

SAILOR TELLS OF RACE FOR LIFE FROM SHARK

Saw Friend Disappear In Pool Of Blood

Singapore, Tuesday.

IN a race across the lagoon at the Empire Dock on the torrid afternoon of June 22, Edward M. Kelly, an able seaman of the S.S. "Steel Inventor," saw his colleague, John Kask, who was ten feet ahead of him, disappear beneath the water.

The water turned red and Kelly soon found himself swimming in a pool of blood.

Panic seized him and frantically he screamed for help as he swam with all his might back towards the vessel.

A boat was lowered and a police boat also arrived on the scene. Desperately, men searched for Kask but he was not to be found.

This was the story told to acting Singapore coroner, Mr. W. MacQuarrie, who held an inquiry into Kask's death to-day. The inquiry was adjourned until June 29 so that a further effort should be made to recover Kask's body.

"I have thought a lot about the tragedy but I have not come to any conclusion as to how it happened," said Kelly in the course of his evidence.

Good Friend

"Kask and I were very good friends," he said, "we never thought of sharks when we first decided to swim."

Kelly said that he was about 600 feet from the ship when tragedy befell his friend. He added that he did not see any kind of fish in the vicinity. He could not recall any order by the captain prohibiting swimming in the harbour. Kelly admitted that it was understood by the crew that it was dangerous to swim in the harbour.

Joseph Randy, an engine room wiper, told the court that while sitting amidships his attention was drawn to the two men swimming in the lagoon.

Shouted For Help

"When they were about 600 feet from the ship," said Randy, "I heard Kelly shouting for help. I thought he was having some fun. Then I saw Kask's head just above the water. The water around him was red. Kelly was swimming straight for the ship, shouting continuously for help."

"I ran to the bridge but Kask disappeared at that moment into the water. I then saw a police boat making for the spot."

Randy said that Kask had talked to him about fish and had told him that sharks were fond of tropical waters.

John Allen Sutor, an assistant at the Wharf Department, Singapore Harbour Board, said that he had seen a shark in the lagoon about a year ago. He said that he was of the opinion that a shark had snapped off Kask's leg and severed the main artery.