



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. ESTAB: CIRCA A.D. 1735

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Border from our historic circulars

The West India Committee Circular



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Leading articles

Migrant crisis

In September, the USA and Mexico deported several thousand Haitian immigrants gathered at an encampment at Del Rio, Texas. At one point, the number of migrants at the encampment was almost 15,000. Controversial scenes were captured by photographers, with American Border agents on horseback seemingly whipping migrants. The American authorities are probing into these images.

The USA is a popular destination for Haitian migrants, both legal and illegal, with many of those who gathered at Del Rio saying their decision to travel to the USA was influenced by the troubles that Haiti has faced, including the earthquake of 14th August this year, and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Haitians are travelling a well-trodden route through Central America to reach the border, journeying thousands of miles by foot, coach and boat, paying in the region of \$10,000 to traffickers in order to do so.

The Mexican authorities have used several buses to transport migrants away from the

border with the intention to deport many of their number, with most being sent to Tapachula, in southern Mexico, where the largest immigrant detention centre in Latin America is located. The American authorities have chartered several flights to transport migrants home to Haiti. The United Nations expressed its concern at the scenes on the border and the manner in which the migrants appear to have been treated.

Despite the USA organising flights, sources reported that over 12,000 of the estimated 17,000 migrants were released into the USA, being issued with notices to appear at immigration offices within 60 days, carrying the risk that many of these migrants will simply not attend and vanish into the United States without trace. Several thousand were bussed to other locations in Texas, and some even flown to Arizona.

President Biden's administration has endured heavy criticism for the situation at the southern American border, with members of the Republicans accusing him of allowing the border to becoming porous, and encouraging illegal migration. In addition, some of President Biden's colleagues in the Democratic Party have condemned the administration for the scenes of Border Officials on horseback allegedly whipping migrants.

The reopening of US borders to non-essential travel in November encouraged many more migrants from the Caribbean, Central and South America to gather in border cities, like Tijuana, in the hope of crossing into the USA, a large number of them seeking asylum. Many of those Haitians deported from the USA, having not resided in their country of origin for some years, and are still desperate to leave Haiti, given the threat of gangs and the other dangers of Haitian life, are planning to attempt to make

their way to the USA again. The American government announced on 9th November that Haitians are once again eligible to apply for temporary, seasonal work visas in the United States under the H-2A and H-2B programmes, reversing a ban the Trump administration instituted in 2018. The Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia were also added to the list of countries eligible to participate in both.

The US Government says that in the last 12 months to October, Border Officers have detained more than 1.7 million migrants along the Mexican border, the highest number ever recorded, from more than 160 countries. Over a million of these were expelled, either back to Mexico or to their countries of origin.

COP26 and climate change

COP 26 took place in Glasgow, Scotland between 31st October and 12th November, with Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica noting that wealthier nations had failed to deliver on a 2009 promise of £100 billion to aid vulnerable nations with Climate Change by 2020, failing to reach the promised amount by £20 billion. The revised target for reaching the amount is now 2023.

Prime Minister Mottley said that failing to cap global temperature rises at 1.5C would prove lethal for many smaller and poorer nations: *“2C is a death sentence for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, for the people of the Maldives, of Dominica and Fiji, of Kenya and Mozambique, and yes, for the people of Barbados.”*

Shortly before the conference began, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said that rising sea levels could put more than 800 million people in coastal cities at direct risk by 2050, an issue that affects many Caribbean

countries, noting that less than 10% of climate finance for urban areas goes to adaptation and resilience.

An agreement was signed at the conference between the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Alliance of Small Island States, of which Caribbean states Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname; and Trinidad and Tobago are members.

The agreement will see the two bodies work together to encourage financial support of Green initiatives and to increase the amount of renewable energy available in Small Island Developing States. Trinidad and Tobago have begun establishing the largest solar energy project in the Caribbean, with a capacity of 112 megawatts, which will produce enough energy for 10% of the country’s electricity requirements, with the aim of sourcing 30% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.

Rising temperatures and sea levels are a particular threat to small island states like much of the Caribbean. Caribbean Small Island Developing States are responsible for only 0.36% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet are amongst the most vulnerable to the effects of Climate change. The fierce storms that already affect the Caribbean will become worse with rising global temperatures, making countries more vulnerable to damage to homes, livelihoods and infrastructure, not to mention increased risk of loss of life.

Prime Minister Holness of Jamaica announced in his address to the conference that Jamaica will be the first Small Island State in the world

to independently sponsor a catastrophe bond to offset losses from hurricanes. Rising sea levels present a threat to people living in coastal areas of many Caribbean countries, with the Bahamas facing the greatest proportional threat, with 25% of its population and 32% of its landmass at risk. Guyana, Suriname, Haiti and the Dominican Republic also face a great threat in this regard.

Yannick Glemarec, head of the UN's Green Climate Fund, has said that many Caribbean countries are trapped in a cycle of debt caused by hurricane damage, necessitating loans to restore the islands and a loss of economic productivity and GDP, that means they are unable to invest in climate protection.

The Green Climate Fund is running two test projects, one of which in Jamaica maps out how coastal countries can help protect themselves against rising sea levels and stronger storms in an environmentally friendly fashion, implementing measures such as restoring wetlands and adding more trees, rather than by building carbon intensive concrete barriers and sea walls. It is hoped that these test projects will encourage investors to place their money in 'green infrastructure' projects.

Notes of Interest

The investigation continues into the murder of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse on 7th July. The Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry was banned from leaving the country over concerns that he was involved in the assassination, particularly over links to Joseph Felix Badio, a key suspect with whom he had several phone calls in the hours after the incident.

Mr. Henry attempted to fire Chief Prosecutor Bed-Ford Claude, but Mr. Claude has remained in post and continues to oversee the

investigation. Several threats to Mr. Claude have resulted in him receiving extra police protection.

Haiti has seen a spike in kidnapping by gangs in recent months, including a party of 16 American missionaries and a Canadian in late October. UNICEF has estimated 71 women and 30 children have been kidnapped in the first eight months of 2021, compared to 59 women and 37 children for the entirety of 2020.

Many countries have advised their citizens to leave Haiti in light of the ongoing security situation. The USA has promised to strengthen the Haitian National Police, providing police vehicles and protective equipment, and to help fight gangs and implement community development and violence prevention programmes. It has, however, said it has no plans to send troops to Haiti.

The Bahamas held an election on 16th September, having been called several months early by incumbent Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis of the Free National Movement Party. Philip Davis of the Progressive Liberal Party has now replaced Minnis as Prime Minister.

The Free National Movement Party had won 35 out of the Bahamian House of Assembly's 39 seats at the last election in 2017. The Free National Movement Party now holds 7 seats in the house, with the remainder held by the Free National Movement Party.

It is believed that the incumbent's defeat was heavily influenced by the state of the Bahamian economy after shrinking by some 16% in 2020, the deepest crash the Bahamas has seen since 1971, and the unemployment rate spiralling to 20%, due to the effect of the global pandemic on the tourism industry.

On 24th September, British Royal Naval vessel *RFA Wave Knight*, with the aid of representatives of the US Coast Guard, intercepted a craft in international waters and recovered 216kg of cocaine, despite the attempts of the smugglers to dispose of their cargo. The recovered illicit substance has a street value of £17.28 million. *RFA Wave Knight* is part of Britain's Caribbean Task Group. In 2020 the Royal Navy, working with their US counterparts, seized cocaine worth nearly a total of £400 million.

From 29th October, Jamaican farmers have been able to export Pineapples to Barbados, subject to Phytosanitary requirements and obtaining a licence from the Barbadian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Jamaica's fruit exports have risen in recent years, with the Cayman Islands becoming an increasing market and export of mangoes once again permitted to the USA in February 2019 and the UK in April 2021.

In November, the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) began conducting seabed mapping surveys in the Cayman Islands as part of their Overseas Territories Seabed Mapping Programme (OTSMP). The survey will be conducted by a small aircraft, flying twice daily for periods of up to four hours at a time over the islands, operating at a height of around 300m to collect data up to a depth of 40 metres, using LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data gathering techniques.

The surveys will be used to update nautical charts of Caymanian waters, including navigable routes to the islands' ports. They will also be used to help preserve the marine environment, with data on seabed topography and aerial mapping aiding the Cayman Islands Government to utilise the territory's marine economic resources in a sustainable fashion.

Geoffrey Cox QC, the former Attorney-General and Member of Parliament for Torridge and West Devon, has been criticised for working from the British Virgin Islands and having a second job, voting in the House of Commons remotely. Sir Geoffrey has also been working in his capacity as a lawyer during his time in the Caribbean, earning approximately a million pounds in legal fees over the last year.

In addition to working for international law firm Withers, he has also been representing the Government of the British Virgin Islands in the recent inquiry into the governance of the British Overseas Territory.

In May 2018, just months after receiving more than £40,000 from legal firms based in the Cayman Islands, he spoke in Parliament against imposing a public register of company ownership in the Overseas Territory. Sir Geoffrey argued that this would have broken the British promise to the Cayman Islands that it would not impose any legislation without Caymanian consent.

The Cayman Islands' annual Pirates Week event was delayed due to a spike in Covid-19 cases in the British Overseas Territory. The annual Pirates Week 5k Sea Swim went ahead as planned on Saturday 13th November.

On 30th November this year, Barbados formally became a Republic, ending 396 years' direct association with the British crown, 55 years after independence from Britain. The island remains part of the Commonwealth of Nations. The island's first President, Dame Sandra Mason, has been Governor-General of the island, representing the Queen, since 2018. Dame Sandra was elected in late October after a Joint Session of the Barbadian House of Assembly

and the Senate. Prince Charles represented the Queen at the official ceremony, receiving a final salute on behalf of the Monarchy before the Royal Standard was lowered. His Highness gave a speech in which he acknowledged the horrors of slavery, and spoke also of the enduring ties between Barbados and Britain. He was awarded the Order of Freedom of Barbados by the new President. Her Majesty also sent her *“warmest good wishes” for “happiness, peace and prosperity in the future”*.

Discontent continues in Cuba. The Cuban government took steps to limit the movement of several prominent protestors, by forcibly confining many in their homes, ahead of a planned ‘Civic March for Change’ in mid-November, which was due to take place in Havana and other cities. The Government did not grant permission for the protest to take place.

Following the protests in July, several thousand protestors were detained and rights groups claim that over 600 people are still imprisoned. Cuban-Americans have continued to protest in support of their counterparts in Cuba itself and demonstrations in support have also occurred in cities around the world.

In early October, nine members of the Cuban under-23s National Baseball Team defected to the USA during the World Cup in Mexico, the largest such defection for some years.

Martinique and Guadeloupe have both seen protests and riots in the aftermath of France’s decision to make Covid vaccinations mandatory for all health workers, as well as introducing regulations concerning health passes. There is a distrust in the French Caribbean of the French Government’s handling of matters of health, following the systematic exposure of people to

toxic pesticides during the 1970s. Guadeloupe has experienced a general strike during the unrest and there are also reports that rioters on Guadeloupe managed to break into a military facility and steal some rifles. French President Emmanuel Macron has described the situation as ‘explosive’ and several people have been injured, including some by gunfire.

After a crisis meeting on 26th November, France delayed the implementation of the mandate until 31st December, also opting to pay those who had refused the vaccine, who had previously been placed on unpaid leave, whilst giving the individuals more time for *“dialogue”* with their managers.

As the unrest is, in part, fuelled by a belief that mainland France is out of touch with Guadeloupe and Martinique’s situations, consideration is being given to providing greater autonomy for the two Overseas Departments.

The West India Committee Report

The West India Committee is pleased to welcome Mr. Victor Banks, former Premier of the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla, to the Committee’s Board of Trustees.

The West India Committee’s West Indian Soldier project has now concluded. The exhibition at the National Army Museum came to an end on 31st October. The exhibition was met with considerable positive feedback, as well as some useful points that the Committee will use to improve its future heritage projects.

A travelling exhibition has been created and will be visiting Cardiff Castle Museum in late 2022. Several other heritage venues around the UK and in the Caribbean have also expressed an interest in the exhibition and we are currently working with them to arrange suitable periods

for the exhibition to visit them.

As part of the project, the West India Committee has had over 20,000 pages from its library and archive digitised. This material has started to be uploaded to the Heritage Portal's [Archive](#) section, and will continue to be so over the coming weeks.

The [hard-copy book](#) is now available to buy from the West India Committee's trading post. All our free-to-access resources, including the e-book, Education pack, Teachers' pack and educational poster, are available through the [Download](#) section of our heritage portal.

Our short documentary film is now complete and has been [uploaded](#) to our YouTube channel, as has our final [e-lecture](#) for this project.

The Committee would like to thank its partners at the National Army Museum and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their support over the last two years and we hope to work with both of them again in the future.

In late October, the Committee formed a new partnership with Thru Life, a public interest company dedicated to improving the lives of young people in deprived areas in London.

As part of this new endeavour, the Committee will deliver heritage education as well as Professional and educational development for young people. Eight young men of Caribbean and African heritage attended a session at the West India Committee to learn more about the history of the Caribbean.

The Committee shared some of its unique heritage and educational resources, and was also able to help give some of the young men some more background about their family's



heritage in the Caribbean and how it links to other parts of the world, most notably Scotland.

Caribbean Cookery

Caribbean Meatloaf



Ingredients

- 1 lb. lean minced beef, chicken or turkey
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup of finely chopped red bell pepper
- 3/4 cup finely chopped spring onions
- 1/2 cup tomato paste or tomato ketchup
- 1 large beaten egg
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- Large pinch of salt
- Generous sprinkle of black pepper
- 2 heaped teaspoons of jerk seasoning

Topping

5 or 6 drops of hot pepper sauce
 1 small tin crushed pineapple
 3 heaped tablespoons mango chutney
 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint or basil (plus a few leaves for decoration)

Method

Preheat your oven to 175C
 Mix all ingredients together lightly. Shape the mixture into a rectangle (about 25 x 15 centimetres) on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Whilst baking, Mix together pineapple, chutney, pepper sauce and mint to create the topping. Remove the meatloaf from the oven and add the topping by spooning it over the top of the meatloaf. Any remaining mixture can be served as a sauce with the meatloaf. The meatloaf can be served sliced, either hot or cold.

From the Library

Papers relating to the treatment of slaves

This quarter we shall be looking at some of the material digitised as part of our West Indian Soldier Heritage project.

As part of this, we have had a large collection of papers relating to the treatment of slaves in the early 19th century digitised.

Of particular interest are the papers relating to the Royal Navy intercepting ships carrying slaves as part of the Navy's campaign to block the Transatlantic Slave Trade. These were recorded by the Customs Officers on several different islands, with the date and the name of the ship they were taken from recorded, as well as the name of the liberated slave; additionally, any distinguishing marks that they may have had, and to whom they were apprenticed afterwards was also noted.

Whilst, in many instances, these record the new names given to these liberated slaves when they arrived in the Caribbean, uniquely, in some cases, it does record the original African names of some of these people. Of interest to the West Indian Soldier project is that, amongst the names listed, were several men who were drafted into the West India Regiments after the abolition of the slave trade in 1807.

Despite the manner in which they were recruited, amounting to impressment, the men were free men under the terms of the Mutiny Act 1807 and subject to the same treatment and military discipline as white soldiers. Of particular interest are a few entries which record how the wives of some of the men recruited to the West India Regiments were identified and sent to join their husbands.

N ^o 4.—ISLANDS, APPRENTICED, &c., 1784—1814.									
N ^o	AFRICAN NAMES	CHRISTIAN NAMES	Sex	Age	Height	DESCRIPTION	To whom Apprenticed	By	On what day of
				Years	feet	inches			Sept. 1811.
N ^o 4.—Bahamas—continued.									
63	Ennah	Flora	female	22	5	3	country marks on the body	Mrs. Mary Miles, &c.	
64	Chaff	and child Grace, born Sept. 1813, transferred to Lieut. Forbes	10	—	5	4 1/2	- - - - -	Mrs. Mary Hewitt, &c.	
70	Enah	Catherine	8	—	14	4 1/2	- - - - -	John Edgewood, &c.	
71	Enah	—	8	—	14	5 4 1/2	- - - - -	Mrs. Sarah Todd, &c.	
72	Lara	—	10	—	17	5 4 1/2	country marks on the body	Lieut. Forbes, 44 W. I. Regiment.	
73	Enah	—	7	—	16	4 10	- - - - -	James Monson, of Nassau.	
74	Chamuel	and girl's child Harriet	10	—	32	4 11 1/2	country marks on the body.	Mrs. Mary Hewitt, &c.	
75	Enah	—	10	—	32	5 1 1/2	- - - - -	John A. Gardner, &c.	
76	Meyana	Chra	7	—	13	4 5 1/2	- - - on the shoulders	Mrs. Eliz. Dunch, &c.	
77	Agnah	Yaraco	8	—	13	4 10 1/2	- - - on the body	Mr. Geo. Davies, &c.	
78	Enah	—	5	—	30	5 1	- - - over the body	Sergeant Gentryway, of W. I. Regiment.	
79	Bambara	Sophia	7	—	15	4 7 1/2	- - - - -	Francis Montell, of Nassau.	
80	Mingah	—	10	—	15	4 9	- - - over the body; scar above the left hip.	Hat Hines, Wm. Vestry, Manning.	
81	Silimaha	—	10	—	35	4 11	country marks over the body	Mrs. Dannah Carey, of Eleuthera, Jamaica.	
82	Enah	—	8	—	12	4 9 1/2	no marks	Mrs. Selwyn, of Nassau.	
83	Enah	—	10	—	12	4 10 1/2	- - - - -	Mrs. Eliz. Woodgate, &c.	
84	Chaff	—	10	—	11	4 9 1/2	- - - - -	William Redinger, &c.	
85	Mari	—	10	—	12	4 9	- - - - -	Mrs. Eliz. Rogers, &c.	
86	Mingah	—	8	—	25	5 1/2	country marks over the body.	Mrs. Warrimall, &c.	
87	Enah	Charlotte	8	—	11	4 11 1/2	- - - - -	Mrs. Deborah, &c.	
88	Fucha	Sally	7	—	15	4 10	- - - - -	William Stone, &c.	
89	Enah	—	10	—	17	4 11	no marks	Charles Bofor, &c., 2000	
90	Fangah	—	12	—	13	4 8	- - - - -	Mrs. Gov., &c.	
91	Enah	—	12	—	13	4 13 1/2	country marks on the body.	Mrs. Eliz. Smith, &c.	
92	Chango	—	10	—	12	4 7 1/2	no marks	Mrs. Mrs. Edgewood, &c.	
93	Alorah	Barbara	10	—	11	4 5 1/2	- - - - -	Mrs. Frances Beaks, &c.	
94	Yumbah	—	10	—	14	4 5 1/2	- - - - -	Lacey Coory, forewoman of slaves, &c.	
95	Jacoa	Phillis	8	—	11	4 7	- - - - -	William E. Ransome, Nassau, soldier.	
96	Cham	—	10	—	8	3 11	- - - - -	Rev. John Bea, Nassau.	
97	Chaco	—	10	—	8	4 1 1/2	- - - - -	Samba Scribbling, &c., Baptist preacher.	
98	Hinda	—	10	—	8	4 3	- - - - -	Mrs. Harriet Davies, Nassau.	

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

The West India Committee is a UK registered charity that works to improve the welfare of the people of the Caribbean and the societies in which they live and work, both domestically and globally. Please complete this form by hand and post it to The West India Committee, Suite 53, 4 Whitehall Court, Westminster, London, SW1A 2EL.

Title	<input type="text"/>	Forename	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>	
Address	<input type="text"/>				Postcode	<input type="text"/>
*Email address	<input type="text"/>					
*Telephone number	<input type="text"/>					

Please only give us your telephone number/e-mail address if you are happy for us to contact you this way with updates about how your gifts are helping and how you can donate and help in other ways.

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The West India Committee' of £



Gift Aid allows us to claim back 25p of tax for every £1 you give

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like The West India Committee to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made, as well as any future donations, until I notify them otherwise (please tick).

I understand that if I pay less income / capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year in which they are received, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please remember to let us know of any changes to your tax status including changes to your name or address or if you need to cancel this agreement

