

Appendix 11.2: Fires at the Bankshalls

Date	Time	Origin/Cause of Fire	Damage
1750.10.04	01:00	Cook room	Cook's room burned, no other damage
1754.10.25	11:00	the armourer's shed near the Swedish bankshall where oil was being boiled	2 English and 2 Swedish bankshalls were entirely consumed within an hour despite the use of fire engines from every nation. Some ships lost all their spare tackling, cables, sails, spars, and masts in the fire.
1759.11.18	23:00	the boatswain and cooper of the EIC ship <i>Edgecote</i> were blamed for getting drunk and falling asleep with a candle burning	4 English and 1 Swedish bankshall were entirely consumed despite numerous fire engines deployed. Some ships lost all of their sea provisions and spare rigging. Several men were injured and one man drowned while making his escape.
1761.11.28	03:00	an English bankshall	fire engines were deployed and the fire was quickly extinguished, only a few matts on the roof were damaged
1762.01.10	p.m.	an English armourer's shed	1 English bankshall consumed with everything in it
1763.12.15	20:30	the private ship <i>Sabut Jung's</i> bankshall	1 private, 1 Danish and 2 English bankshalls entirely consumed. The <i>Sabut Jung</i> was careening at the time so all of her sails, gear and rigging were at the bankshall and consumed in the fire. Many sparks were flying about so ships at anchor used their fire engines to wet their sails and sides to prevent taking fire.
1770.10.09	15:00	an English bankshall	the English bankshall burned to the ground with numerous sea provisions but many items were saved with the aid of the fleet's fire engines
1771.12.09	02:00	an English armourer's shed	the English armourer's shed burned and all the tools and equipment contained therein
1787.02.22	02:00	the private ship <i>Surprize's</i> bankshall	<i>Surprize's</i> bankshall burned to the ground within an hour despite the aid of fire engines
1787.02.22	13:00	an English bankshall	extinguished by fire engines, damage unknown
1787.11.26	11:00	an English armourer's forge	1 English bankshall and armourer's forge burned to the ground despite the aid of fire engines
1788.02.13	23:15	an English bankshall	3 English bankshalls entirely consumed, with everything in them. One of the bankshalls, however, was empty at the time so in that case only the building was lost. The ship <i>Locko</i> , however, was preparing to heave down and had placed all of her rigging, tackling, sails, and other equipage in one of the bankshalls, all of which was consumed. The captain of the <i>Locko</i> appealed to the EIC committee

			for reimbursement, and listed all the items that were destroyed.
1791.11.09	11:30	a Dutch bankshall	1 Dutch bankshall entirely consumed within 1½ hours despite the aid of 14 British fire engines being deployed
1794.01.27	01:00	an English bankshall	2 English bankshalls entirely consumed, including the <i>Triton's</i>

Sources: (1750) BL: L/MAR/B/573B; (1754) BL: L/MAR/B/164G, 297B, 366B, 560D, 590A; GUB: H22.4A *Prins Carl* Dagbok; NAH: VOC 4380, letter dated 1754.11.17, pp. 14-15; (1759) BL: L/MAR/B/293K, 4D, 285HH, 229G, 404H, 507E, 578G, 596E, Beawes 1:466-7 and RAC Ask 1139, 1759.11.19; (1761) BL: L/MAR/B/17F, 492A; (1762) BL: L/MAR/B/278B; (1763) BL: L/MAR/B/98C, 285-II, 390C, 438J, 486D, 535D, 582D; (1763) RAC: Ask 1147; (1770) BL: L/MAR/B/405D, 419B, 466A, 547C, 556D; (1771) BL: L/MAR/B/237J, 474C, 479B; (1787.02) BL: L/MAR/B/485C, 563A; (1787.11) BL: L/MAR/B/356H, 400K; (1788) BL: G/12/88, pp. 140-1, L/MAR/B/172J, 400K; (1791) BL: L/MAR/B/285QQ, 265A, 297L, NAH: Canton 252 letter dated 1791.11.26; (1794) BL: IOR L/MAR/B/182B, NAH: OIC 195 DR, 1794.01.27.