



The ATLANTIS PROJECT

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27 February 1996

The Chairman
National Monuments Council
P O Box 20161
ALKANTRANDT
0005

ATTN: MR H SLOET

Dear Sir,

re: APPLICATION FOR SALVAGE PERMIT (DOROTHEA)

It is respectfully requested that a permit be granted to our company in the name of the *ATLANTIS SALVAGE COMPANY* for the purpose of salvaging material from the wreck of the *DOROTHEA* which sank off the Zululand coast in January 1898.

It is hereby agreed that the terms and conditions laid down in the National Monuments Act (28 of 1969 and as amended) are clearly understood and will be adhered to in terms of control and the protection and conservation of any items recovered from the historical wreck site.

A salvage licence has already been applied for from the Department of Customs & Excise and we are expecting a reply in the short term.

It is envisaged that with the assistance of the modern equipment and technology of the Natal Sharks Board that the salvage operation will be conducted in an approved scientific method in order that maximum historical information is recovered from the site. The entire process of recovery will be conducted in the form of a marine archaeological excavation.

To the best of our knowledge there has been no diving or exploration activity in the area of the wreck site since 1962/1966 and we therefore respectfully request that in the event that a permit was issued at that time it is now considered to be outdated.

This application for a permit will also serve to confirm our intention to enter into a mutually beneficial agreement which will address the concerns relating to the recovery, storage and identification of all salvage material. A comprehensive and accurate register of all salvaged material will be kept in accordance with the salvage license and a salvage logbook will be kept and entered on a daily basis during the entire excavation period. This logbook will be made available for inspection at the request of any representatives from your Council.

A quarterly report will also be made available on the progress status once the salvage operation commences and the commencement date will be provided to your office once the expedition dates are finalised. Once the wreck site has been located a plan will be prepared before any objects are removed and wherever possible a grid system will be developed to pinpoint all finds.

All salvaged material will be recorded and shall be placed in your custody for storage and preservation prior to their study and division on the agreed share basis. This rule will only apply to any artifacts which are of historical or cultural value and at this stage there is the intention to donate most of the objects of historical value to the museum of your choice which will exceed the normal required rate of 50%.

All duties and royalties will be paid to the Controller of Customs and Excise in Durban.

We firmly believe that the story of the *DOROTHEA* is of national interest and provides a background of historical value which is of a cultural nature and for this reason we have secured the support and co-operation of the Managing Director of the Natal Sharks Board in order to approach the salvage operation from a professional viewpoint.

With the infrastructure which Mr Graham Charter has at his disposal in terms of equipment and professional management it will guarantee that the methodology employed will ensure the greatest amount of information recovery as is humanly possible. We will guarantee that the results of this undertaking will be compiled and collated in a satisfactory manner and timeously in order to preserve and conserve, in perpetuity, all the recovered objects of historical value as well as all the associated data and records.

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It is our intention to utilise sophisticated and expensive electronic equipment in the form of Proton Magnetometers which are normally utilised in most geological surveys. We will also utilise side scan sonars and sub-bottom profilers in order to take advantage of all the modern technology which is now available and without which previous expeditions proved fruitless and unsuccessful.

It is with optimism and tenacious spirit that we respectfully submit our application which hopefully will unravel the mystery surrounding the wreck of the *DOROTHEA*.

Your consideration and urgent reply to this request will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
ATLANTIS PROJECT



P. MUNNS