

September 5, 2020

1. I did a bit more research into WW11 and I want to ensure that the following has been done simply because of my interest in these times. You may have already secured this information and if so, it can be discarded. I want to make it clear that I am neutral on these matters and offer it by way of assistance.
2. It appears that land on the east end of Bermuda, particularly St. David's Island, was obviously taken to protect the U.S. from Hitler. It seems that Bermuda was a go-between and used in that manner. Whether St. David's Islanders were compensated or not, the fact remains that many families lost their homes for the good of the country. It was not our fight. We did not have luxury housing, as the homes we lived in had been handed down for hundreds of years and by 1940 our presence on the island dated back to the early 1700's. This was all about land – not homes. Homes were bulldozed. It was the land that the U.S. was interested in. If the photos I sent to you a few days came through you will see how carefree the homes/land were flattened to make way for a military base and airfield.
3. Did they care about the families, children, elders? I think not. And, the politicians who were all white during those years could not care less about any of us either. They were unknown except by name. I don't know the reasons for this investigation by the Commission of Inquiry as that has not been shared with me; but, I am trying to provide as much information as I can as an honest/interested Bermudian.
4. My story is one that my family lived. We came away with little to nothing. I believe it is necessary, as a living elder, to at least tell my story so perhaps something will be on file for future generations. I am trying to provide some proof. I've researched so something can be left on record. It has been 80 years since this happened and I honestly believe it is best to give as much as possible now than to wait another 20 years and lose even more. So, here goes:
 - (1) In the HOLIDAY magazine of April 1947 (that you have) there is a photo of Henry Mortimer Fox or "Tommy Fox", also known as the "Uncrowned King of St. David's Island". In his

memory one of the roads on the former base lands was named after him. To me, this was an insulting reminder of his contribution of 200+ acres of land that was taken and bulldozed by the USA. Uncle Tommy was a well known whaler, and it's written that he crawled down the throat of a captured Sperm whale to convince skeptics who doubted the story of Jonah in the Bible. He was a brave fighter, but he died in 1945 of heart break over losing the land his father worked so hard for and passed down to him. The build up of his business was where a portion of the Bermuda Airport is housed. This was a reminder of the land he owned that reached from south to north of St. David's Island – I asked a cousin to check the area for me and she has stated that a small path named after him still exists and leads to the ocean edge of St. George's Harbour.

(2) LIFE magazine of August 18, 1941 – 10 cents. (I purchased this in 2011 and paid \$43.20 for it!). Old Bermuda, page 61. It was noted that... “streets were full of U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines. Ocean areas were full of submarines...destroyers and aircraft carriers. The roar of U.S. flying boats, steam shovels, cranes; dredgers and dynamite to build the US defense bases”. There were Censorettes to help Britain win the war”. They were mainly there serving as spies. They took over the Princess and Bermudiana Hotels for living space and limited tourists were housed there. Thus, cutting incomes of the owners/workers.

“The blasting of the coral, land, etc., leveled a channel to join Tuckers Tucker's and added 20 acres to the two islands and created an area of 37 acres. Work went on days and nights. Flood lights allowed work to continue – no one slept or rested!! Trees, houses, homes, water, etc., was scooped up to fill areas and to level land for the air strip!” Bermuda cedar trees were ripped up like they were trash. Cedars were grown specifically to be used to build boats, furniture, ships, etc., by Bermudians and this income was lost. Because of Bermuda's strategic position off the U.S. coast, it was called:

“A dagger pointed at the heart of America!” The “destroyers-for-bases” deal? Well, between Germany and America – American got to Bermuda first.

5. Their main living areas were on St. David’s Island, there were barracks, military hospital, etc., that occupied a total of 266 acres on the south side of “primitive” St. David’s Island. Castle Island was used for storage. The U.S. got tired of the “moaning and groaning” of Bermuda’s politicians, so they set to work to make more land. About 4,000 military men were brought to Bermuda and housed as quickly as barracks could be built. Fear was about (i) high winds of November and (ii) Hitler. These men were hungry for women and there was one white brothel in Hamilton that was closed down when discovered, and the owner sentenced to 15 months in jail. The Judge denounced him as a “human vulture”!
6. Army soldiers were quartered in Castle Harbour Hotel and the Navy sent 600 soldiers on shore leave every day! Soldiers used horse and carriages, bikes, horses alone, etc., to get around. Limited cars were in Bermuda at that time. However, it was noted that U.S. soldiers mailed 10,000 postcards in one day! The post office did well.
7. Whites in Bermuda totaled 40%. The remainder of the population were referred to as Negro and exceptions were residents of long-isolated St. David’s Island (a relative of mine was shown riding a white horse in the photos I sent), who were descendants of Irishmen, exiled to Bermuda by Cromwell (Fox families), American Indians sold into slavery and a mixture that produced some startling results. I further discovered that Bermudians were not initially consulted fully about the base deal. The well-off residents were not aware or consulted about the military literally taking over Bermuda. Surely St. David’s Islanders were not told the truth about the invasion of the military on the island and why. They were ensuring that Germany (Hitler) would not invade the U.S. so did not care about Bermuda. It was used as a pawn or a go-between for safety of their shores.

References you may be further interested are as follows:

1. I noted a New Novel entitled “Censorettes” that spotlights Bermuda by Elizabeth Bales Frank will be released on November 1, 2020. It

speaks to the role of the Censorette program during World War 11. It was on Bernews.com on August 30, 2020. There were no comments. It's listed as literary fiction that is either character driven or theme driven.

The plot takes place in a setting located in the past – probably before 1950.

2. Bermuda's History from 1939 WW11 to 1951 by Keith Archibald Forbes. Mr. Forbes is a Bermudian I believe. He is known for laying out Bermuda's history. I am sure most know about him, but I am listing his work as a way to learn more about these times.

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