

TORTUGA GAZETTE

August 1785

BLACKHEART EXECUTED

We are delighted to confirm rumours of the execution two days ago of Abel "Blackheart" Read, perhaps the most feared and dangerous pirate in the Caribbean.

Blackheart wreaked havoc throughout our fair territories for over three decades. Blackheart and his pirates were responsible for untold damage to property as well as loss of goods. British authorities, as well as privateers, pursued this notorious pirate captain for many years, but their efforts remained futile.

Then, Authorities were alerted to Blackheart's whereabouts last month by one of his own crewmen. The informant was granted asylum and let free, but his brave show of Christian conscience enabled Authorities to seize the scourge of the Caribbean.

The trial was quick and just. Judge McSimmons ordered that the pirate be sentenced to death by hanging, and that long overdue execution occurred two days ago at Port au Prince.

We can all sleep a bit more soundly, knowing that this wretch Blackheart is no longer amongst us.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLANTATION DAUGHTER MISSING

Arthur Tippens, respected plantation owner in South Tortuga, is grieved to report the disappearance of his daughter, Jane.

She is suspected to have fled with a Mr. Freddie Mulligan, an employee of Mr. Tippens.

Mr. Tippens is offering a reward of £50 for her safe return.

LIBRA SAILS FOR FLORIDA

The *Libra* arrived at berth from Jamaica this morning, and it set to sail for her home port of St. Augustine, Florida this evening under the competent guidance of Captain Hargrave. We wish her calm seas, and a safe and pleasant voyage for all.

ORION WRECKED, BLOODY MARY CAPTURED

It has been a bad month for Blackheart and his fleet as the *Orion*, Blackheart's other ship and captained by Calico Jack and Bloody Mary, was wrecked two weeks ago.

The *Orion* was lured by scavengers to the savage north Tortugan coast and ran aground. The scavengers ravaged the ship and made away with much of its cargo.

While we do not condone such unlawful behaviour, we are pleased to report that this dark cloud has a silver lining. The Authorities, upon hurrying to the scene of the wreckage, discovered amidst the chaos Bloody Mary, one of the *Orion's* two captains. She was taken quickly into custody and currently awaits trial.

Authorities have had no success in locating the looters, nor in recovering any of the stolen goods.