the Board of Trade herewith returned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt: servant,
Walter Beevle
Commander, R.I.M.
Presy: Port Officer

CURRENT NO. 257

No. 1684 G / 82

Heading.

PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICE,
Madras, 26th March 1895.

From

Commander W. Powell, R.I.M.,
PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICER,
Madras,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
MARINE DEPARTMENT,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to return the papers received with Endorsement, No. 505, dated 8th March 1895, on Marine Current, No. 166, and to forward herewith, for the information of Government, copy of a Report dated 20th March 1895 from the Port Officer, Negapatam, as to the result of enquiries instituted regarding the Missing Officer of the S.S. "Meanatchy".

2. The Inspector General of Police having requested to be furnished with any papers touching this matter, I

Mar

CURRENT NO. 166 Mar

PORT OFFICE MAR 95 MADRAS

5/129

From

The India Office
London

R+S. No 300

Dated 15.2.95
Recd. 4/3
Regd. 5/3
Enclo. 9

Endt. dy 8-3-95 No. 505

Forwarded to the Presidency Port Officer for full Enquiry and early report.

Fred Price
Chief Secretary

J.D.B.
5.3.95.

Subject.

Regn. 9 to cause inquiry to be made at Negapatam if ~~so~~: further particulars are known of the reported drowning of Mr. F. Pottinger of the S.S. "Menatchy" in the Negm. roads last autumn:

TO BE RETURNED WITH REPLY.

with Endt

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject the under-mentioned letter and number may be quoted, and the reply addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
India Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

R. & S. 300.

CURRENT NO. 16

India Office,

Whitehall, S.W.

15 SE[illegible]

CHIEF SECRETARY [illegible] OF [illegible]

GOVERNMENT [illegible] MADRAS

Sir,

[illegible] o forward copy of a letter from the

[illegible] of [illegible]

drowning of Mr. F. [illegible] "[illegible]eanatchy" [illegible]

[illegible]apatam roads last autumn.

Mr. Secretary Fowler [illegible]

made at Negapata[illegible]

of Mr. Pottinger or [illegible] s ship.

[illegible] honour to be, Sir,

[illegible] ant,

A N Wollaston

Asst Secretary,

Revenue & Statistics Department.

to sail about the ship.

While he was in my company he met no one but the Officers of the "Meanatchy" and he had no more than a casual acquaintance with any of them.

The names of the Officers of the "Meanatchy" were Chief Officer Mr Thomas 2nd. Mr H.A Clarke the names of the Engineers I do not remember except that of the Chief Engineer Mr Boak, The Captain was as you are doubtless aware, Captain Phillips.

Mr Pottinger's loss has been deeply felt by his very many friends among the Officers and Engineers of this Company, and by none more than the writer, any other information I can give you, or any assistance I can offer will be tendered gladly.

I remain &c.,

(Sd) J.T.Edwards

Late Clerk, S.S. "Lindula"

Copy. February 2nd 1895.

S. S. "Nuddea"
Calcutta,
26.12.94

Madam,

In reply to yours of 12th ultimo I have herewith endeavoured to answer all your questions as fully as possible.

I stayed on board the "Meanatchy" with your son Mr Pottinger the night previous to his disappearance. We had breakfast on board the "M" next morning and then went out to sail.

There was so little wind that we hardly did more than drift about for some little time, and eventually went on board my ship the "Lindula" to have tiffin. We did not wait long after tiffin but went out in the boat again. Perhaps an hour afterwards we saw the 2nd Officer of the "Meanatchy" coming off from shore in a country boat and as I wished to see him we went back to the "Meanatchy" again. We got on board about 3-30 P.M. I went up with the 2nd officer to the bridge deck, and after having our tea started a game of chess, I heard your son speaking below and where he was also having his tea.

He asked me to go out again but I refused as it was no amusement sailing with so little wind. I did not notice him at the exact moment he left the ship's side and even when I saw him a short distance off, I did not observe he had no one in the boat with him.

While I was out with him he had one Lascar boy in the boat. It must have been between 3-30 P.M. and 4-0 P.M when we arrived at the ship, and your son left for the [illegible] second time about half an hour after. I do not think he was going anywhere definite when he left, merely intending

to

1885
Mar Dept
Enclos. No 8
to
O. No 166

Port Office,
Negapatam.
5th Sept. 1894.

From the Port Officer,
Negapatam,.
To Messrs. Adamson,Mactaggart & Co
Negapatam,

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of this date reporting the loss of the boat of the S.S."Meanatchy" on the 2nd inst, with the 3rd Officer on board I have the honour to inform you that when the news reached me on Monday last I at once sent men along the beach to Nagore and Karical and wired to the Port Conservator at Tranquebar for information. On Tuesday I again sent men up the coast who however returned without any tidings. I can only hope that the boat must have drifted out to sea and been picked up by a vessel bound South or East, as we had no weather that could possibly endanger a boat either by wind or sea.

I have &c.,

(Sd) J.P.James.
Port Officer.

Copy. January 30th 1895.

1895
Mar Dept
Enclos. No 7
to
C. No 166

B.I.S.N.Co. Ld.
Negapatam,

6th September 1894

Messrs Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co
Managing Agents , Calcutta.

Dear Sirs,

We beg to confirm the following telegram sent to your goodselves:-

3rd September "Pottinger third officer "Meanatchy" went
"boat sailing yesterday & has not returned
"enquiries being made all local ports-
"Steamer sailed without him"

4th Sept: "Regret cannot trace "Meanatchy" Officer
"Presume blown seaward please instruct what
"further steps we should take".

We regret that all efforts to trace the boat have been unsuccessful and the only tidings at all that we have so far had are, that some natives saw a boat proceeding Eastwards from Nagore about 5 p.m. on the 3rd inst: No others noticed the boat about the roads on Sunday.

We beg to hand you copy of letter received from the Port Officer here from which you will see that he has also been endeavouring to trace the boat & its occupant.

We are &c.,

(Sd) Adamson, Mactaggart & Co

Copy. January 30th 1895.

1895
Mar Dept.
Enclos. No. 6
O. No. 166

2nd September 1894.

S.S."Lindula"

Commander......W.A.Allen

1st Officer....J.G.Bowman.

2nd ,, ...J.W.White.

3rd ,, ...J.A.Ross.

1895
Mar Desp.
Enclosl. No 5

B.I.S.N Co.

S.S. "M.Meanatchy"

Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co.
Managing Agents,
B.I.S.N.Co. Ld. Madras 6 P.M.

Gentlemen,

We beg to confirm telegram sent to you from Ponttacherry with reference to Mr Pottinger 3rd Officer "3rd Officer on Sunday at Negapatam with jolly boat "went away sailing alone against my orders, not since "been heard of, every enquiry made on Coast"

Up to the above time he has not turned up. I now give you full particulars. On Sunday he went away sailing with jolly boat with Mr Edwards, Clerk of the "Lindula" and one lascar in the boat this was only near the ship.

He came back about 4-30 and Mr Edwards and himself came on board, but Mr Pottinger after having his tea went into the boat and sent the lascar out of it and deliberately went away alone sailing without anyone on board noticing he had gone. Now he knew I would not allow the boat away without two or three in it and why he has done this I cannot say.

He was last seen sailing astern of the ship, that is to the Northward where the current was setting at 5-30. We have telegraphed to all the Ports and a search has been made but to no purpose, as no one on board can understand him having done or said anything on board it seems deliberately done.

I am, &c.

(Sd) R.J.Phillips.

Commander.

Copy, January 30th 1895.

5
Mar Dept
4
166

B.I.S.N.Co.
9 Throgmorton Avenue,
London E.C
10th October 1894.

Mr. Pottinger,
Ladythorpe,
Addlestone,

Dear Sir,

I regret having to inform you that your son Mr. F.Pottinger 3rd Officer of the S.S."M.Meanatchy" left that steamer boat sailing alone in Negapatam Roads on the 2nd ultimo and has not been heard of since and it is presumed he has been blown out to sea.

I enclose copy of a letter addressed to the Managing Agents of the Company by Captain Phillips of the S.S. "M.Meanatchy" reporting the affair, and also copy letters from Negapatam Agents and the Port Officer at Negapatam advising the efforts made to trace your son.

These enclosures contain the only information I have yet received.

I have thought it right to advise you of this sad occurrence without delay, although there is still hope that your son may have been picked up by a passing vessel as at the time the weather was fine.

I sincerely trust that news may yet be received of his rescue, and on receipt of any further particulars I shall at once communicate with you.

Yours &c.,

(Sd) R.W Armour.
Joint Secretary.

Copy.

5
Mar Dept
3
166

money found in his possession and balance of his pay due were also given to Shipping Master and a receipt obtained for same. I also advised Managing Agents at Calcutta of the same, sending them a copy of effects, and I herewith enclose a copy for you, but I must tell you he had also a bicycle and a cane chair: as these things would probably have got broken, I sold them and realised Rs55/-/- which I have sent to the Secretary by this mail. If you require to have these things, I can recover them back again.

As regards Mr. F Pottinger, his personal character he gave me every satisfaction and I was very pleased with him in all he did and regret very much having missed him, he was very much liked by all Officers and Engineers on board and I can assure you he was greatly missed by us all, he always appeared jolly, and myself I think he must have fallen out of the boat when under sail and not have been able to catch her swimming My reason for thinking so is because the boat has never been seen since and must have gone sailing out to sea, had she capsized we should have found her near the coast as the current was running that way, and fishermen go out 15 to 20 miles off the coast every day.

Two letters here enclosed were opened by me to see if we could get his proper address at home, and I hope you will accept an apology for having done so, but I see they are from his sister- his effects should be sent by Shipping Master at Rangoon to the Registrar of shipping at London.

I beg to remain &c.,

(Sd) R. Phillips.
Commander

Copied January 30th 1895.

necessity, and I particularly told him in the presence of Officers that very same day, not to go away without he had some lascars in the boat, I cannot understand him having done so as he was always very exact in carrying out any orders I had previously given him.

I did not think nor anyone on board had the slightest doubt about him not fetching the ship again, however next morning at 5 a.m. I enquired if he was on board, intending to stop his leave, and to tell him he would not be allowed out of the ship again for having dis-obeyed my orders, however he had not returned, I therefore communicated to our Agents and Port Officer here who sent native fishermen in different directions to sea and on the coast to find out any trace of him or boat, and also sent telegrams to Agents at Karical, Porto Novo, Cuddabore, Pondicherry and Madras, who kindly sent fishermen in all directions to look for the boat.

This being the day for my sailing, I left this Port six hours earlier than other times, with the object of trying to discover his whereabouts. I had a lookout from the mast-head and double watches put on, but we never saw anything, and when I arrived at Cuddabore the next day I gave Agents full particulars. I received telegrams from all the Ports, nothing having been seen of the boat or him; also at Pondicherry I received the same information, and at Madras I received frequent telegrams that he had not turned up, and on that day I left for Rangoon. I arrived on the 9th of September getting a telegram at that place that he had not turned up. I had a list of his effects carefully taken and all packed in 1 small box, 1 chest and two portmanteaus, these were handed over to the shipping master at Rangoon, with a list of effects, all

money

British India Steam Navigation
Limited
S.S."Meanatchy"
October 1894.

To Mr Pottinger
Twickenham
Middlesex.

Sir,

I have waited 1 month and 14 days in the hopes that I should not have the painful necessity of writing to inform you about your son Frederick Pottinger who was my 3rd Officer on board of this steamer.

Whilst lying in Negapatam Roads with a smooth sea and light breeze, at breakfast time on Sunday September 2nd, he asked me if he might go for a boat sail with the Clerk of the S.S."Lindula" another of the Company's vessels who was on board to breakfast, and I said he might do so but I did not care for people going boat sailing on that day; however they went for a sail and there were two Lascars also with them in the boat, this being the jolly boat was quite sufficient in case they had to pull, they came at lunch time, had lunch and went away again, came back about 4-30p.m. and had their afternoon tea.

He appears to have gone away again but no one on board was aware of the same until about 5-30 P.M. we saw the boat some distance from the ship and sent for the Chief Officer to enquire who was away with the boat at that time and after going to enquire amongst the Officers and crew it seems he had said nothing to anyone on board, and had sent the lascars out of the boat and deliberately gone away alone when he was quite aware that it was against my orders for any boat to leave the ship's side without sufficient men to row in case of necessity

1885
Mar Dep.
No. 2
To
166

Copy M. 2695

12 Grosvenor Road,
Twickenham
S.W.

Dear Sir,

I am in great trouble and despair at the uncertainty of the fate of my dear son Mr Pottinger.

I went to the Board of Trade this morning and left copies of all the letters I have received concerning this matter. The Gentleman who received me advised me to write to you for your assistance.

What I ask you to do is this:- To trace my son if living and if he be dead to find out how he met with his death. Will you kindly read Captain Phillip's and Mr Edward's letters carefully and then you will find the Captain has misrepresented facts.

He has not mentioned that my son visited the S.S "Lindula" and had tiffin on board and seems to say that my son left the "M.Meanatchy" with deliberate intent.

I am told by Officers from India that my son left the "M.Meanatchy" for the last time to exchange some books from the "Lindula" and did not leave that ship till dark and alone.

My husband wrote to Captain Allen of the "Lindula" some months back asking for information and has had no answer to his letter.

Another point. In the Agent's letter from Negapatam September 6th he writes."Some natives saw a boat sailing Eastwards from "Nagore" which proves that if a search was made "Up and down the coast" as the Captain states they must have known who was in that boat. The Captain also states he left 6 hours earlier than usual, which I think on his part is unfeeling and inhuman, knowing my son to be alone and in danger.

Trusting you will take every step possible to trace my son.

I remain &c.,
(Sd) (Mrs) E. Pottinger.

1885
mar
1
No. 166

M.2632,

30 APR
MADRAS

Board of Trade,
(Marine Department)

7 Whitehall Gardens,London.S.W

12th February 1895.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Fowler a copy of a letter from Mrs Pottinger,referring to the circumstances connected with the disappearance of her son , Mr F. Pottinger, while serving as 3rd Officer of the S.S. "Meanatchy".

5 From the enclosed copies of letters which have been submitted by Mrs Pottinger, it appears that Mr Pottinger went out alone in a sailing boat while the "Meanatchy" was lying in the Negapatam Roads, and that nothing has since been heard of him.

The Board of Trade would be glad if Mr Fowler would be so good as to cause such enquiry to be made in India as he may think proper with a view to ascertaining whether any further information can be obtained respecting the case.

I have &c.,

(Sd) Ingram B.Walker.

The Under Secretary of State
India Office.

1010