

COAST GUARD SURFMAN DROWNED WHILE IN BATHING

Russell Colbeth, aged 19, a surfman of the Coast Guard Station, No 13, at Hampton Beach, was drowned on Monday afternoon while in bathing in front of the station, and in the sight of many of the members of the crew.

Colbeth with C. A. Hunkins another member of the Guard, went in swimming shortly after one o'clock on Monday afternoon. There was a heavy surf running and Hunkins who is a good swimmer swam about a hundred yards off the beach in front of the station. When he turned he found that with the tide and undertow he could make at the best slow headway.

As he swam in he met Colbeth swimming out and he called for him to turn back as there was a bad undertow. Both started for shore and Hunkins said that Colbeth was swimming strong and apparently having a good time.

Hunkins said that he began to tire and as he made very slow progress

and for a time he feared that he could not make the shore. The surf was running high and once when he got his feet on the shore the undertow caught him and pulled him back. He looked back and found that Colbeth was coming along. Soon after he heard Colbeth calling for the dory, from the station.

Apparently his voice did not carry and Hunkins began calling. The crew heard him and two men jumped into the dory and started for Colbeth. As they neared him one of the men threw him a life preserver and it fell near him, but Colbeth suddenly sank and he was not seen again. One of the surfmen dove over where Colbeth disappeared, but he failed to reach him. They rowed around and frequently dove but the water was all riled up and the surfmen said they could not see under water. They then started to drag for the body, and although they worked the entire afternoon they failed to find him body.

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