



EDWIN N. McCLELLAN

VANCOUVER'S GHASTLY MISTAKE OFF WAIKIKI

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN

Historian, Editor, Lawyer, Traveller, Columnist, Radio Commentator and former member of OCC

The British storeship *Daedalus* (Lieutenant Richard Hergest) arrived at Waimea (Oahu) on May 7, 1792. Some time before the *Daedalus* arrived at Waimea an Hawaiian Chief (upon going aboard the English West Indiaman *Grace*) had been wantonly fired upon, at the suggestion of Englishman Isaac Ridley. This man Ridley had been in the service of the Oahu Chiefs, deserted them, fled to the *Grace* and persuaded the Captain of that vessel to fire upon the Oahuans. This brutal act caused the Hawaiians of Windward Oahu to distrust all Britishers — including those of the *Daedalus*.

HERGEST AND GOOCH KILLED AT WAIMEA

Captain George Vancouver reported that when Lieutenant Richard Hergest and Astronomer William Gooch went ashore from the *Daedalus* at Waimea (with eight "unarmed" members of the crew), Hergest, Gooch and a Portuguese seaman were killed by the Hawaiians. Lord Byron, of HMS *Blonde* (which arrived at Waikiki in May of 1825 bringing home the remains of the Hawaiian King and Queen), explained:

"These unfortunate gentlemen were victims to the naturally irritated feelings of some of the natives whose Chief" was wantonly fired upon on board the *Grace* and this "was the cause of the death of the officers of the *Daedalus*."

VANCOUVER DEMANDS MURDERERS

Captain Vancouver was not in the Hawaiian Islands at the times of these three killings but, on March 13, 1793, he was at Maui receiving Kahekili, King of Maui and Oahu, aboard his ship *Discovery*. Vancouver described Kahekili as being over sixty years of age, as talking in a quavering voice, and as greatly debilitated and emaciated because of an excessive use of "Ave." Captain Vancouver and King Kahekili discussed the killing of Hergest, Gooch and the seaman. Kahekili appointed Tamohomoho (who said he was the younger brother of Kahekili) to accompany Vancouver to Oahu. Tamohomoho told Vancouver

that the alleged "murderers resided near Whyteete (Waikiki) Bay."

VANCOUVER ARRIVES AT WAIKIKI BAY

"We proceeded to Whyteete where we anchored about three o'clock in ten fathoms of water," recorded Captain Vancouver. A few small single canoes and only one double canoe, went out to welcome the *Discovery*. In the double canoe was "James Coleman, one of the three men" Vancouver had found on Kauai in 1792 who had been left there by Captain James Kendrick of the American vessel *Lady Washington*. Coleman had quit Kendrick's employ and entered the service of King Titeeree (Kahekili).

Coleman was accompanied by a Chief named Tennavee and a lad of Oahu called To-hoo-boo-ar-to. This trio informed Vancouver that they had been sent by Try-too-boo-ry (Kalanikupule), Titeeree's (Kahekili's) "eldest son and Governor of Woahoo (Oahu) in his absence, to inquire who we were" and to aid Captain Vancouver in bringing the criminals to justice. Also, that Kalanikupule believed that the men were guilty. Vancouver sent presents to Kalanikupule by Coleman and the two Hawaiians when they left the *Discovery* to return to Waikiki Beach in their double canoe.

ACCUSED MEN BROUGHT ABOARD "DISCOVERY"

Next day, March 21, 1793, Coleman (with Tamohomoho and Tennavee) brought the three accused Hawaiians aboard the *Discovery*. The principal ac-

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ember Rae Meisner has changed allegiance. For years with the German Von Hamm-Young he has turned his allegiance to the Irishers—Murphy Oldsbille. He is now their parts and accessories manager. Good luck and aloha,

Milt Holst, Mrs. Holst and their son were left by United Air for Vancouver, B. C. to attend the meeting of the Association of Advertising Agencies. Milt is Hawaii's outstanding ad man and was the partner with our beloved past president Walter MacFarlane.

Jack Mackenzie says, "Confucius says, 'Confidential secretary is one your wife can't find out about.'"

VANCOUVER'S MISTAKE

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Old man was distinguished by tattoo—"One-half of his body, from his forehead to his feet, was made jet-black and punctuating."

Vancouver held a *quasi* court-martial of the three accused Hawaiians aboard the *Discovery*. This judicial-body found the three accused Hawaiians guilty and handed sentences of death. Coleman, Tamohomoho and Tennavee returned to Waikiki Beach leaving the three innocent

Hawaiians (convicted of murder and sentenced to death) aboard the *Discovery*.

Coleman, Tamohomoho and Tennavee returned to the *Discovery* on March 11, 1793. Tamohomoho and Tennavee demanded that the convicted Hawaiians be executed immediately.

DEMANDS OF INNOCENT HAWAIIANS Laid DOWN BY THEIR CHIEF

The three Hawaiians (later declared innocent) were executed that day. A squad of British Marines and seamen were drawn up on the side of the *Discovery* nearest Waikiki Beach. One of the convicted men had long hair. This hair was cut off the man before he died so that the hair might be presented—customary tribute—to the King of Hawaii.

Tamohomoho and Tennavee (in the presence of the doomed Hawaiians) begged for the honor of securing the

hair and presenting the gruesome prize to the King.

The convicted (but innocent) Hawaiians were "taken one by one into a double canoe, where they were lashed hand-and-foot, and put to death by Tennavee, their own Chief, who blew out their brains with a pistol."

When the executions took place the Death-Double-Canoe was halfway between Waikiki Beach and the *Discovery*. Never before, nor since, have spectators on the Beach at Waikiki witnessed such a dramatic tragedy.

WAILING AND LAMENTATION FOR "INNOCENT" MEN

The "dead bodies were taken to the shore [Waikiki Beach], attended by most of the natives who were present at the executions . . . [the canoe was] paddled slowly toward the Beach . . . [halfway to the Beach] lamentations were heard . . . Tennavee later confessed that the three men he executed were innocent."

Captain Vancouver proposed that the three corpses be hung upon a tree on the Beach at Waikiki as a warning; but the Hawaiian Chiefs did not agree to this proposal on the grounds that such spectacles would be considered very improper; not in accordance with their religious rites; and offend the priesthood.

THE EXECUTED MEN WERE INNOCENT

In 1796, Kamehameha-the-Great told Captain William Robert Broughton, of the British warship *Providence*, that "the men who were executed alongside the *Discovery* [in 1793] had not committed these murders but were unfortunate beings whom the Chief selected to satisfy Captain Vancouver."

Forty years after this tragic execution of innocent men, by Captain Vancouver's orders, Hiram Bingham—the American missionary—met an old Hawaiian Chief who admitted to Bingham that he was the man who had executed the three Hawaiians in the double canoe off Waikiki Beach. This old Chief explained to Mr. Bingham that he could not find the guilty persons so he "seized three other men and gave them up to Captain Vancouver."

The *Discovery*, with Captain George Vancouver aboard, sailed from Waikiki Bay on March 24, 1793.