Veterans Day 2013

St. Thomas Historical Trust
NAVY GOING TO ST. THOMAS.

Great Demonstration Talked Of When Danish Isles Are Taken Over.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Plans for a great naval demonstration to signalize American acquisition of the Danish West Indies are being considered by State and Navy Department officials. Probably the entire Atlantic fleet will be ordered to St. Thomas, the long sought naval base, to participate in the celebration.

Minister Brun of Denmark formally advised the State Department today that the treaty for the sale of the islands had been approved by King Christian, and would be dispatched from Copenhagen on Dec. 30. It should reach here two weeks later for Secretary Lansing's signature.

The Atlantic fleet will mobilize at Guantanamo, Cuba, for Winter manoeuvres next month, and will be reviewed there by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt, who will be on his way to inspect the naval forces in Haiti and San Domingo, may take charge of the ceremonies at St. Thomas.
“Colors”
Governor and staff to the left (in whites). See Basketball backboard and “movie” screen.
“116th Leading Irish. 1st Sgt McGrath in front walking. “
Picture of the Barracks yard
“View from Pear Porch of Mess Hall”
“The Danes formerly occupied this Bldg. The 14th Co. is now quartered here. Maj. Salladay and family have four rooms on upper floor, right.”
Frederick Lutheran Church

From a postcard.
Unknown location
St. Thomas?
Main Street
The marines’ new Packard truck on the way to the store-room
“Great consternation was caused by the appearance of motor vehicles. Something new for this place.”
A portion of the detachment of the 14th Co which mounted the 5in Guns at Mosquito Bay (Lindbergh bay).
The marines brought a 45-hp tractor with them, which proved a real worker.
Transfer Day, March 31, 1917.

“Lending an ear to the address.”
Masquerading St. Thomas locals dressed as Zulus dance in Fort Christian.
“German Consul Julius Jochimson, under guard, starting for the "Brig".
Some of the 5" guns and mounts on the dock.
Note the headquarters of the Hamburg-Amerika Line in the background.”
“Detachment of sailors from USS Hancock who were present at transfer of Islands. Hamburg-American Bldg in background.”
“Just as we got ashore, this was snapped and when only a few paces from this spot another was taken. Evidently, it was intended to secure a picture of us, no?”
No. 5 (Official Committees) in Center
“Rear rank of No. 5 (Off. Com.) and Naval Band. Man in foreground with white helmet is Valdemar Muller (Now Miller).”
“See “Buze” as Major in Command of Battalion with 2\textsuperscript{nd} Lieut. Durrell as ADJT.”
The property upon which the gun site is located is known as Ma Follie (My Folly) and is (was) owned by the old Danish lawyer shown here. He is rated as being the owner of more than half of the island. He is one of the greatest German sympathizers here.
Unloading ammunition and gun mount at King’s Wharf.
“Down again to the pier. Picking up carriage and sleeve. “
“The gun and its crib totaled about 15 tons, the second crib with carriage and sleeve weighed about 11 tons. “
“On the Dummy line.”
“Without this 45 HP tractor I do believe our casualties would have been greater than what the people at the front are suffering. It was a Godsend that this gas wagon came here. She acted like a regular tank: No rocks or hills seemed to pause her one iota.”
“About half way up, at the worst turn of them all. The old ruin on the hair-pin curve.

Am putting red spot (Water Island?) to locate “Ego.”
“On the north side of the ridge. The road was a bit narrow in parts.”
“Most of the material used in bringing up the gear was gotten from the Hamburg-American Co. thru Alien-Enemy Custodian.”
Looking east over Magen’s Bay.
“Resting peacefully on the top of the hill, awaiting foundation material for mounting.”
“Carrying up the line to make fast to a tree.”
US Marine Barracks (with Tents in front), Virgin Islands.
Hdqtrs. No. 5284
DEFENSE DEPT PHOTO (MARINE CORPS.)
“Charlotte Amalie VI 1918. Capt Stone #1, Sgt Duvel #2.”
Marine inspection in the Virgin Islands, World War I.
Colors from the top of Ft. Christian looking west.
Just 20 years after accompanying the German Consul to the Brig, a U.S. Marine Corps honor guard receives Captain Siemens, Commanding Officer of the visiting German light cruiser Karlsruhe, 7 May 1936.
Building the first power plant, where WAPA now stands.
Bourne Field, St. Thomas

Bourne Field, comprised two 1600-foot sod-surfaced runways which were used by the Marines as an outlying training field; the radio station was a minor installation, and the submarine base had long since been abandoned as such.

The initial program called for improvements and additions to existing facilities to accommodate a Marine squadron of 18 planes on a permanent basis and a waterfront development to serve one patrol-plane squadron in a tender-based status.

The main east-west runway at Bourne Field was extended to a length of 4800 feet, and a 100-foot extension was added to the steel hangar, together with additional quarters, an administration building, additional gasoline storage, a cold-storage building and commissary, extensions to roads and services, and a new 60-bed dispensary and hospital. A concrete ramp, hangar, and utility shop were also built to accommodate seaplane operations in Lindbergh Bay.

Fifty low-cost housing units were added to the contract during October.
Sub Base: UDT training facility

In 1947, the Navy Underwater Demolition Team (the UDT), was based in St. Thomas and were the precursor to the present day SEALs (SEA, AIR and Land).
Lt. Art Andrew, UDT Instructor
MEMORANDUM

From: LCDJ Paul T. MCELROY, 583614/1105, USN
To: Commanding Officer, Underwater Demolition Team Twenty One
and Commanding Officer, Underwater Demolition Team Twenty Two

Subj: Report of Offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

1. I wish to report certain offenses which I feel are violations of Articles 112, 113, and 144 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, committed by the following officers:

- LCDJ John T. DOMCHER, 581488, USN, DUT 21
- LCDJ John J. CONNELLY, 574089, USN, DUT 22
- LCDJ Norman H. OLSON, 508961, USN, DUT 21
- LCDJ Robert S. MATTISON, 574095, USN, DUT 21
- LCDJ Norman K. OTT, 585832, USN, DUT 22
- ENS. Arthur L. ANDREW, 519677, USN, DUT 21

2. Between the hours 2012Z and 0309Z on the night of 10-11 December 1955, at the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island, while in a duty status awaiting air transportation from Quonset Point to Norfolk, Virginia, the above officers drank excessive quantities of alcoholic beverages. They were uncooperative and unresponsive to the requests and orders of the Officer in Charge of the group to which they were attached. Their condition was manifest to a large group of enlisted men attached to DUT 21 and DUT 22. Their condition and that of other personnel of the detachment raised serious doubts in the mind of the pilot whether the group was fit to travel by air. LCDJ DOMCHER and LCDJ CONNELLY were the most serious offenders, having drunk such excessive quantities of intoxicating liquor that they were incapacitated of caring for themselves during any emergency which might have occurred during flight and incapable of assuming the responsibilities commensurate with their rank should the need have arisen.

3. Witnesses:

- LCDJ Paul T. MCELROY, 583614, USN, DUT 21
- LCDJ Joseph L. JENKINS, 586729, USN, DUT 22
- ENS. Charles H. MITCHELL, 529104, USN, DUT 22

Copy to:

LCDJ DOMCHER
LCDJ CONNELLY
LCDJ OLSON
LCDJ MATTISON
LCDJ OTT
ENS ANDREW

[Signature]
Paul T. MCELROY

WELCOME ABOARD!
NORM OLSON HOSTS INSTRUCTORS FROM PUERTO RICO AL HODGE, CHIP RITCHIE, BRUCE WELCH
Veterans of the St. Thomas Historical Trust
Charles Consolvo, Capt. USAF (Res)
Hassel Island Task Force Chairman, and former Historical Trust board member.
Vincent “Doc” Palancia, Maj. USMC (RET)
Lead Guide, St. Thomas Historical Trust
Hassel Island Tours, 2013 Volunteer of the Year
Halroy “Skip” Williams, Maj. USAF (RET)
St. Thomas Historical Trust 2012-2014 Board Member
Aquino Bonelli, E-5
USN
St. Thomas Historical Trust 2013-2015 Board of Directors
Judge Thomas Moore,  
USAF  
St. Thomas Historical Trust Board member  
2012-2014
Many thanks

Thanks to the United States Marine Corps History Division for the images of the early days of the Marines in the US Virgin Islands.

Thanks to the family of Lt. Art Andrew for the images of the Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) training.

Thanks to all the veterans and service people of the United States Armed Services and their families for their selfless sacrifices.