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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2735	W.	Press.
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	26. 11. 1880.		19.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

26.11.80

2735

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

26th November 1880, No. 2,735 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 125. From F. N. THOROWGOOD, Esq., M. Inst. C. E., Superintendent of Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 22nd November 1880, No. 56 W.

I DEEPLY regret to have to report a most distressing accident which occurred on these works yesterday morning, and by which seven lives were lost.

2. Throughout the night of the 20th and in the early morning of the 21st instant, there was a heavy sea running from east and south-east, the waves breaking with considerable force over the south pier and washing away about 900 feet of rails.

3. While the sea was heavily breaking Mr. J. T. Duffy, Foreman at the south pier, endeavoured to travel out on a trolley with the object of seeing if all was secure. He was accompanied by Mr. H. Patching, European Diver, and the trolley was propelled by nine natives. It was perfectly impossible for them to have got within 1,500 feet of the south pier end, as the waves were coming over to a height of 7 and 8 feet above the blocks.

4. They had not got more than 600 feet from the commencement of the block-work when a wave appeared which induced the men to leave the trolley and cling to the rails; but, as the wave broke, it swept away the trolley and the whole of the eleven men at once.

5. Four natives, who were of the number washed overboard, could swim well, and they got safely to shore with the help of lines thrown from the south pier. The remaining seven were not seen again, with the exception of Mr. Duffy, who kept himself above water for a short time.

6. The names of those who have come to so lamentable an end through over anxiety to do their duty are—

Mr. James T. Duffy, Foreman at south pier.
" H. Patching, European Diver.
Murugasen, Cooly.
Chengalroyen, "
David, "
Poonen, "
Chokalingum, "

7. The loss of Mr. Duffy is particularly to be deplored, as no one could have borne a higher character for steady hard work, and a wish to do everything that lay in his power to forward the progress of the works. He was engaged by the late Mr. James May when the works originally started, and has borne a uniform high character for the past five years. He came over from Kurrachee, and now leaves a widow and four children in Madras.

2 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 26TH NOVEMBER 1880, No. 2,735 W.

8. Mr. H. Patching had been on the works two years and was a hardworking steady diver, whose loss will be much felt. He also leaves a widow. I have not yet been able to ascertain whether the natives who are lost have left families behind them or not.

9. I trust that His Grace the Governor in Council will be disposed to consider favorably such proposals for gratuity or other assistance to the unfortunate survivors as I shall shortly advance, the charge to be borne by the Harbour Works Funds.

10. I should state that up to the time of writing no bodies have been found.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1880, No. 2,735 W.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council regrets to hear of the unfortunate accident reported in this letter, by which seven lives were lost on the Harbour Works, on the morning of the 21st November.

2. The proposals about to be submitted for gratuity or other assistance to the families of the deceased men will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent of Madras Harbour Works.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS.

Dated November, 26th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 26th November 1880, No 2,735 W.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 125-126.

Accident in the Harbour at Madras—
Expressing regret at the — by which seven
lives were lost, and awaiting proposals for
gratuity to the families of the deceased
men.

No. 56 W

3/35
2735

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS.

To Colonel R. H. Sankey, C.B. R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W. Dept.
Fort Saint George
MADRAS, 22nd November, 1880

SIR,

I deeply regret to have to report a
most distressing accident which
occurred on these works yesterday
morning, and by which seven lives
were lost.

2. Throughout the night of the
20th and in the early morning of
the 21st instant there was a heavy
sea running, from East and South
East, the waves breaking with
considerable force over the South
Pier and washing away about
900 feet of rails.

3. While the sea was heavily
breaking Mr. J. J. Duffy, Foreman
at the South Pier, endeavoured to
travel out on a trolley with the
object of seeing if all was secure.
He was accompanied by Mr. H.
Patching, European diver, and
the trolley was propelled by nine
natives.

natives. It was perfectly impossible for them to have got within 1500 feet of the South Pier end, as the waves were coming over to a height of 7 and 8 feet above the blocks.

4. They had not got more than 1000 feet from the commencement of the blockwork when a wave appeared which induced the men to leave the trolly and cling to the rails; but, as the wave broke, it swept away the trolly and the whole of the eleven men at once.

5. Four natives, who were of the number washed over-board, could swim well, and they got safely ashore with the help of lines thrown from the South Pier. The remaining seven were not seen again, with the exception of Mr. Duffy who kept himself above water for a short time.

6. The names of those who have come to so lamentable an end through over-anxiety to do their duty are.

Mr. James J. Duffy	European	Living
" H. Patching	European	Living
Murugasen	Coaly	
Chengalrojan	Coaly	
David	"	
Poonen	"	
Chokalingum	"	

7. The loss of Mr. Duffy is particularly to be deplored, as no one could have borne a higher character for steady hard work, and a wish to do everything that lay in his power to forward the progress of the works. He was engaged by the late Mr. James May when the works originally started, and has borne a uniform high character for the past 5 years. He came over from Kurrachee, and now leaves a widow and four children in Madras.

8. Mr. H. Patching had been on the works 2 years and was a hardworking steady diver, whose loss will be much felt. He also leaves a widow. I have not yet been able to ascertain whether the natives who are lost have left families behind them or not.

9. I trust that His Grace the Governor in Council will be disposed to consider favourably such proposals for gratuity or other assistance to the unfortunate survivors as I shall shortly advance the charge to be borne by the Harbour Works Funds.

10. I should state that up to the time of writing no bodies have been found.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

J. H. M. G. S. M. D. S. C.

Superintendent
M. H. W. O. K.

And
Ex. Sec.

General.
From 23 NOV 80
No. 719
The Superintendent
Madras Harbour Works.

No 56W.
Dated 22nd November 1880

Accident

Reports the deaths by drowning
in the Harbour of workmen
by —

From
Supt. M. H. Works

132735 W seal
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26 Nov 80
Read the following

From

The Supt. M. H. Works (H.C. No 56W of 22nd Nov 80)

This Grace the
Governor in Council regrets
to hear of the unfortunate
accident reported in this
letter, by which seven lives
were lost on the Harbour
Works, on the morning of
the 21st November.

2. The proposals about
to be submitted for gratuity
or other assistance to the
families of the deceased
men will be awaited.

Supt. M. H. Works
Dead
26-11-80 R. S.
20-11-80

7419

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

W. W. W. W.

29-11-80

Encl.

G. O. No. 27350.

1880

Accident in the
Harbour at Madras.

Representing perhaps
the — by which lives
were lost, and involving
proposals for gratuity
to the families of the
deceased.

32/11/80