

DWI becomes USVI

St. Thomas Historical Trust



NAVY GOING TO ST. THOMAS.

Great Demonstration Talked Of
When Danish Isles Are Taken Over.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—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.

The New York Times

Published: December 27, 1916

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“Colors”

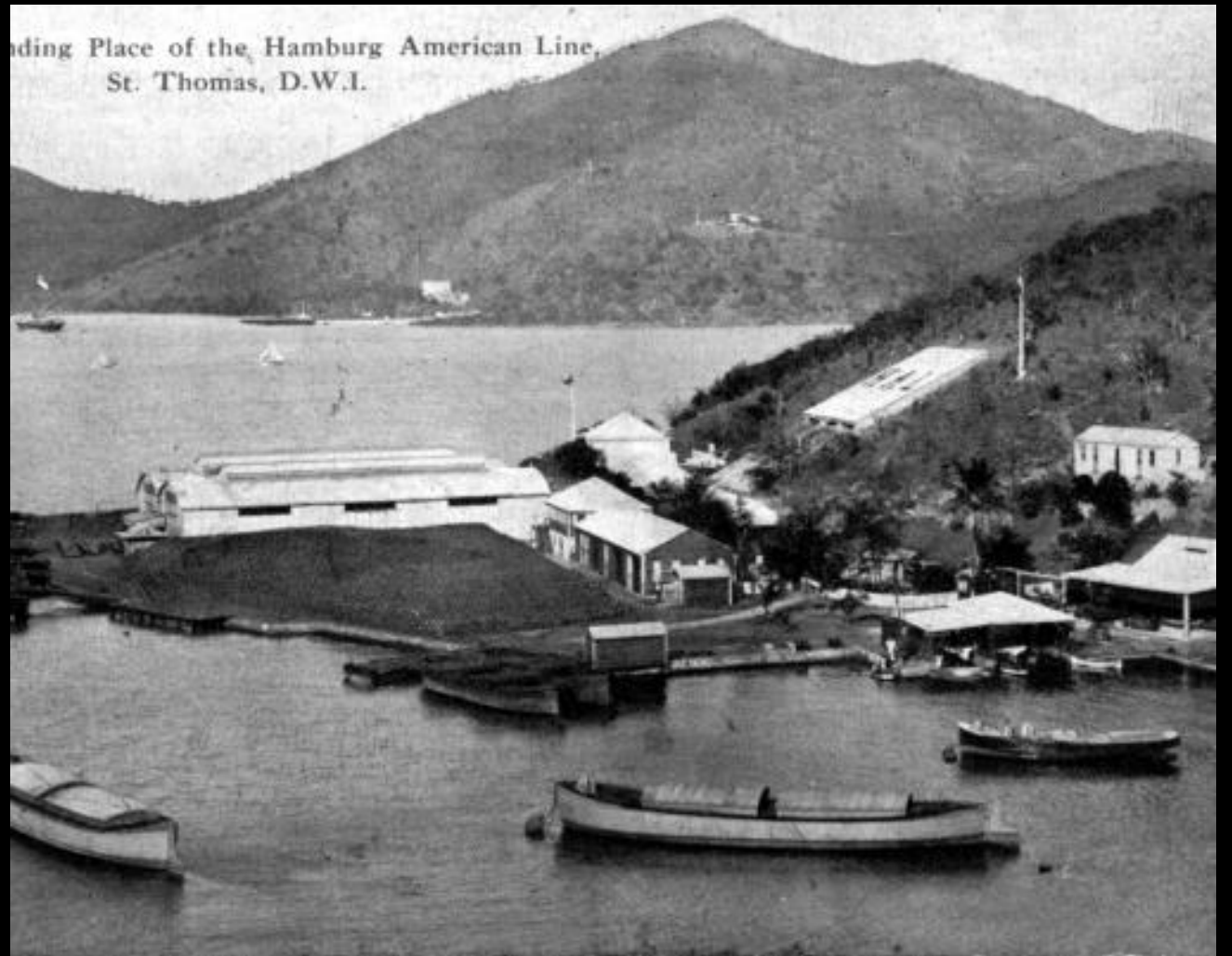
Governor and staff to the left (in whites). See Basketball backboard and “movie” screen.

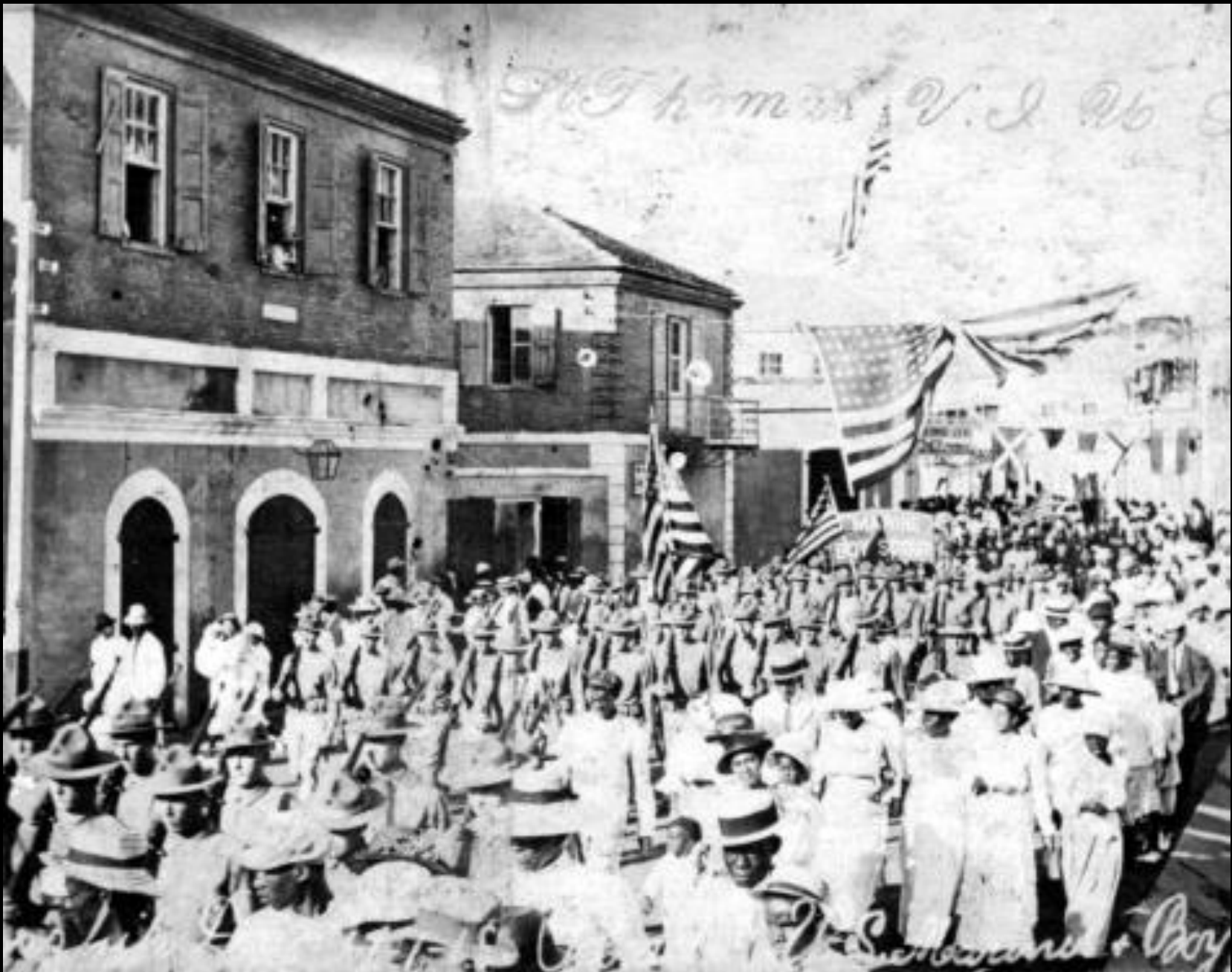




“116th Leading Irish. 1st Sgt McGrath in front walking. “

Landing Place of the Hamburg American Line,
St. Thomas, D.W.I.





St. Thomas V.I. 1916

J. S. ... + Coy

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

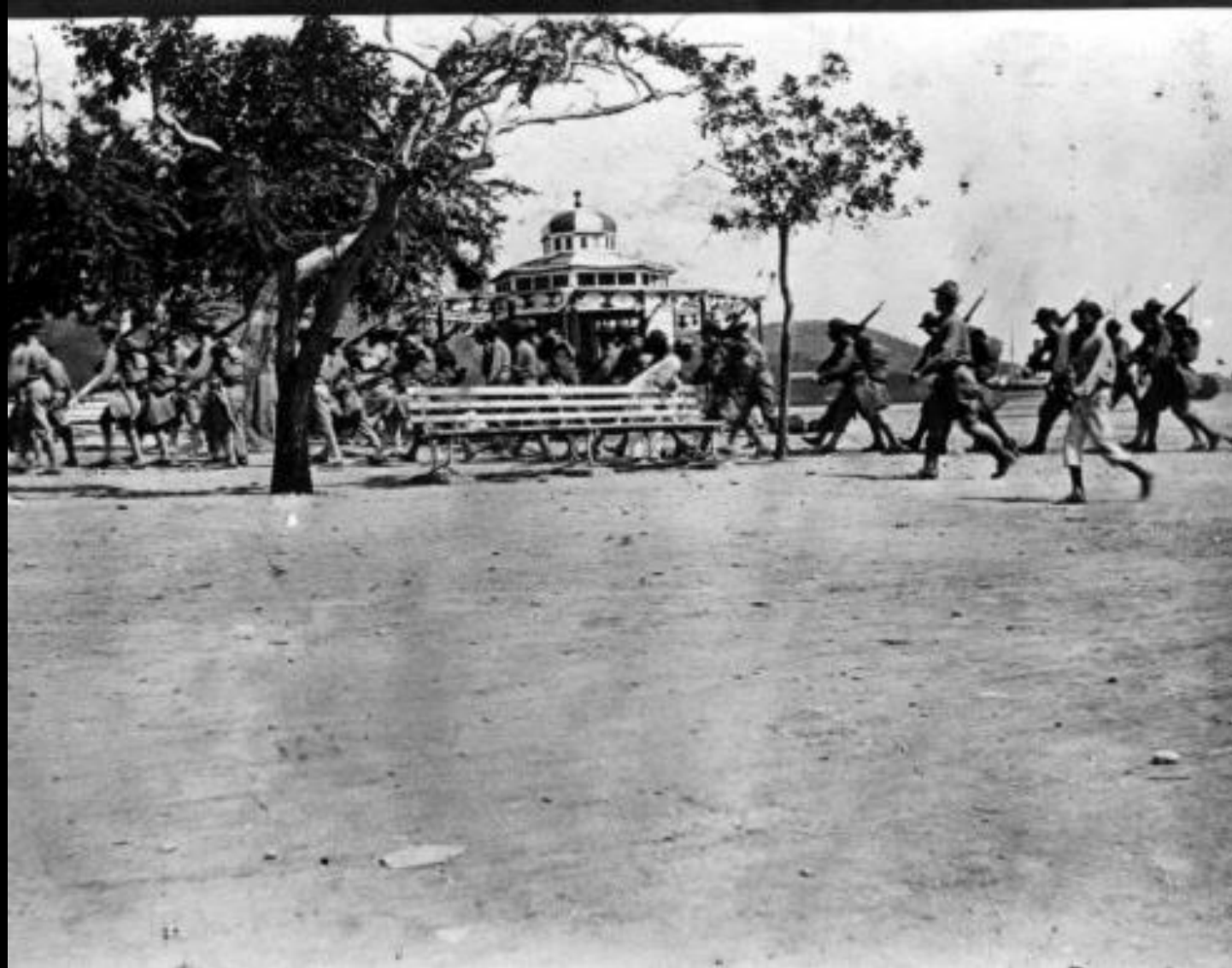
From a postcard.



Danish Lutheran Church,
St. Thomas, D. W. I.

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).





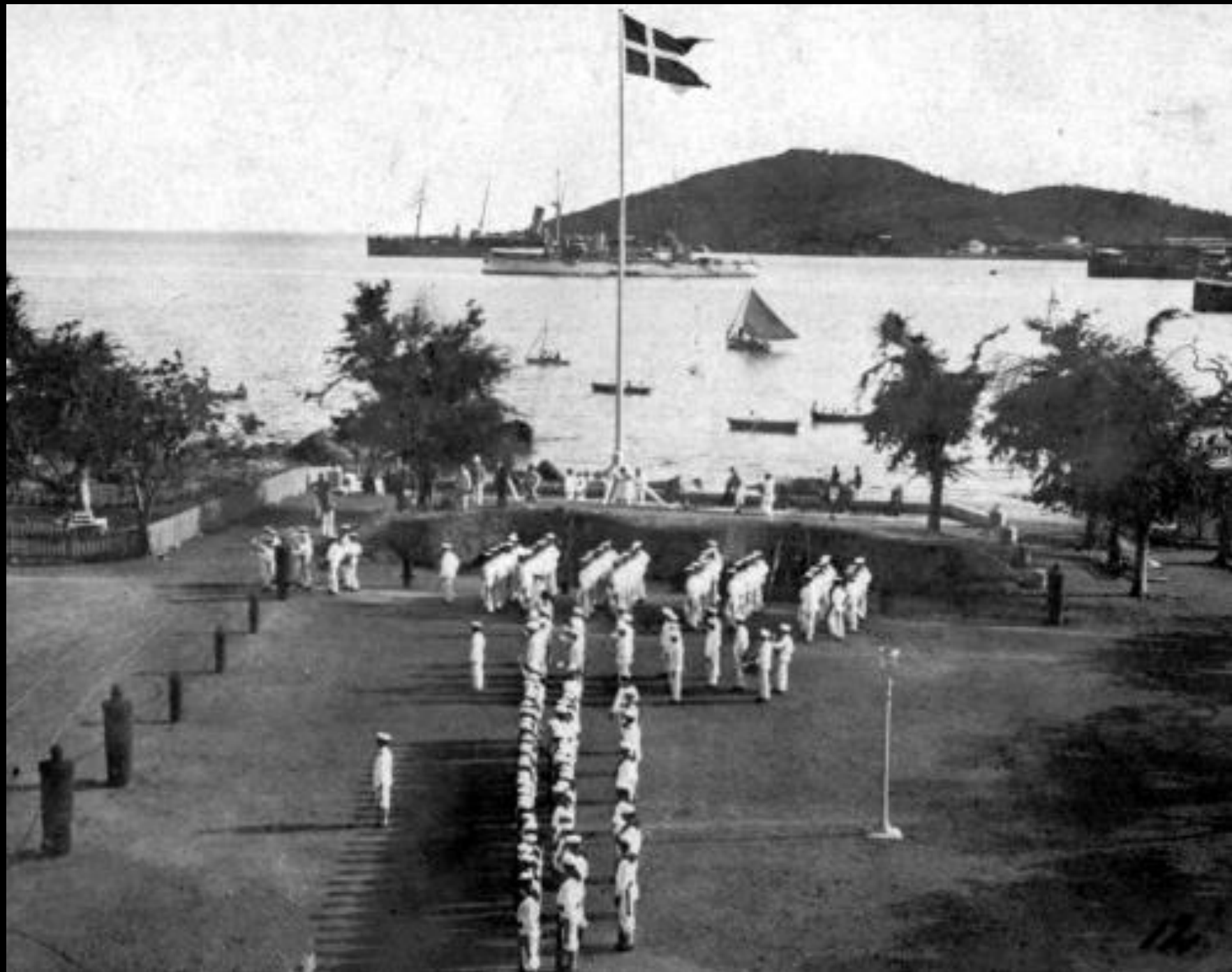
Singing the National Anthem – Citizenship Day, 17 January 1918. Naval Band & School Children in front of the Barracks.



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.”



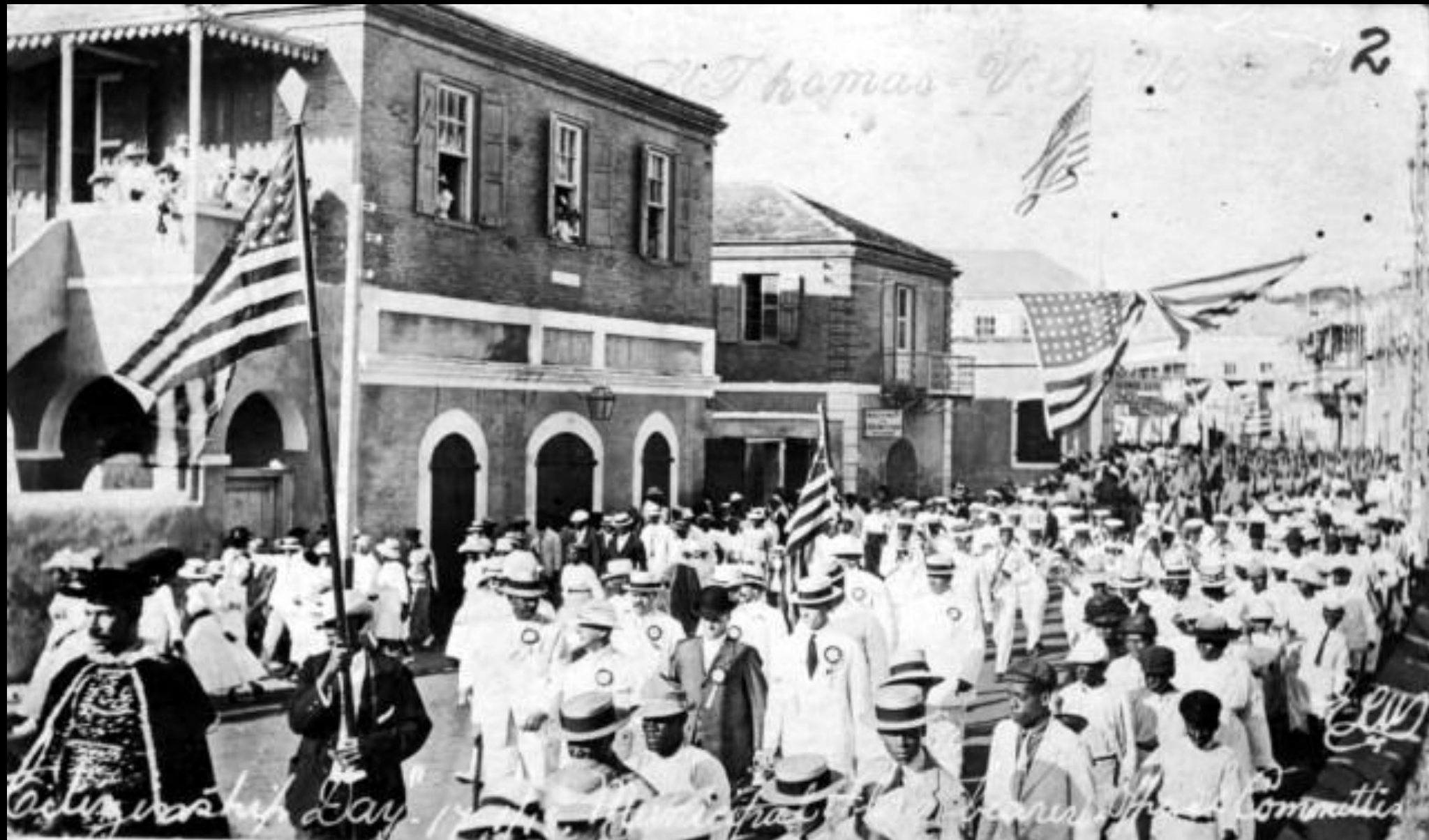


“Just as we got ashore, this was snapped and when only a few paces from this spot another was taken. Evidently, it was intended to secure a picture of us, no?”

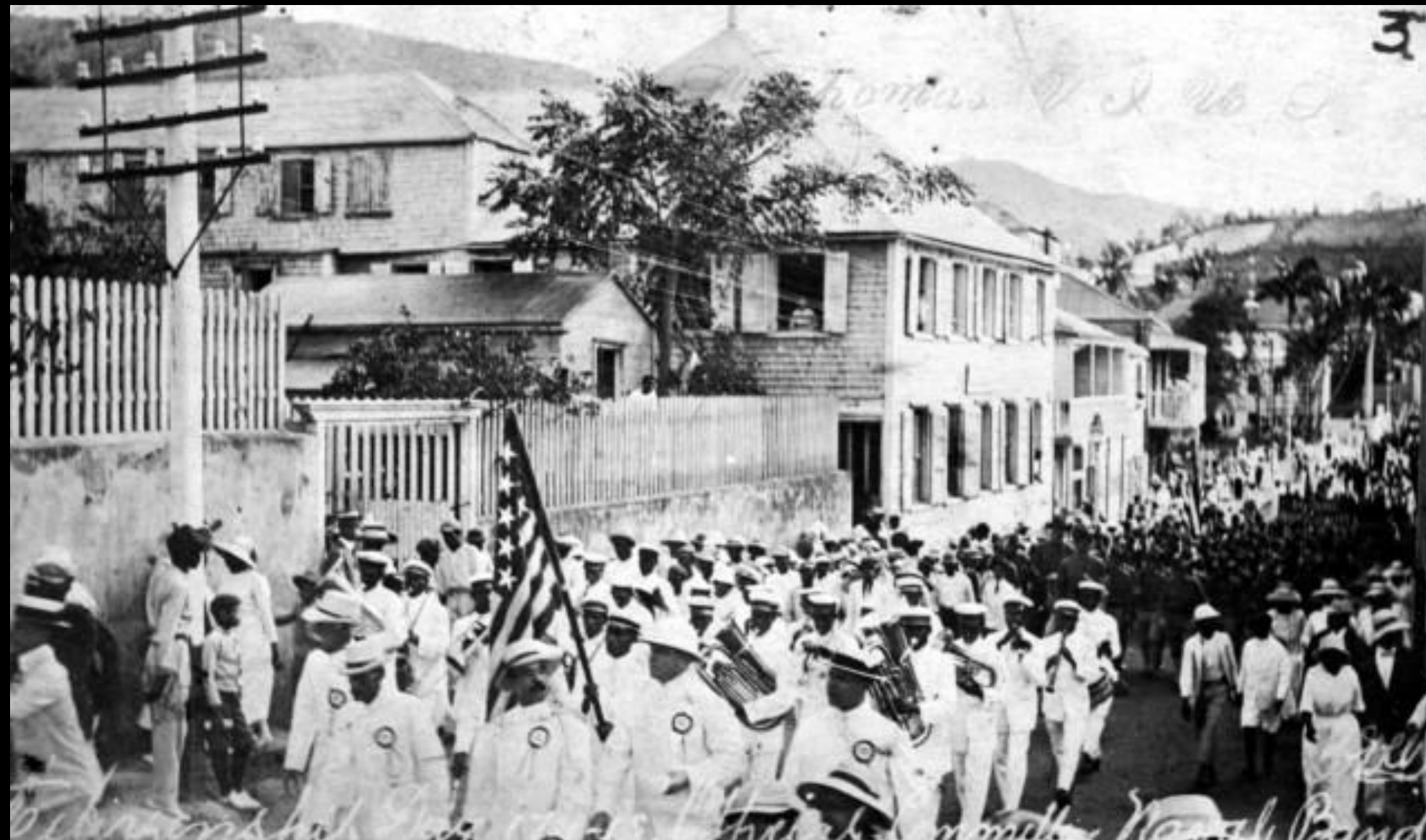


U.S. Home I U.S. E

"Funeral of a Boy" - 1st Lt. Mumford - 1st U.S. Cavalry - March 1st



No. 5 (Official Committees) in Center

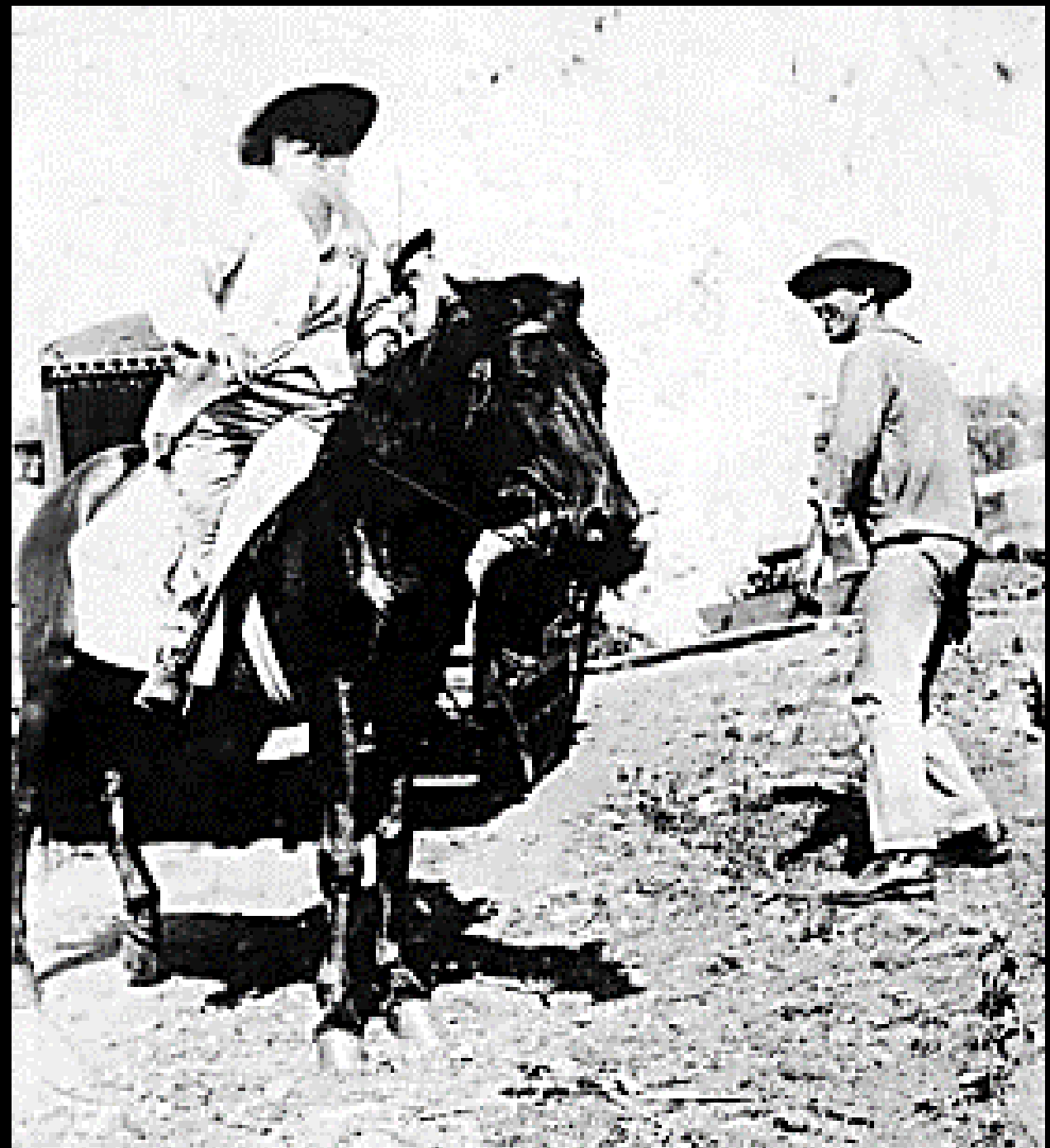


“Rear rank of No. 5 (Off. Com.) and Naval Band. Man in foreground with white helmet is Valdemar Muller (Now Miller).”



“See “Buze” as Major in Command of Battalion with 2nd 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.







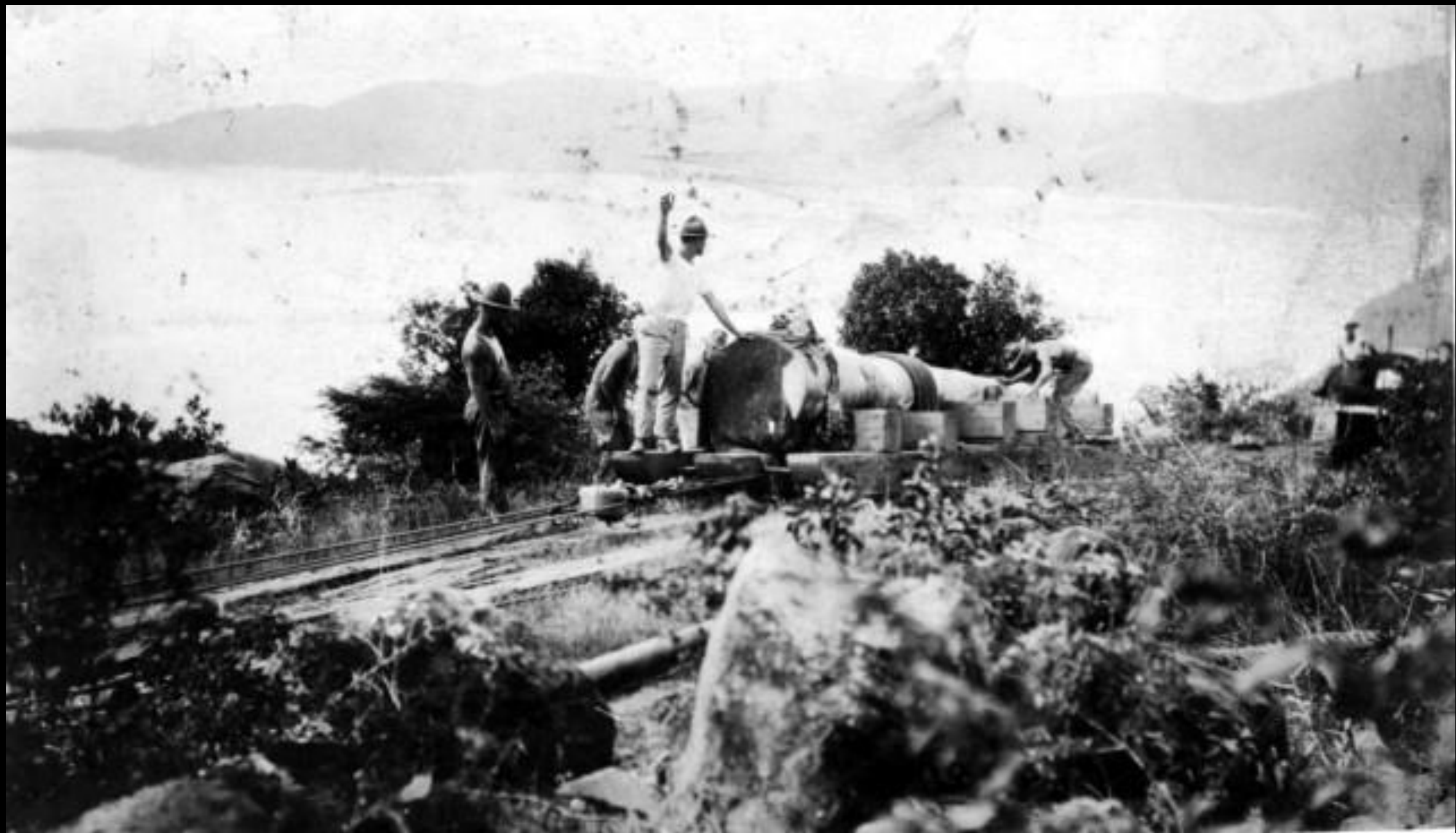


“Resting peacefully on the top of the hill, awaiting foundation material for mounting.”

“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.





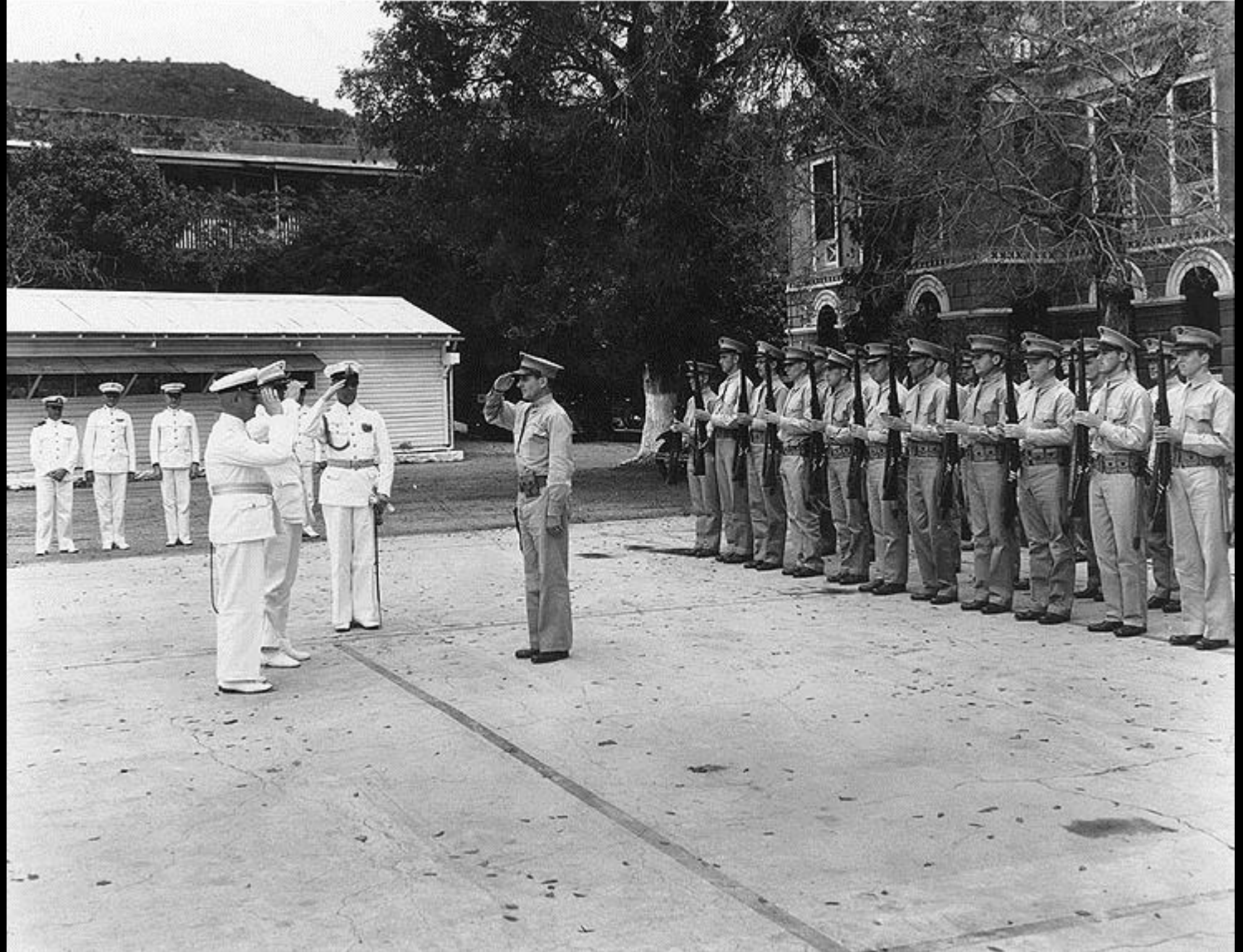
Colors from the top of Ft. Christian looking west.

Marine Barracks, East Point. St. Thomas, V. I., U. S. A.



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.

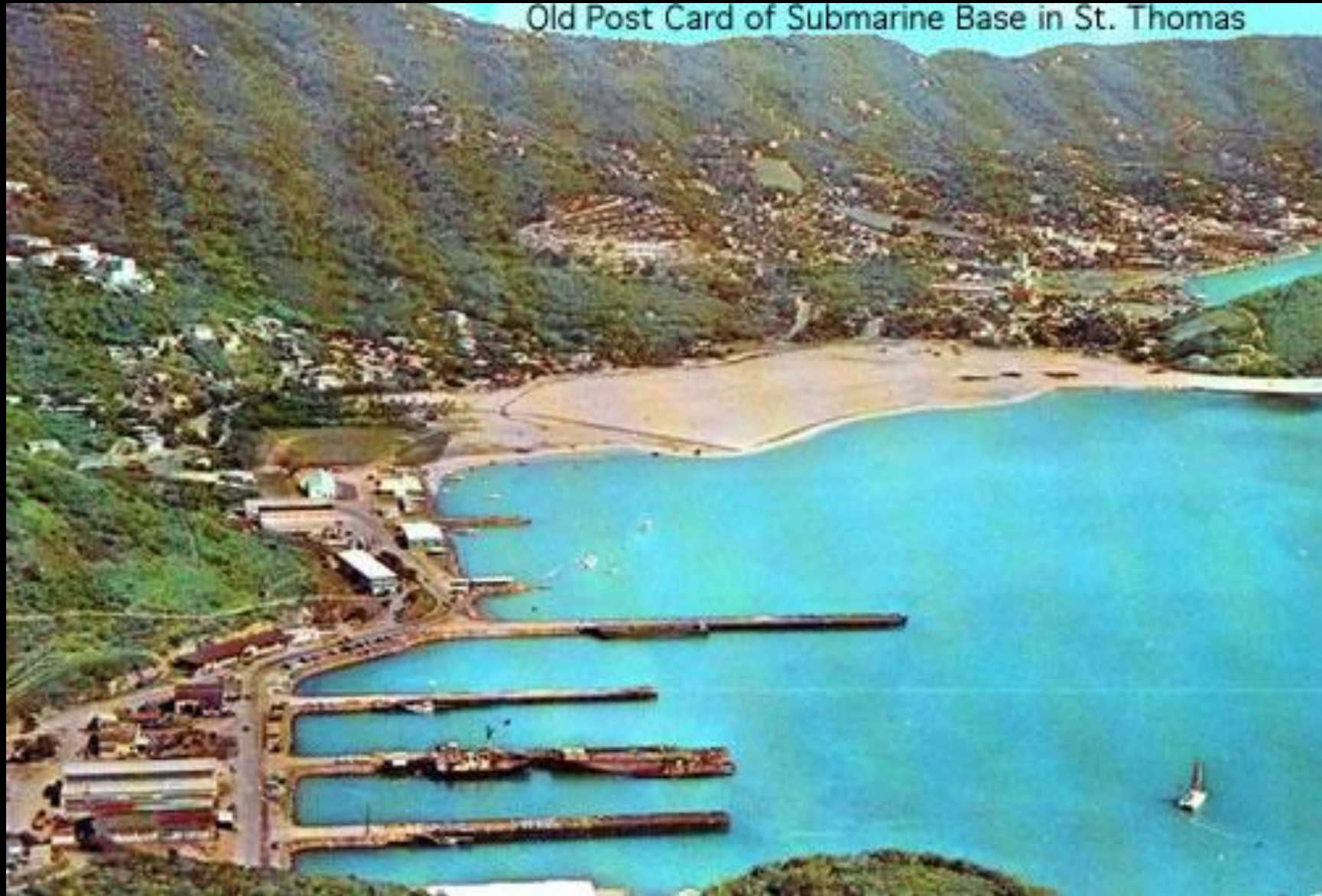
Photo # NH 50792 Capt. Siemens of the German cruiser Karlsruhe at St. Thomas, V.I., 7 May 1936



Building
the first
power
plant,
where
WAPA now
stands.



Old Post Card of Submarine Base in St. Thomas



An aerial photograph of the St. Thomas Submarine Base in 1951. The image shows a large, irregularly shaped island with a complex network of roads and structures. The terrain is rugged and appears to be covered in dense vegetation. A prominent road runs along the coast, and several large, dark, rectangular structures are visible in the central and eastern parts of the island. The surrounding water is dark and calm. The text "Water Island" is overlaid on the image, pointing to a specific area in the upper central part of the island.

Water Island

St. Thomas Submarine Base - 1951 Aerial Photo

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.



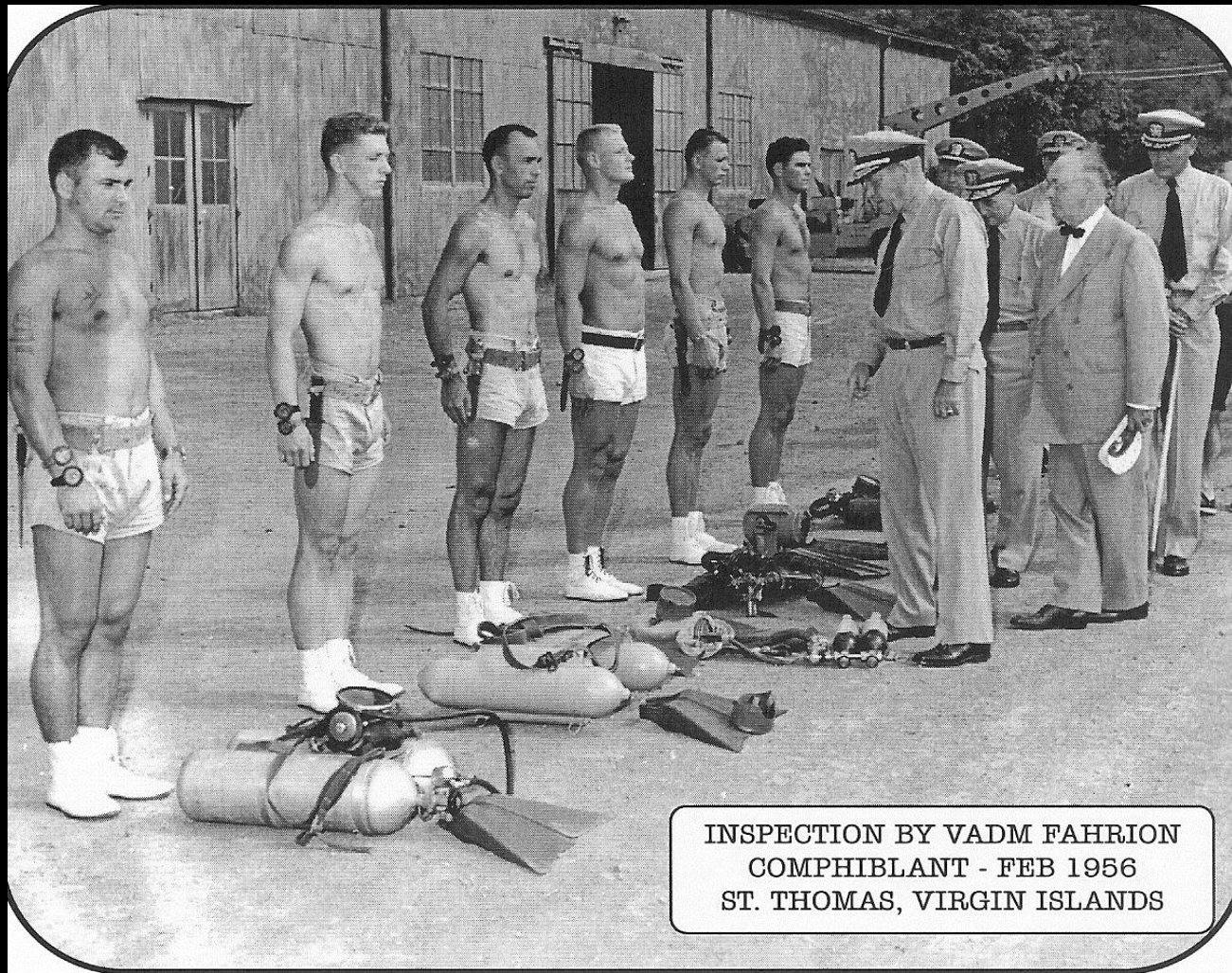
Sub Base: UDT training facility

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).



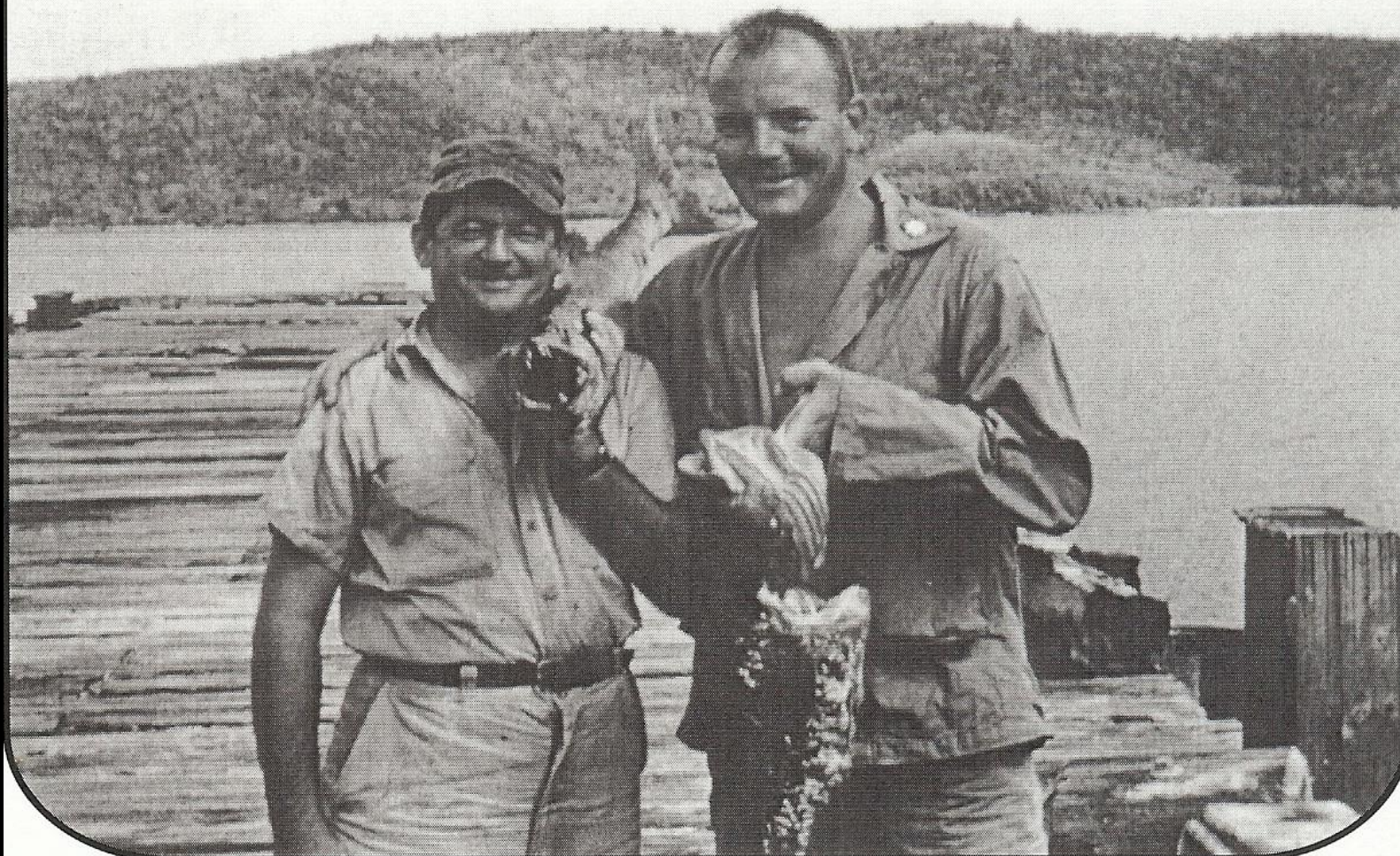
Lt. Art Andrew, UDT
Instructor





INSPECTION BY VADM FAHRION
COMPHIBLANT - FEB 1956
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS

FRESH CATCH
"FRENCHY" & CDR DAVE SAUNDERS



UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAM TWENTY-ONE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

MEMORANDUM

13 December 1955

From: LTJG Paul T. MCELROY, 583614/1105, USNR
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, 133, and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, committed by the following officers:

LTJG John T. DONOHUE, 581488, USN, UDT 21
LTJG John J. CONNELLY, 574489, USN, UDT 22
LTJG Norman H. OLSON, 508961, USN, UDT 21
LTJG Robert S. MATTESON, 574952, USN, UDT 21
LTJG Norman K. OTT, 585582, USN, UDT 22
ENS. Arthur L. ANDREW, 519677, USN, UDT 21

2. Between the hours 2015R and 0330R 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 UDT 21 and UDT 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. LTJG DONOHUE and LTJG CONNELLY were the most serious offenders, having drunk such excessive quantities of intoxicating liquor that they were incapable 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:

LTJG Paul T. MCELROY, 583614, USN, UDT 21
LTJG Joseph L. JENISTA, 586729, USN, UDT 22
ENSIGN Charles N. RITCHIE, 529104, USN, UDT 22


Paul T. MCELROY

Copy to:
LTJG DONOHUE
LTJG CONNELLY
LTJG OLSON
LTJG MATTESON
LTJG OTT
ENS ANDREW

WELCOME ABOARD!



STANDING: SN TUCKER, SN FOWLER, SN MULLEN, SN SPRINGBORN, FA ASCHENBRENNER, EM3 MONCRIEF,
TM3 TIPTON, IC3 PRAHM, SN BAKER, FN KISSINGER, SN SMALL, FN WILSON, GM2 BEAL

KNEELING: ENS STEIMLE, LTJG OLSON, LTJG GLASS, ENS RITCHIE,
LTJG CONNOLLY, ENS ANDREW, LTJG MATTESON

UDTRA CLASS 15
USNAB, LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
18 NOV 1955

BARRACUDA
DAVE "WILLY" WILSON



NORM OLSON HOSTS INSTRUCTORS FROM PUERTO RICO
AL HODGE, CHIP RITCHIE, BRUCE WELCH









BOATMEN "ST. TRICHOPTERA" RECOVERED A FEW FEET

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.

