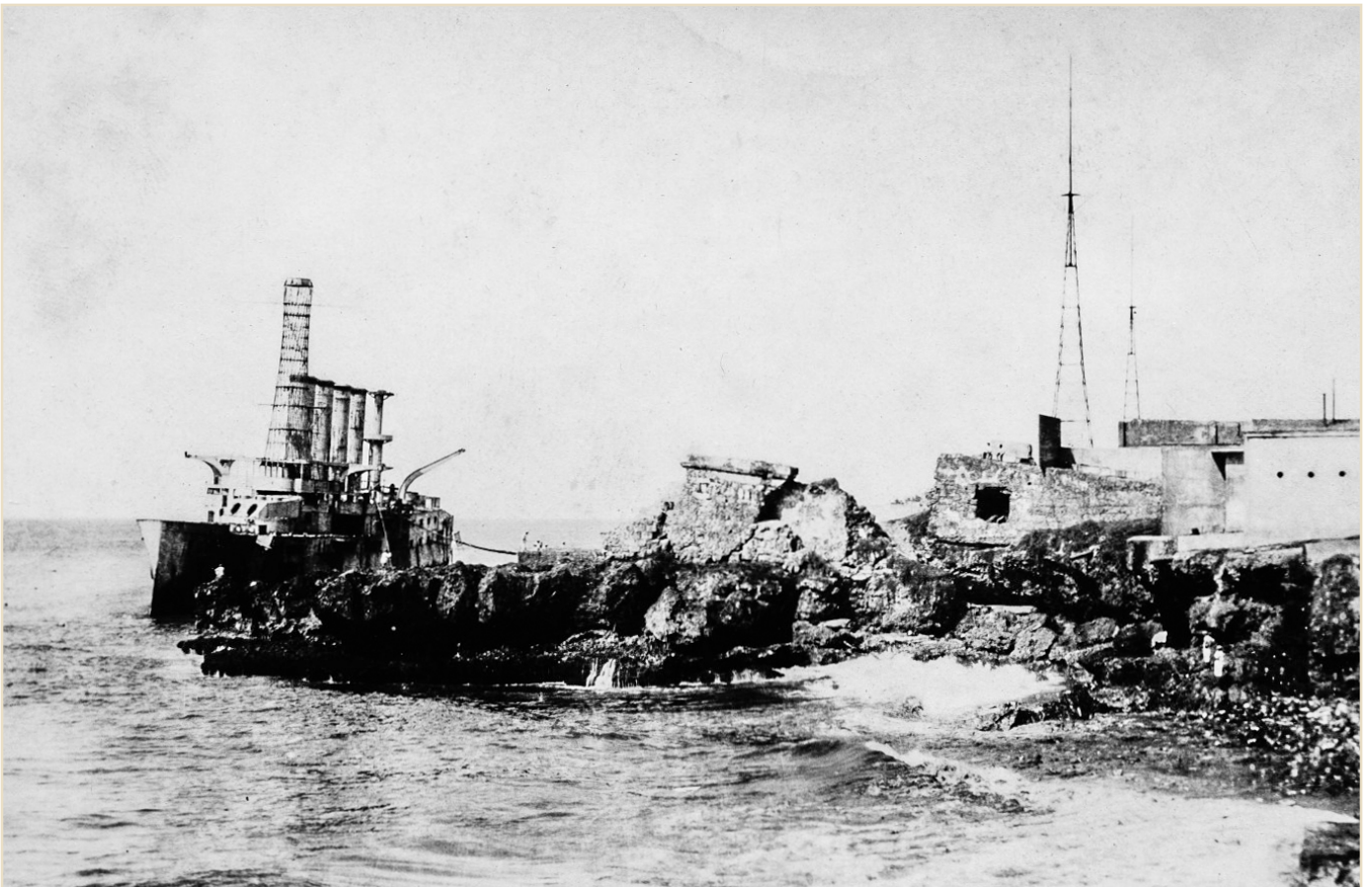


A large, multi-decked steamship, the USS Memphis, is shown from a side-on perspective. The ship has a white hull and dark upper sections. It features four prominent funnels with dark tops, arranged in a row. The ship is moving through the water, with a small wake visible. The background is a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Proposal for Historic Interpretation and Commemorative Events for 100th Anniversary of the Wreck of the USS Memphis in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

THIS PROPOSAL WAS WRITTEN BY THE US FOREST SERVICE, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL FORESTRY



Proposal for Historic Interpretation and Commemorative Events for 100th Anniversary of the Wreck of the USS Memphis in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

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In coordination with

Consorcio Dominicano de Competitividad Turística
Cluster Turístico de Santo Domingo
Ayuntamiento del Distrito Nacional
Academy of Dominican History
US Naval Historical Foundation

September 2015



I. INTRODUCTION

The US Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry has been working in the Dominican Republic since 2009 with USAID supporting sustainable tourism, climate change adaption and economic development programs. During this time the Institute has collaborated with the Consorcio Dominicano de Competitividad Turística (CDCT) and the Cluster Turístico de Santo Domingo to assist with develop of tourism opportunities in Santo Domingo.

At the suggestion of Brian Rudert, a retired USAID official who did two tours in the Dominican Republic, we continued his initial research on the wreck of the USS Memphis and assessed the opportunities for public interpretation of this historic event. This led to the idea

of a commemorative event and the production of a draft interpretive plan. Brian also made contact with US Naval history society experts, who are willing to provide historic photographs, and initiated steps that led to the US House of Representatives Resolution in support of a commemorative event. In addition, we have made contact with the Liga Naval Dominicana who also has a large quantity of historical documents and photographs that they will make available for a public exhibit and use in the interpretive panels.

At this time, the Memphis Planning Team members include Brian Rudert, Jerry Bauer, Jerry Wylie, Jorge Paniagua, and Karen Pannocchia. The Liga Naval Dominicana is forming a 3-member committee of their members to provide support and expert historical advice to our planning team.



The second USS Tennessee (ACR-10), also referred to "Armored Cruiser No. 10", and later renamed Memphis and renumbered CA-10, was a United States Navy armored cruiser, the lead ship of her class.

Photo caption next page Commander Claud A. Jones, USN Receives the Medal of Honor from President Herbert Hoover, in ceremonies at the White House, 1 August 1932.

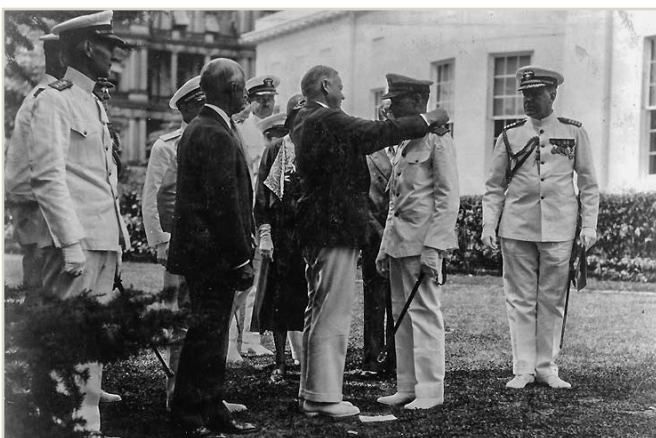
II. BACKGROUND

On August 19, 1916 the USS Memphis, an armored battle cruiser, was wrecked on the rocky shoreline of Santo Domingo by freak waves, where it rested for many years until being dismantled. The 504-foot warship had been anchored 1,000 feet offshore in support of the first US occupation of the Dominican Republic. A total of 204 sailors were injured and 43 lost their lives that day. Many more would have perished without the heroic efforts of three US Medal of Honor winners and assistance from hundreds of Dominicans on shore who helped secure the stricken ship and evacuate hundreds of crew members. One especially notable individual, Emeterio Sánchez, a local fisherman, risked his life by jumping into the turbulent waters and rescuing several sailors. Señor Sánchez was never officially recognized by the US government.

There was an event in or about 2000 led by US Ambassador Charles Taylor Manatt commemorating the USS Memphis. However, no details are currently available.

The U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 306 of June 10, 2015 “encourages the Department of State, through its Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to collaborate with appropriate entities of the Dominican Republic to commemorate this event, which represents an important part of the cultural and historical heritage between the two countries” (Appendix A).

Several groups in the Dominican Republic, including the Permanent Commission for Efemérides Patrias, the Academy of History, and the municipality of Santo Domingo, are planning a series of public education activities to commemorate the centennial of the U.S. intervention, including the wreck of the Memphis. We are interacting with these groups to learn more about what they are planning.



III. OBJECTIVES

- Have the U.S. Embassy actively involved in commemorating the 100th anniversary and the heroic efforts of U.S. sailors and Dominican citizens to secure the ship and rescue the crew with minimal loss of life.
- Give special recognition of Señor Sánchez’s heroic efforts.
- Provide high-quality materials to interpret this important event for the public.
- Develop an historic document/photography exhibit of the USS Memphis.
- Develop information and training for local guides to interpret the wreck site for tourists to the Colonial Zone.

IV. LOCAL PARTNERS

We have contacted (or soon will contact) possible local partners to assist with the development of the activity. These possible partners include:

- Ayuntamiento de Distrito Nacional (ADN) (contact: Jose Miguel Martinez)*
- Consorcio Dominicano de Competitividad Turística (CDCT) (contact: Karen Pannocchia, Executive Director)*
- Cluster Turístico de Santo Domingo (contact: Kin Sánchez Fernández, Historian)*
- Ministerio de Cultura
- Ministerio de Turismo
- Academy of Dominican History (contact: Bernardo Vega, Executive Director)*
- Liga Naval Dominicana (Luis Contreras, President; Pedro Atilas, Vice President)*
- Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce
- CESTUR (contact: Capitan Sosa)*
- US Naval Historical Foundation (contact: Charles Creekman, Executive Director)*

*Denotes that contact has been made with these organizations and they support this activity.

V. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Commemorative Event

- We recommend a short, but inspirational, program on Monday 29 August 2016 to recognize the event and to honor the Dominican and US heroes of this tragedy. The best location is the park next to the restored fort San Gil along the Malecon near Avenue George Washington where the Memphis was grounded. A draft itinerary, site map and photos of the site are presented in Appendix B.

2. Historic interpretation

- Develop 3 or 4 panel temporary interpretive exhibit to be displayed during the commemorative event. After the event, these panels can be used as a mobile interpretive exhibit that can be taken to different locations and used as a learning tool for local citizens. Appendix C outlines the interpretive objectives.
- Set up a Facebook page with historic information in more detail than what can be placed in the panels. This

can also be used to notify the public about any related events, as well as solicit public comments and locate additional historic information and photographs.

- Based on public interest and response to the temporary exhibit and media coverage of this story, and the availability funding and permission from the Ayuntamiento Distrito Nacional, install a permanent interpretive display at or near the site where the Memphis was grounded.
- Provide information and training for local guides to share the story of the Memphis with tourists to the Colonial Zone.

3. Historic Document/Photography

- An historic document/photography exhibit will be opened the evening before the commemorative event at a gallery in the Colonial Zone. This exhibit will be on display for 2-3 weeks and then be available at other locations in the Dominican Republic.



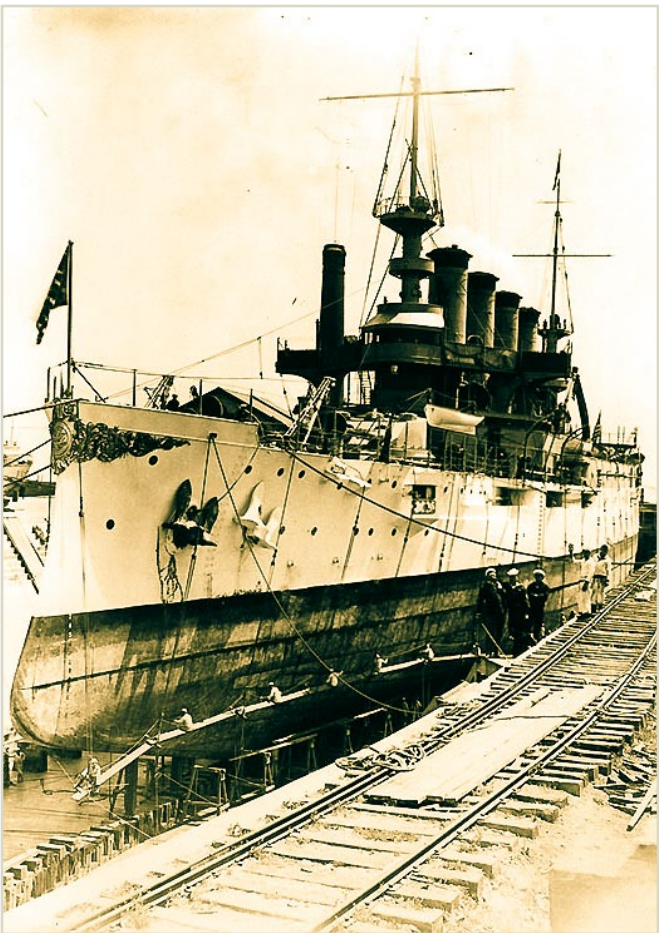
4. Recognition for Emeterio Sánchez

- We urge the US Government, through the US Embassy in Santo Domingo, to honor the heroism of Emeterio Sánchez for saving the lives of US military personnel at a great personal risk. Our research indicates that Mr. Sánchez never received any official recognition by US government, nor has his decedents. We feel that this recognition is long overdue.
- We will create a suitable piece of memorabilia (historic photo or plaque) for the US Embassy to present to Emeterio Sánchez’s decedents.

5. Engage Local Media

- Prepare a media kit for local media (TV/radio stations, newspapers, magazines)
- Organize media coverage for the event on 29 August 2016

A proposed timeline for the implementation of this plan is given in Appendix D.



VI. ILLUSTRATIVE BUDGET

Funding provided by US Forest Service

US Forest Service design team (contributed salary and travel costs) and 50 hours of volunteer time.	\$15,000
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Funding needed

Production of temporary interpretive panels	\$3,000
Production of commemorative plaque for Sánchez family	\$500
Duplication of media kits	\$500
Rental of tent, chairs and sound system for day of public event	\$500
Brindis for day of public event	\$300
Rental portable bathroom for the day of public event	\$200
Site clean up after public event	\$300
Production of historic document/ photography exhibit	\$2,000
Event planner/organizer	\$1,500
Total estimated cost	\$23,800

Provided by US Forest Service	\$15,000
Requested from US Embassy	\$8,800

In addition, an estimated total of \$10,000 “in-kind” funding will be provided by local partners in the form of volunteer time, local security for public event, literature search/research, etc. Also we will be looking for private sector funding for this event.

Page 6 An artistic rendition of the fisherman Emeterio Sánchez, with the wrecked USS Memphis in the background.

Page 7 In drydock at the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington, circa 1907-1908, with men cleaning her underwater hull. Note the ship’s bow decoration.

APPENDIX A

114TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION, US HOUSE RESOLUTION 306

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the centennial of the wreck of the USS Memphis and the contribution of Americans of Dominican descent to the armed forces of the United States of America.

Whereas, the USS Tennessee (ACR-10) was launched in 1906 and renamed in 1916 as the USS Memphis (CA-10);

Whereas, August 29, 2015 marks the centennial of the wreck of the USS Memphis in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic;

Whereas, the wreck of the 16,000 ton armored cruiser USS Memphis was caused by a highly unusual, 75 foot wave event that threw the ship upon the shore of Santo Domingo, resulting in its total destruction and the death of 44 US sailors and wounding of many more;

Whereas, three sailors, Chief Machinist Mate George William Rud, Lieutenant Claud Ashton Jones, and Machinist Charles Willey, were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions to get up steam in vain to drive the ship to safety of the open ocean, battle broken steam lines, and get their fellow sailors to safety;

Whereas Beach Hall on the campus of the United States Naval Academy houses the US Naval Institute and is named after the commander of the USS Memphis at the time of her destruction, Captain Edward L. Beach, Sr. (1867-1943) Naval Academy graduate class of 1888 and his son Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr. (1918-2002) Naval Academy graduate class of 1939 to honor their contributions to US Naval and maritime heritage;

Whereas, after the wreck of the USS Memphis Captain Edward L. Beach, Sr. married a citizen of the Dominican Republic, Alice Fouche Ricardo;

Whereas, their son, Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr., was the Commanding Officer of the nuclear-powered submarine USS Triton in 1960 when it sailed submerged around the world in a record-setting 84 days;

Whereas, Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr. represents the thousands of citizens of Dominican heritage to faithfully and successfully serve in the armed forces of the United States;

Whereas, Maryland's community of 15,000 citizens of Dominican heritage represents one of the fastest growing and vibrant Dominican populations in the US;

Whereas, the US Naval History and Heritage command possesses a collection of photographs taken during and after the wave event that destroyed the USS Memphis;

Whereas, the Academy of History of the Dominican Republic is undertaking a series of public education and awareness activities to commemorate the centennial of the US occupation of the Dominican Republic, including the wreck of the USS Memphis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the House of Representatives –

1. Commemorates the centennial of the wreck of the USS Memphis and the memory of the 44 sailors who lost their lives and the 3 awardees of the Medal of Honor;
2. Encourages the US Department of State through its Embassy in Santo Domingo and the US Naval History and Heritage Command to collaborate with the Academy of History of the Dominican Republic in an appropriate commemoration of this event that represents an important part of the cultural and historical heritage between the two countries;
3. Encourages the US Naval History and Heritage Command and the US Naval Institute to collaborate together in appropriate commemoration and public awareness events; and
4. Recognizes the important contribution of citizens of Dominican heritage and descent, represented by Captain Edward L. Beach Jr., to the armed forces of the United States of America.

APPENDIX B

PROPOSED COMMEMORATIVE EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE SITE OF THE WRECK OF THE USS MEMPHIS CA-10

Location

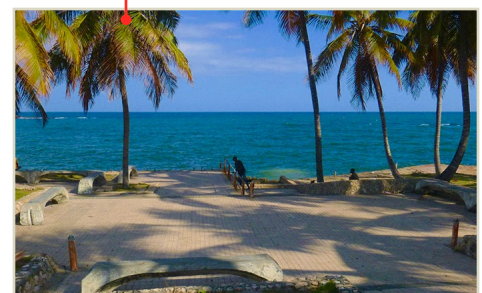
Ave George Washington (El Malecon) near Fort San Gil

Draft Agenda

9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official Welcome• Presenting of Colors - Dominican Military Color Guard & Dominican National Anthem• Presenting of Colors - US Military Color Guard & US National Anthem
9:25 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks from US Military representative
9:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks from DR Government Representative
9:35 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks from Consortium Dominicano Competitividad Turismo
9:40 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief History of USS Memphis tragedy, Rep from Liga Naval Domincana
9:55 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address by US Ambassador Honorable Wally Brewster
10:05 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official recognition of heroism of Emeterio Sánchez, US Ambassador Honorable Wally Brewster to family members
10:10 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acceptance remarks from Emeterio Sánchez family member
10:20 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retire of the Colors• Taps• Public viewing of USS Memphis Interpretive Displays• Media Questions/Answers/Interviews• Brindis and observation of Historic Interpretative exhibit



This is the proposed event site



Note: This is just a proposed agenda, it will be adjusted before the final event. We do seek guidance from US Embassy on protocol procedures and suggestions on order of remarks, etc.

APPENDIX C

DRAFT INTERPRETIVE PLAN OUTLINE, WRECK OF THE USS MEMPHIS CA-10 • AUGUST 1916

September 11, 2015

Central (Thematic) Message

When the USA military occupied the Dominican Republic in 1916, it lost one of its largest military warships to freak waves. The wreck rested in the Santo Domingo bay for two decades before being salvaged, a rusting monument to the unpredictable power of the sea and limits of military might and human technology.

Possible Title

The United States Paid A Great Price Here

Audience

Local residents (primarily) and international tourists



Intellectual Objectives

- Understand why this US military vessel was here
- Learn how the USA lost one of its largest warships in peacetime
- Learn what happened that day and what factors contributed to the disaster
- Learn what became of the ruined ship and its captain
- Learn how many sailors were injured or killed

Emotional Objectives

- Appreciate the power and unpredictability of the sea
- Feel sympathy for the sailors injured and lost
- Share the frustration of the captain and crew fighting to save their vessel
- Share the mixed feelings of local residents' joy over rescue of 700 US sailors and resentment over an unpopular US occupation
- Pride and appreciation of heroism on both sides, especially local hero Emeterio Sánchez

Behavioral Objectives

- Go to USS Memphis Facebook page for more information (the rest of the story)
- Be stimulated to learn more about US interventions in the DR

Key Questions

Each could be a sub-title supporting the central message

- How was the ship wrecked? (Waves from unknown distant hurricane)
- How big were the waves? (Up to 75' tall)
- What factors contributed to this disaster? (Unlit boilers, lack of weather reporting, anchored in too shallow water, unsecured hatches allowed water to extinguish boilers, anchors failed)
- How many sailors were injured or killed? (43 including 10 on-board ship)
- How long did the wreck lay here and why did it take so long to salvage? (21 yrs, lack of metal-cutting technology until 1937)
- What happened to the captain? (Court marshaled & later exonerated)
- Are there echoes of the Memphis? ("Hitting a Memphis" home run, church bell at La Mercedes church, Memphis captain marries DR-born woman?)

APPENDIX D

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Previous to the development of this proposal and timeline a concentrated effort has been spent to collect historic information about the USS Memphis, to meet with potential international and local counterparts, and to develop a general concept of what could be done to commemorate the historic event of the USS Memphis grounding in the Dominican Republic. Most of this initial phase of this activity was conducted by Brian Rudert, with some assistance from Jerry Bauer from US Forest Service at the later stages of this phase. At this time, based on the information collected we proposed the following timeline leading up to the commemorative event.

September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare concept proposal and submit to us embassy develop interpretive outline and draft concept of interpretive panels
October 2015 to February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue research for historic documents and information • Form technical committee to help with research and message (Liga Naval Dominicana) • Collect historical documents and photographs • Prepare draft interpretive panels • Meet with local and international partners to get ideas, suggestions, etc. To refine commemorative event agenda • Get local expert review of draft interpretive panels • Develop agreement with colonial zone gallery to support historical document and photograph exhibit (to open the evening of the commemorative event) • Submit invitations to commemorative event special participants (color guards, us ambassador, DR official representatives, etc.)
March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete last review draft of interpretive panels • Finalize agenda for commemorative event • Develop list of invitees for commemorative event
April-May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete final draft of interpretive panels • Fabricate interpretive exhibits • Develop media press kit (press release/photos/background information), get all approvals/clearances, etc • Submit invitee list to us embassy, get approvals, etc. • Print historical documents and photographs
June-July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all activities to date and assure everything is on schedule
August 2016*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final preparations of commemorative event • Develop a 5-day daily agenda for August 25-29 to assure all aspects of the commemorative event are planned and executed correctly • Commemorative event on 29th August • Site cleanup after the commemorative event • Set up historical document and photograph exhibit (in colonial zone)