

U.S.S.

MULLINNIX



VISITS

TRINIDAD



U.S.S. MULLINIX (DD-944)
Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

21, 22, 23 August 1962

Subject: TRINIDAD

Visit: MULLINIX is scheduled to visit TRINIDAD on two occasions during the cruise. Our initial stop will be our first port, from 21 August to 23 August. The purpose of this visit will be to embark COMSOLANT (Rear Admiral J. A. TYREE, JR., and his Staff). We will also visit TRINIDAD in early December, as our final port of the cruise, to offload the COMSOLANT Staff.

Schedule: The schedule for our initial visit is as follows:

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST

0830 - Moor Pier 2 Naval Station, Trinidad
0900 - Commence loading COMSOLANT files and
equipment - Receive COMSOLANT barge

WEDNESDAY, 22 AUGUST

0800 - Continue loading, receive staff personnel
on board

THURSDAY, 23 AUGUST

0800 - (about) Underway for RECIFE, BRAZIL
Liberty - will be determined by SOPA and will be promulgated
upon arrival

Geography: Trinidad is the most southerly, and next to Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indian Islands. It is 48 miles long, 35 miles wide with a total area of 1,864 square miles. It lies 16 miles from the coast of Trinidad and is 1,799 nautical miles from Norfolk. In the North there are densely wooded ranges of hills running East and West, the highest point being El Cerro Del Aripo 3,085 feet high. The most striking natural features are Maracas Falls and Pitch Lake. Maracas Falls is 312 feet high and is located northeast of Port of Spain. Pitch Lake is 38 miles southwest of the capital. Pitch Lake is a mass of asphalt in which, near the center, the pitch is liquid, and bubbles up like a boiling caldron.

Climate: Trinidad has two seasons; wet and dry. The wet season runs from May through January, except for a short break in October. The dry season includes late January and continues through May. The temperature varies only slightly with the average daytime temperature of 84 and night time of 64. Yearly rainfall averages anywhere from 50 to 120 inches.

History: Trinidad was discovered on July 31, 1498 by Columbus, who took possession for the Crown of Spain. It has been colonized continuously since 1577 and has been under British rule since 1797, being finally ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. The Capital City, Port of Spain, has a population of 99,000, and has been the capital since 1783. It recently became part of the West Indies Federation, and is now independent.

Industry: Petroleum accounts for 75% of Trinidad's exports. The soil is remarkably rich and the main crops are sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus fruits, copra and coconuts. Rum and molasses are important by-products of the sugar. The Angostura Bitters Factory is located at Port-of-Spain.

U.S. Relations: Since Trinidad was a British possession, relations with the United States have always been very cordial. In 1940 the U. S. entered into a 99 year lease for naval and air bases, but by 1950 all these bases were relinquished with the exception of the Naval Base at Chaquaranas, where we will moor. Many U. S. industries have interests in Trinidad.

Language: English is generally spoken, however some French, Hindi and Spanish are in use. 35% of the population is East Indian.

Money: The unit of money is the British West Indian dollar. The current exchange rate will be promulgated upon our arrival.

Capital: The capital, Port of Spain, lies on the West Coast of the island on the hills behind the city are residential suburbs, Woodford is the principal square and is located in the business section near Holy Trinity Cathedral. Queen's Park Savannah is at the center of the city and from it radiate many of the most important streets; such as Frederick, the main shopping thoroughfare; Charlotte, with its markets and small shops; Cipriani Boulevard and St. Clair Avenue, which are residential. Around Queen's Park Savannah there are these buildings of historical and architectural interest; Government House, standing in the Royal Botanical Gardens; White Hall, the Federal Secretariat; the Palace of the Roman Catholic Archbishop; Krowsley House, the home of several government ministries; All Saints Church; and the Princes Building. The Royal Victoria Institute nearby houses a museum, concert hall, and the Federal Supreme Court.

Shopping: Shopping generally has little to offer since manufactured articles have to be imported and are expensive. Woven articles, hand worked linens, and embroidery are popular souvenirs. Most articles in stores operated by Chinese or East Indian merchants are subject to bargaining.

Food and Restaurants: Food generally is unsatisfactory and is not recommended. Avoid water or other liquids from questionable sources. Avoid all raw or poorly cooked foods. Wash hands thoroughly before eating. Dairy products, such as butter or milk, should be especially avoided, unless it has been pasturized, which is sometimes difficult to determine. It is recommended that all personnel eat on the Naval Station or aboard ship.

Transportation: Local transportation is by bus or trolley-bus which are new and in good condition. Taxis are available, but charge high prices, especially for long trips. Small boats for sightseeing can be hired in the harbor.

Swimming: Sanitary conditions on the island are poor, and all hands are cautioned not to swim anywhere but the Naval Station Pool. (See listing for details)

Athletic Facilities: The Naval Station has a Recreation Building with bowling alleys, ping pong and billiards. The open air swimming pool and baseball fields are located nearby.

Recreational Facilities:

a. Golf Courses

- (1) Naval Station Golf Courses (18 holes)
 - (a) Course located at Tucker Valley open from 0800 to 1800 daily.
 - (b) Caddies available at 60¢ per 9 holes \$1.20 per 18 holes.
 - (c) Greens fees are \$1.00 per round for military personnel.
 - (d) Clubs are available to Military Personnel at no cost.

b. Softball Diamond

- (1) Located east of L-15 family quarters.
- (2) Gear may be issued from the equipment room.
- (3) Softball diamond has lights for night games.
- (4) Must be reserved in advance by calling ext. 312 or 866.

c. Baseball Diamond.

- (1) Located east of recreation building.
- (2) Gear may be issued from the equipment room.
- (3) Must be reserved in advance by calling 312 or 866.

d. Indoor Basketball Court

- (1) Located in recreation building.
- (2) Basketball facilities available from 0900 to 1700 daily. Except on Sundays from 1030 to 1600. (Later by special arrangements)
- (3) Basketball court must be reserved in advance by calling ext. 312 or 866.
- (4) Basketballs and a limited number of athletic shoes are available at the equipment room.

e. Tennis Court - a. East on main barracks.

b. North L-15 family quarters.

c. Macqueripe Officer's Country (Officers only)

- (1) Gear may be issued from the equipment room located adjacent to gymnasium.

f. Bowling Alley

- (1) Six lanes located in the recreation building.
- (2) Twenty cent (20) per line.
- (3) Hours from 1500 to 2300 daily.
- (4) Shoes available for ten cents (10).

- g. Swimming area
- (1) Macquarrie Beach
 - (a) Open to all officer personnel from 1000 to 1700 daily.
 - (b) Snack bar adjacent to beach.
 - (c) Clothes changing facilities available.
 - (2) 83rd Beach area
 - (a) Open to all Enlisted personnel as follows:
Wednesday thru Monday from 1000 to 1800
Tuesday -----CLOSED
 - (b) Snack bar facilities available on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
 - (c) Clothes changing facilities available.
 - (3) Naval Station Swimming Pool
 - (a) Open to enlisted personnel daily except on Tuesday at no cost.
 - (b) Maximum capacity sixty-five (65) persons.
 - (c) Open Wednesday thru Monday from 1130 to 1730.
 - (d) Tuesday closed for cleaning.
 - (e) No snacks available.

Entertainment Facilities:

- a. Outdoor Movie Theatre
 - (1) Current movies shown free of charge commencing 1930 daily.
 - (2) Theatre located east of recreation building.
- b. Library
 - (1) Located at east end, lower deck of main barracks.
 - (2) Open daily except Thursday and Friday from 1200 to 2000
- c. Macquarrie Officer's Club
 - (1) Open from 0700 to 1900 daily.
 - (2) Bar opens 1600.
 - (3) Meals by reservations only.
 - (4) Movies scheduled on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 2015.
 - (5) Package Store: 1200 to 1700
- d. Enlisted Men's Club
 - (1) Open from 1200 to 2400 daily except on Saturday when it will close at 0100.
 - (2) Game Room with bar located over canteen.

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Richard J

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Stoughton