

In the eighteenth century the Commandeurs and other employees of the West India Company were the only Europeans allowed on the island, and colonial settlement in Aruba was not permitted until June 17, 1754.

The residence of the Commandeur was located in a coastal area called Commandeurs Baai (Commanders' Bay), in an area known today as Savaneta.

When the Horses' Bay (Paardenbaai) in Oranjestad gradually replaced the Commanders' Bay as the main harbor to release cattle, and the trade activities around the Oranjestad harbor increased, Commandeur Jan van der Biest II moved the commandeur's residence to Ponton. His grave is located at the Ponton graveyard.

1792-1816 Flags galore in Aruba

Under Commandeur Speght Aruba entered a tumultuous period.

In 1792 the Dutch Government took over the second West India Company.

War broke out between the Dutch Republic and France resulting in the termination of the Dutch Republic and effective rule of the colonies by the French in 1796.

The Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the Batavian Republic and the United States prompted the English to attack Aruba, and they took possession of Aruba which was returned to the Dutch in 1803.

When the Fort Zoutman fortress was constructed and four pieces of artillery mounted in 1797 more people started erecting dwellings near the Oranjestad bay, prompting the move of the administration to Oranjestad.

At the end of 1803 England, France and the Netherlands were again at war.

In October 1804 Aruba was taken by the English Captain Mahling commanding the frigate Diana, but the Union Jack flew for only a week. On February 12, 1805 Mahling returned and replaced Johan Craneveldt, appointed as the commandeur in 1804, with Bruyn Govertsz Quant.

The English reappeared regularly, until an expedition of Pierre Changuion, Governor of the Colony of Curacao, drove them out.

During this period strange things happened with the appointment of commandeurs.

The Curacao administration and

the English took turns in dismissing, appointing and reappointing these officials. The English did as they pleased, regularly putting men ashore and ordering the Union Jack hoisted, which was lowered again and replaced by the Dutch flag as soon as the English sailed past the horizon.

In 1807 the English seized control of the Colony of Curacao, the islands hav-



Graves at Seroe Patrishi

ing been neglected by the French rulers of the Netherlands. On March 11, 1816 Aruba was returned to the newly created Kingdom of the Netherlands.

1848- The last of the commandeurs

In 1848 the title of commandeur as highest ranking official was replaced by lieutenant-governor, appointed by the King of the Netherlands.

The last appointed Commandeur of Aruba, Jacobus Jarman (1837-1848) became the first lieutenant-governor and thus the illustrious era of colonial rule by the Commandeurs came to a final close.

All that remains today of these men are their names, records and their graves.

At Seroe Patrishi, Ponton and Savaneta old graveyards with the tombs of some of the colonial rulers can be found. In the Seroe Patrishi graveyard the graves of Simon Plats, Jacob Thielen and Johan F.W. Gravenhorst are the only commandeurs' graves that can still be identified.

Source/Fuente: Hartog, J., 1969, Aruba, past and present; From the time of the Indians until today: Oranjestad, Aruba, publisher D. J. DeWit

Den siglo diessiete Commandeur y otro empleadonan di West Indische Compagnie tawata e unico Europeo permiti riba e isla, y establecimiento colonial na Aruba no tawata permiti te 17 juni 1754.

E residencia di e Commandeur tawata situa den un area di costa yama Commandeurs Baai, den e area awendia conoci como Savaneta.

Ora e Paardenbaai na Oranjestad

Na final di 1803 Inglatera, Francia y Holanda tawata den guerra atrobe.

Na oktober 1804 Aruba a ser ocupa dor di e capitán ingles Mahling na mando di e fragata Diana, pero e bandera ingles a bula pa un siman so. Dia 12 februari 1805 Mahling a volve y a reemplaza Johan Craneveldt, apunta como commandeur na 1804, cu Bruyn Govertsz Quant.

E inglesnan tawata reaparece regularmente, te ora cu un expedicion encabeza pa Pierre Changuion, Gobernador di e colonia di Curacao, a expulsá nan.

Durante e periodo aki cosnan straño tawata tuma lugar cu e nombracion di commandeurs.

E administracion na Curacao y e inglesnan tawata tuma turno, den kita, nombra y reapunta e commandeurs como oficialnan.

E inglesnan tawata actua na nan antoho, regularmente subiendo tera cu tropa pa instrui baha e bandera pa despues hisa e tricolor ingles, cual ultimo tawata ser baha atrobe tan

pronto cu e barco ingles a desaparece tras di horizonte.

Na 1807 e inglesnan a tuma control di e colonia di Curacao, siendo cu e gobernacion frances di Holanda a neglisha e islanan den Caribe. Dia 11 maart 1816 Aruba a ser devolvi na e recien crea Reino Holandes.

1848- E ultimo commandeur

Na 1848 e titulo di commandeur como rango mas halto oficial a ser reemplaza pa gezaghebber, apunta dor di e Rey Holandes.

E ultimo commandeur nombra na Aruba, Jacobus Jarman (1837-1848) a bira e prome gezaghebber y asina e periodo ilustre di gobernacion colonial di e commandeurs a yega su fin.

Tur loke a keda awendia di e hombernan aki tan nan nombrenan, datos den archivonan y nan tumbanan.

Na Seroe Patrishi, Ponton y Savaneta santana biew cu tumba di algun di e oficialnan colonial por ser haña. Na e santana di Seroe Patrishi e tumbanan di Simon Plats, Jacob Thielen y Johan F.W. Gravenhorst ta e unico di e tumba di commandeur cu por ser identifica ainda.

gradualmente a reemplaza Commandeurs Baai como e principal waf pa baha animal di cria, y actividadnan comercial den cercania di e waf di Oranjestad a aumenta, Commandeur Jan van der Biest II a translada e residencia di e commandeur pa Ponton. Su tumba ta situa den e santana na Ponton.

1792-1816 Hisa baha tricolor na Aruba

Bao di encargo di commandeur Speght Aruba a drenta un periodo tumultuoso.

Na 1792 Gobierno Holandes a adquirir e segundo West Indische Compagnie.

Guera a inicia entre e Republica Holandes y Francia resultando den e terminacion di e Republica Holandes y un de facto gobernacion di e colonianan pa Francia na 1796.

E Tratado di Amistad y Comercio entre e Republica Batavo y Merca a pone e inglesnan ataca Aruba y nan a tuma posesion di Aruba, cual isla nan a devolve na e holandesnan na 1803.

Ora a construi Fort Zoutman y a arma cuater pieza di artiyeria na 1797 mas hende a cuminsa traha cas cerca di e waf di Oranjestad, poniendo e sede administrativo di Aruba ser translada pa Oranjestad.