

Lascars: Our Jobs on Board Ship



History

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Lascars: Our Jobs on Board Ship



I am the Serang. I am the head Lascar. I find Lascar sailors to work on my ship. I can speak English, so the British captain tells me what he wants and I tell the Lascars.

It is my job to make sure that everybody who works for me does what they're told, works hard and never complains.

I am the Tindal. I am second in command to the Serang. I can speak English. If the Serang is not around, the British captain tells me what he wants. Then I tell the Lascars. Perhaps one day I will become a Serang.

This is a story, based on what we've learnt about the Lascars. The pictures are not necessarily of the exact people in the story.

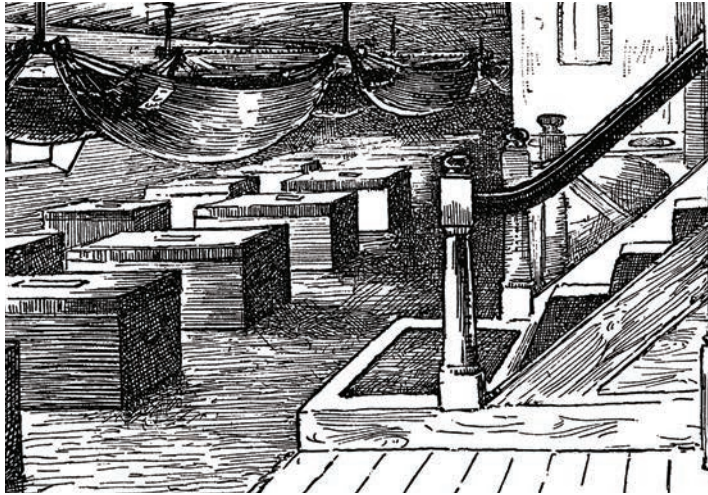




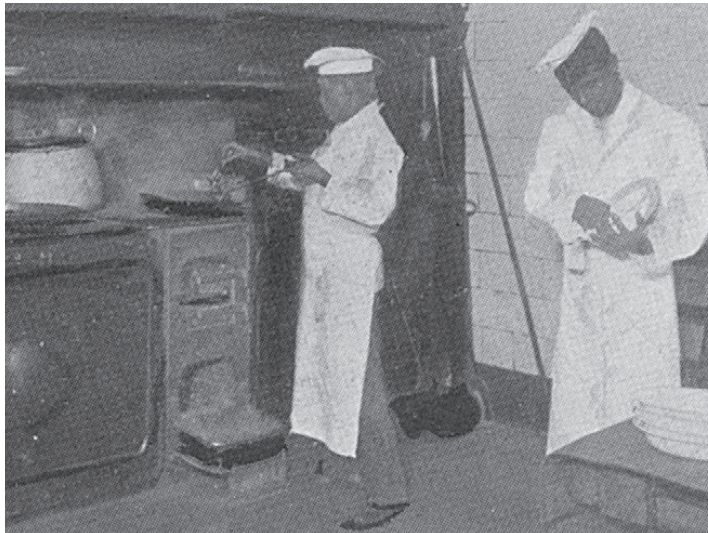
I am a Lascar sailor. They told me to work in the boiler room.
I make sure there is enough coal to burn.

It is very hot (sometimes over 40°C). But the British think it
is a good job for me because I come from a hot country.

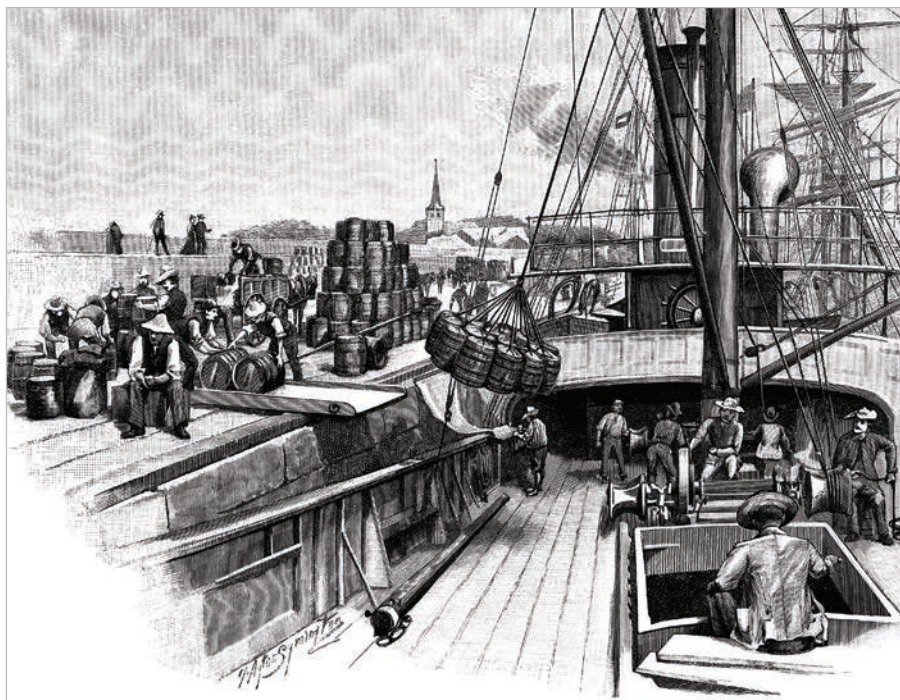
But no country is as hot, noisy and uncomfortable as a
ship's boiler room!



I am a Lascar sailor. They told me to keep the clean ship. So I mop the floors everywhere. It is not easy to keep it clean. As soon as I have finished, I have to start all over again.



I am a Lascar sailor. They told me to cook the food. There is not much room, and there is not much food. The British sailors get better food.



We are Lascar sailors. Now that the ship has arrived in port, it is our job to unload the ship.

Our work is hard and our lives are hard. We Lascars are not treated kindly or fairly.

