
“OS TEIXEIRAS” DEEP SEA DIVING SUIT

Donated to the Municipality of Viana do Castelo by the heirs of António Quesado Teixeira

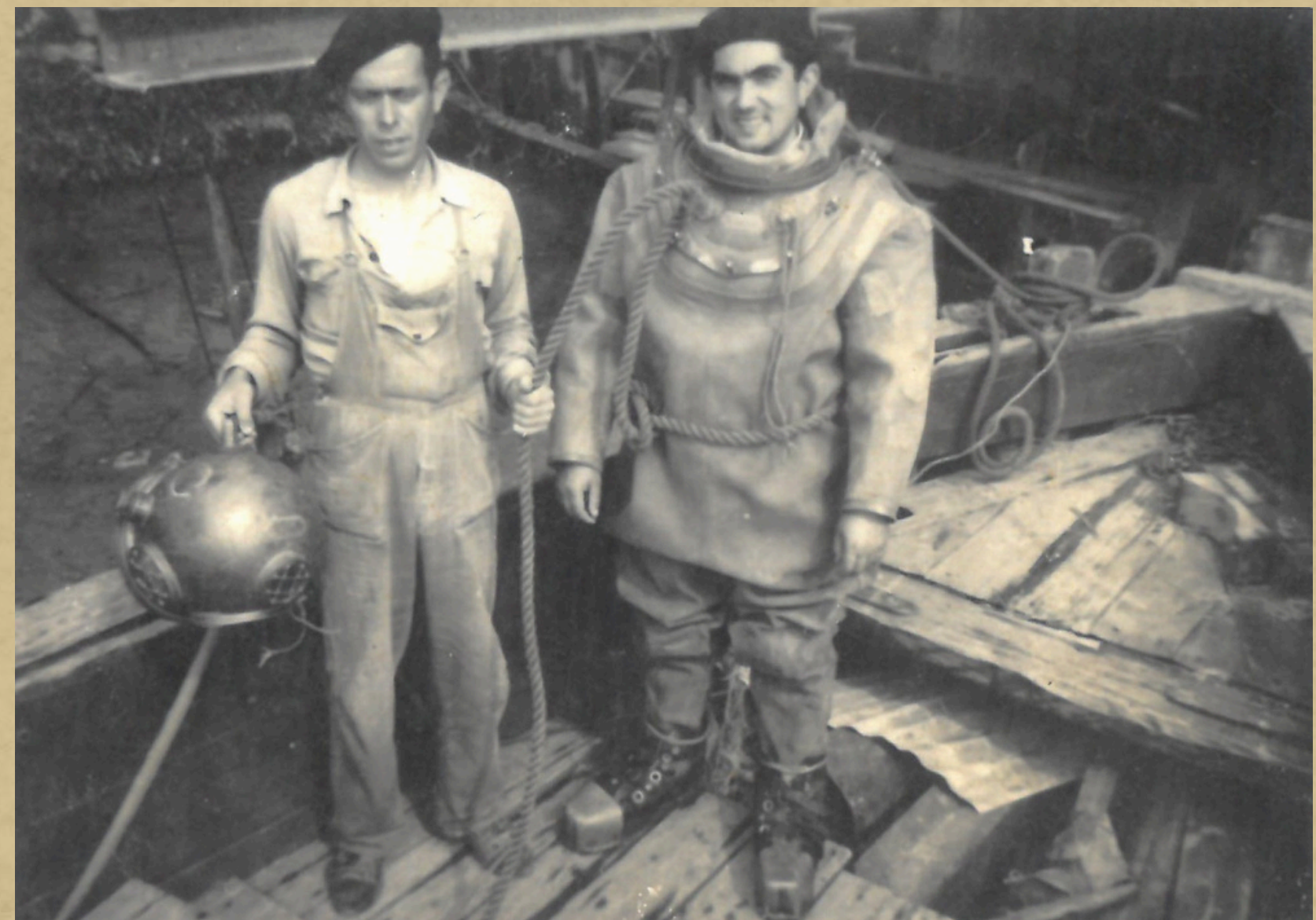
On December 17, 2020, the donation of an autonomous diving suit by the heirs of Antonio Quesado Teixeira was approved at a Council meeting, thus placing the following family assets under the custody of the Viana do Castelo City Council from that date onwards:

- 2 Air pumps
- 1 Diving helmet
- 1 Diving boots
- 1 Breastplate
- Diver's manual by Luiz Joaquim do Caes, 1934

Equipment used in the underwater works of Manuel Quesado Teixeira and his sons, Davide, Carlos, and António Quesado Teixeira, also known as “Os Teixeiras.”

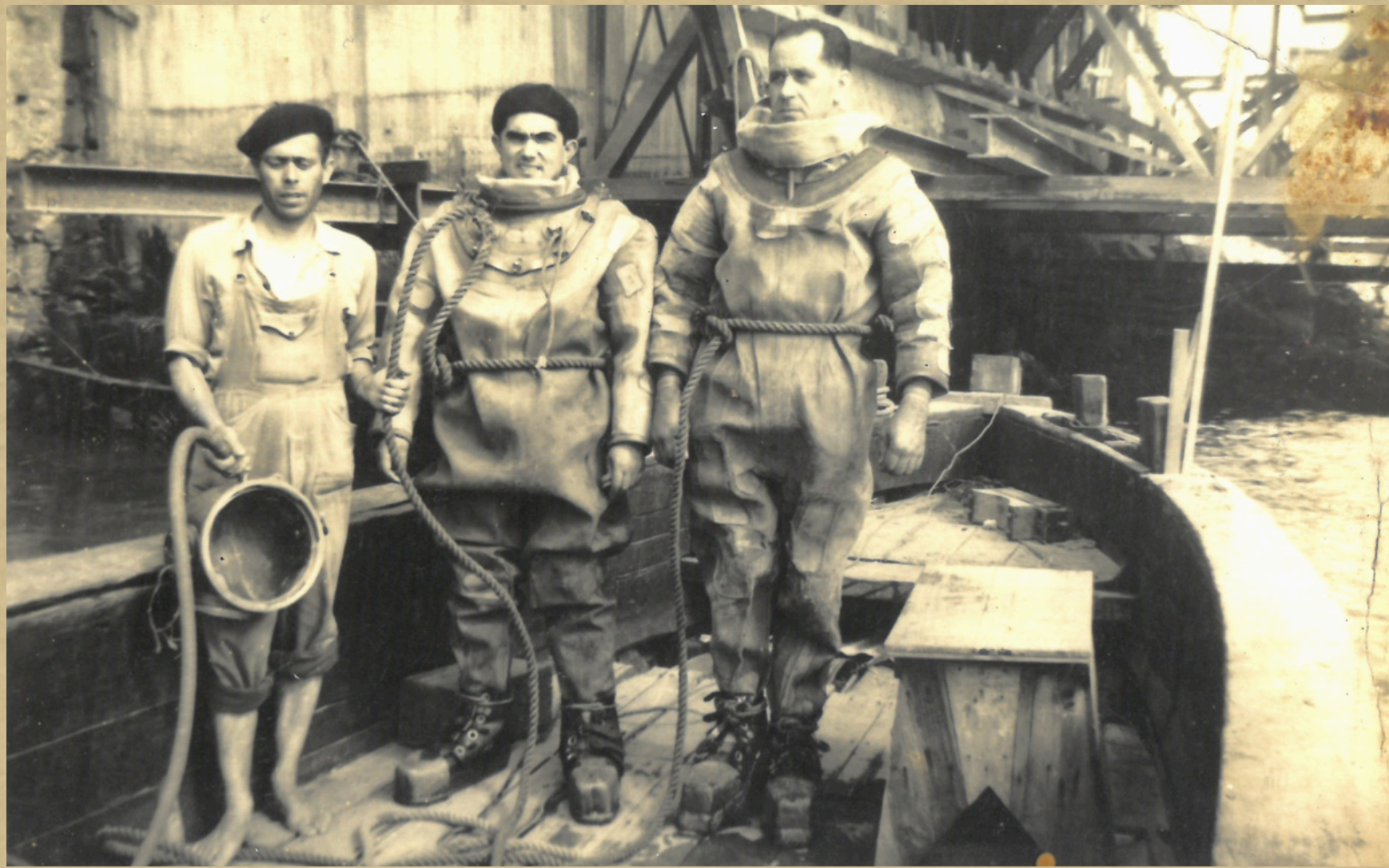
Born in and resident of the parish of Perre, Viana do Castelo, Manuel Quesado Teixeira began his diving career in search of greater financial stability, as this was a very well-paid profession at the time.

This exhibition was born from the donation of the heirs of António Eduardo Teixeira: Mário, Carlos and Luís Teixeira, of classic diving equipment with diving suits, the so-called “lead feet”, due to the use of lead-soled boots or “sea big heads” as we find it referred to in the “Diver's Manual, 1934”.



With the collaboration of three of his children, who followed in their father's footsteps, “Os Teixeiras” worked as “marine masons” and carried out various tasks such as moving rocks, assembling structures, building pillars for bridges or docks, repairs, among others. They dove to 40-metre depths to complete tasks such as those required for the construction of the breakwater in Viana do Castelo (between 1954 e 1958).

The history of the Teixeira family's connection to scuba diving begins with Manuel Teixeira's father, Francisco Teixeira, the first diver in the family. Besides Manuel, he had four sons who were divers. These sons, in turn, also had sons who were divers, an activity that continued down to Francisco Teixeira's great-grandson.



Diving helmet

The helmets are generally made of tinned copper, reinforced internally, and usually have three visors: one is front-facing with a thread-on or hinged cover, and two sides protected by grills. Some also have a top visor, allowing the diver to look up. The helmet includes an air intake valve and an exhaust valve, with a third backup valve in case of failure or to control excess air.



Air pumps

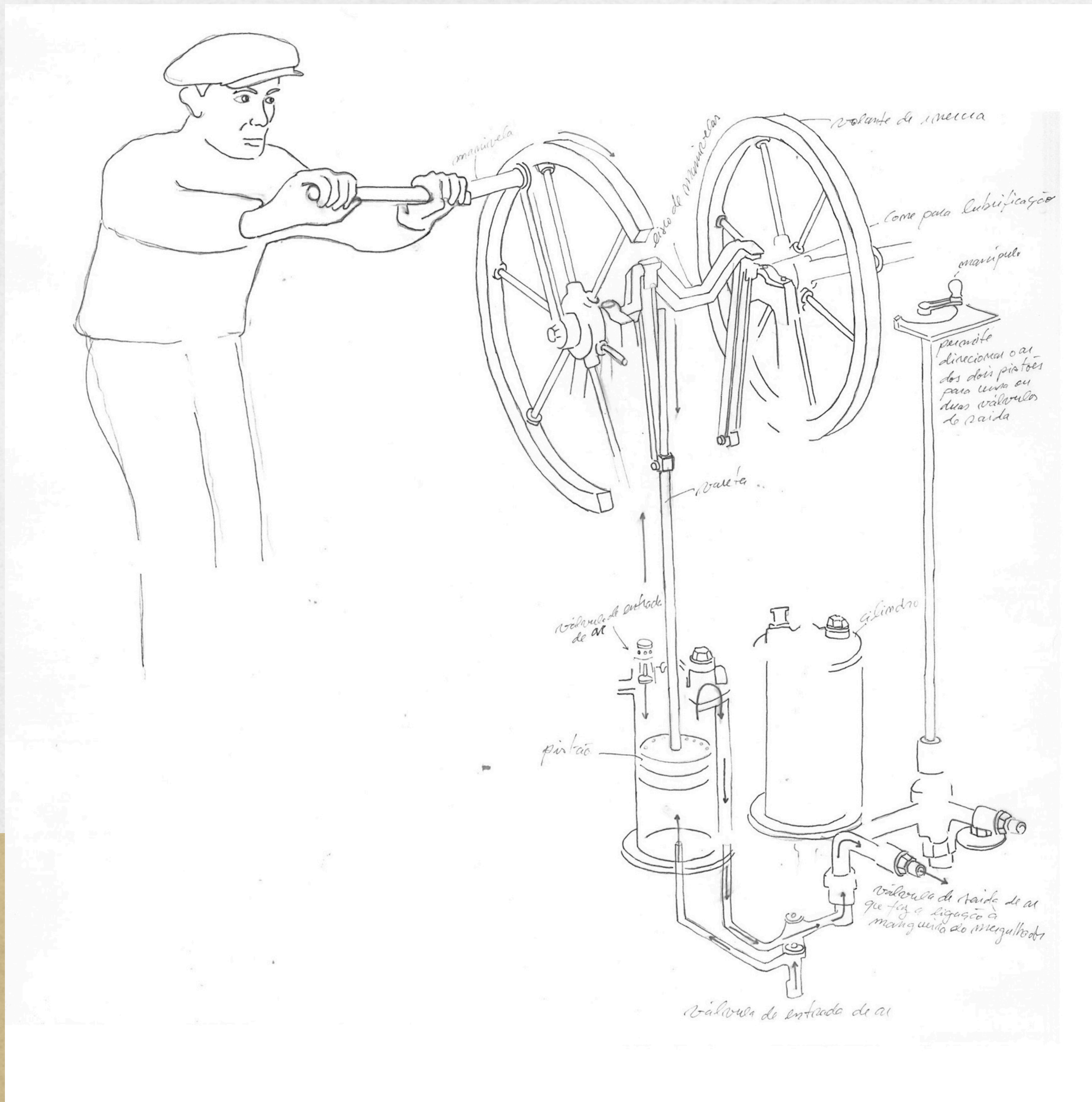
Air pumps were used to supply divers with compressed air. They were quite reliable and could be used on small boats. The non-rotary pumps, operated by a crank, included flywheels to maintain and regulate movement.

This movement was generated by two men turning cranks, creating a rotary motion that would be converted into a vertical back-and-forth movement, driving pistons inside cylinders.



The pumps were double-action, functioning on the mechanism's upstroke and downstroke. This process is not much different from the pumps currently used to inflate nautical equipment.

Cooling was achieved with water, and lubrication with olive oil (according to the Manual do Mergulhador, 1934).



Schematic illustration of how a scuba pump works

Author: Hugo Lopes

The diving activity in Viana do Castelo

Despite the difficulty in collecting concrete data related to deep sea diving using diving suits, some information was found in the District Archive of Viana do Castelo:

- **1881**, José Ribeiro Taborda, a resident of Viana do Castelo, participated in the salvage of artefacts from the Octave Marie, a French ship which had sunk on the city's praia sul;
- **1897**, João de Sousa's will mentioned that he worked as a stonemason and diver;
- **1902**, there is record of the purchase of two English-type diving suits for Viana's dock, intended for improvement works and the construction of new artificial ports;
- **1905**, request was made to acquire an English-type diving suit and 25 to 30 metres of rubber hose;
- **1934**, work carried out by divers in the construction work at the Port of Viana (report from the Navy Archives, describing the equipment used).

From the "List of divers and diver's guides registered in various port captaincies," it was found that Viana do Castelo had 10 registered second-class divers and 6 diver's guides. To give an insight into the reality of that time, Lisbon had 2 registered first-class divers, 4 third-class divers, and 3 diver's guides.

This list includes the names of Manuel Teixeira and José Francisco de Barros, from Vila Nova de Anha, also known as "Castanho," who later became a diver for the Junta Autónoma de Portos. He retired in 1979, at the age of 70 and was succeeded by his son, Manuel Barros.



Schematic illustration of diving activity

Author: Hugo Lopes



1877

Mergulhador de escafandro e bomba de ar - Biblioteca da Ajuda



1910

Ilustração Portuguesa n.º 239 de 19 de setembro / Hemoteca Digital | CM-Lisboa



1940

MERGULHADOR E EQUIPA A TRABALHAR NO CAIS ACOSTAVEL, LEIXÕES - CÓDIGO DE REFERÊNCIA PT/CFP/ALP-FALP/002-001/000156

— 406 —

Capitanias	Nomes	Profissão	Classe
1	2	3	4
Posto-Delegada . . .	Joaquim Martins Baptista Manuel de Medeiros Manuel Rodrigues	Mergulhadores	—
Porto	António Ricardo da Silva Martins Fernando António de Almeida José Joaquim da Silva	Mergulhadores	—
Póvoa-de-Varzim . .	Carlos Teixeira Zefelino José Moreira	Mergulhadores	3.ª
S. Martinho do Porto	António Telo Pereira Cruz	Mergulhador	1.ª
	Albino Meira		2.ª
	Francisco Teixeira		2.ª
	José Gonçalves Barros		2.ª
	Joaquim do Rego Lopes		2.ª
	José Fernandes		2.ª
	Luís Francisco de Barros	Mergulhadores	3.ª
	Manuel de Sá Oliveira		3.ª
	Manuel Martins Soares		3.ª
	Manuel Rodrigues		3.ª
	Manuel Teixeira		3.ª
Viana-do-Castelo . .	Albino Amorim de Matos António Martins Viana Francisco Rodrigues Loureiro Leandro da Torre Bezerra Manuel Amorim de Matos Manuel Fernandes Vial	Guias de mergulhadores	—
			—
Vila-de-Condó . . .	Manuel Fernandes	Mergulhador e guia de mergulhador	3.ª

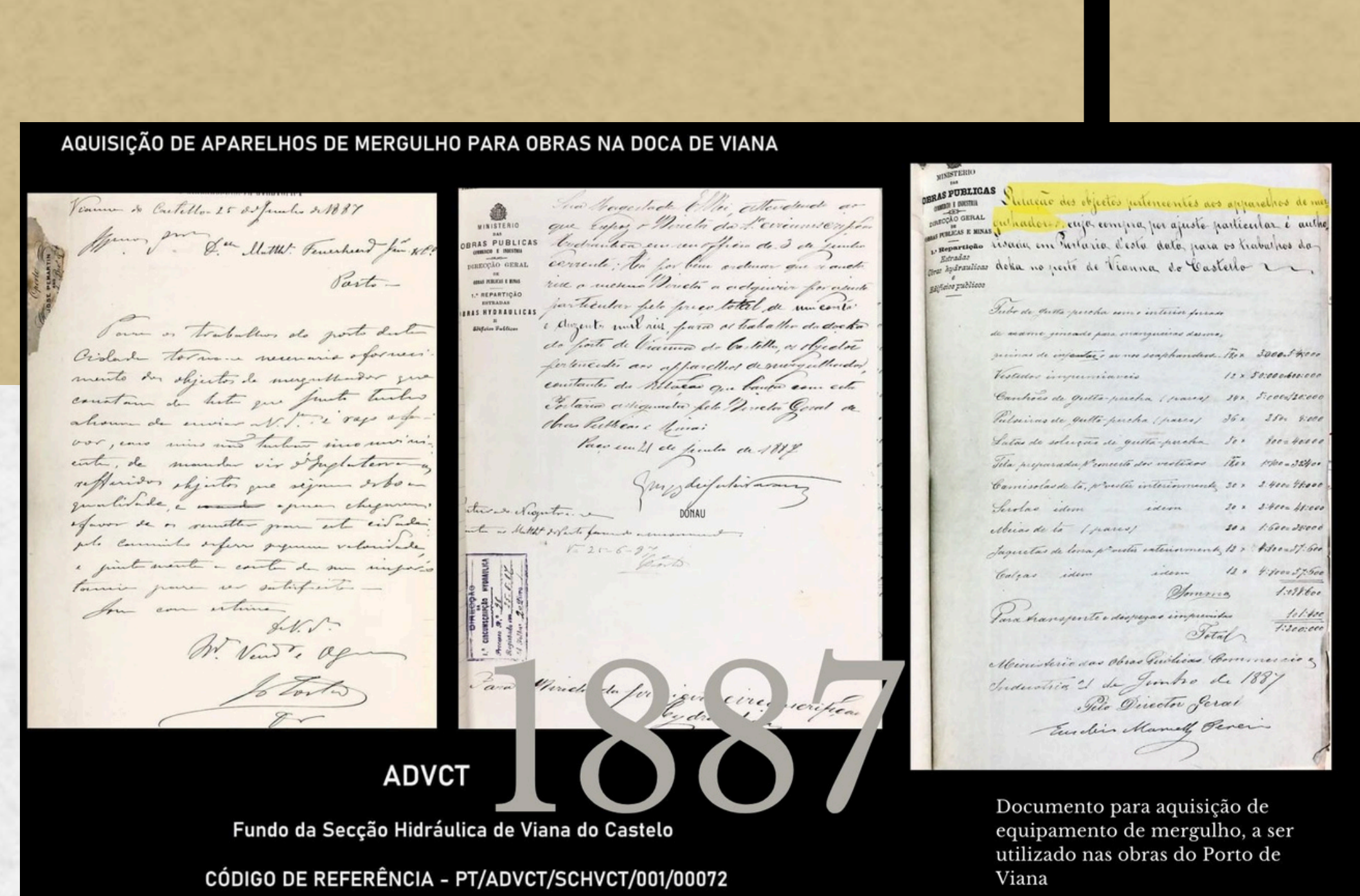


Anunciou o governador-geral

VAI SER CONSTRUÍDO EM ANGOLA um porto mineiro

LUANDA, 14 — O governador-geral de Angola, durante a reunião do Conselho Legislativo, anunciou para breve a construção de um grande porto mineiro, para escoamento de pólvora e de madeiras em Luanda ou Cabinda. O senescal-coronel Ribocho Vaz anunciou, ainda, que...

ANGOLA 1965



1887

Fundo da Secção Hidráulica de Viana do Castelo
CÓDIGO DE REFERÊNCIA - PT/ADVCT/SCHVCT/001/00072



1934

ARQUIVO DA MARINHA - MEMÓRIA DESCRITIVA DAS OBRAS DO PORTO DE VIANA DO CASTELO

REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA
MINISTÉRIO DA MARINHA

— 405 —

Lista dos mergulhadores e dos guias de mergulhadores inscritos nas diversas Capitanias (Decreto N.º 85.892 de 2-7-1938)

Capitanias	Nomes	Profissão	Classe
1	2	3	4
Agro-de-Heróides	David Gonçalves Rafael Francisco Vitoriano Francisco Vitoriano José Vitorino José Vitorino	Mergulhadores e guias de mergulhadores	—
Figueira-da-Foz . . .	Constantino Ferrito Sages	Guia de mergulhador	—
	António Carlos de Sá Santos de Sá Augusto	Mergulhadores e guias de mergulhadores	3.ª
Matos	Luís Augusto Duarte José de Sá	Mergulhadores	3.ª
	Luís de Sá Manuel Ferreira Pereira	Guias de mergulhadores	—
Leixões	António Pereira Ramalho	Mergulhador	—
	Albino de Castro Cristóvão de Almeida Luís de Sá Manuel de Sá Manuel de Sá	Mergulhadores e guias de mergulhadores	3.ª
Lisboa	Alvaro Viana Gomes Joaquim de Almeida Lopes	Mergulhadores	—
	Luís Marques Luís Gonçalves	Guias de mergulhadores	—
	António Fernandes Pinto António Fernandes António Pedro Henriques Francisco de Sá Francisco de Sá	Mergulhadores	—
Tróia	António Gonçalves Francisco de Sá Francisco de Sá	Guias de mergulhadores	—

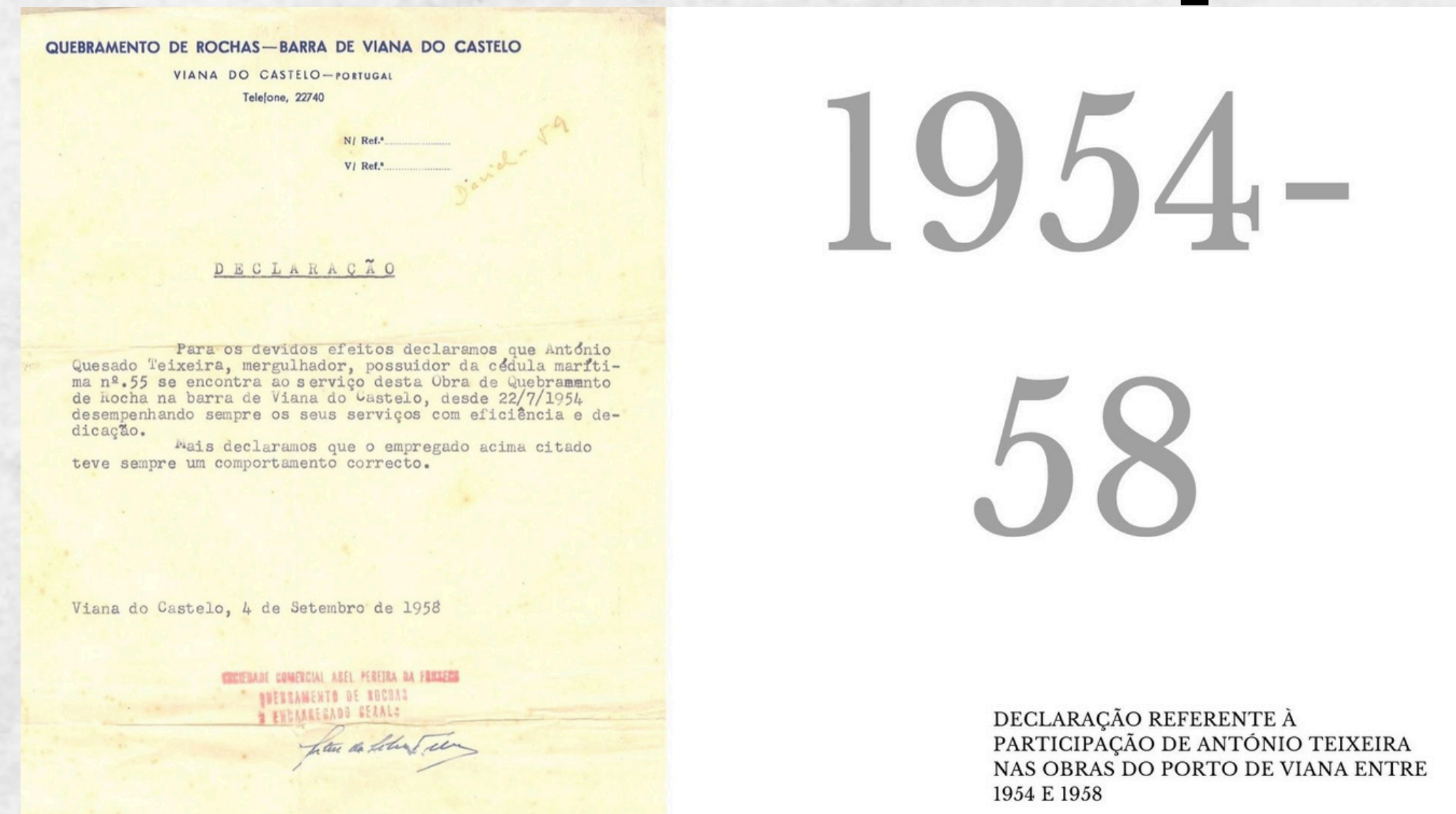
Completada pela Direcção de Marinha Mercante (de Resposta) e medida segundo pelo Arquivo Nacional de Marinha Mercante

M. R. "Carvalho Araújo"

Tip. Editora, Alameda D. Maria, Lda, e S. do Rio de Espingarda, 4 e 5, L. Lisboa

1945

LISTA DOS MERGULHADORES E GUIAS INSCRITOS NAS CAPITANIAS - ARQUIVO DA MARINHA



1954-58

DECLARAÇÃO REFERENTE À PARTICIPAÇÃO DE ANTÓNIO TEIXEIRA NAS OBRAS DO PORTO DE VIANA ENTRE 1954 E 1958



APÓS UMA VIDA DE PERIGOS OS DESTEMIDOS MERGULHADORES NÃO RECEBEM QUALQUER PENSÃO QUE LHE AMPARE A VELHICE

• É urgente que a dita classe seja integrada num sindicato

A FEIRA ABRE AS

JORNAL O SÉCULO DE 5 DE AGOSTO DE 1968 - NOTÍCIA SOBRE A INEXISTÊNCIA DE APOIO SOCIAL AOS MERGULHADORES PROFISSIONAIS

The Teixeira family



Ernesto Rodrigues Teixeira, Angola (1955)



Herculano Teixeira e Ernesto Rodrigues Teixeira, Vila Franca de Xira (anos 50)



Domingos Teixeira, Africa (?)



António, Carlos, David Quesado Teixeira, Angola (?)



From left to right:
Standing: Maria, Carlos, Daniel, Domingos, Rosa
Sitting: António, Maria Affonso Ferreira (mãe); Manuel
Surname unique in all, the father's: Teixeira



António Quesado Teixeira e Manuel Teixeira