



"Se puede vivir sin respirar". Contexto teórico y marco práctico de los buzos en la Real Armada española en el siglo XVIII [

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text (article)

Analítica

This paper analyses the literature produced and the principal instruments and machines devised in Europe throughout the Modern Age, whose purpose was to teach people to swim and to dive, as well as the medical techniques employed to revive drowned victims in the eighteenth century. In this cultural, material and scientific context, after the sinking of the ship San Juan de Alcántara in 1786 the pressing issue of creating diving schools in three departments of the Armada (Cadiz, Ferrol and Cartagena) was raised in Spain. This initiative would be the first of its kind in the world, but its development and effects were very limited, thus contributing to undermine the Armada at the end of the Old Regime, for divers were as essential in arsenals and on board ships as they were always insufficient in number

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