

PREFACE

The present study attempts to bring out quite clearly the advantageous or beneficial social effects of the American presence in Trinidad on the one hand and the untoward or disadvantageous social effects on the other. Part I of the study discusses the advantages while Part II dwells on the disadvantages.

The study resulted from the careful perusal of secondary source material, painstaking scanning of copies of the Trinidad Guardian newspapers covering the period 1941 to 1946, and interviews with both surviving members of the Carenage community, who held vivid memories of the Americans, and also people in the writer's neighbourhood who worked for the Americans on their anti-malarial campaigns at their base at Wallerfield. Existing archival material on the period proved to be very scanty.

About ten people in all were interviewed. At Carenage the interviews were conducted at a provision depot. Throughout the study the writer found it convenient to refer to only three Carenage residents in particular because they formed the core of the respondents, were most ready and willing to impart information to a stranger [the writer], most fluent, and most accommodating because I was invited to their homes for more relaxed discussion. In the writer's neighbourhood five rather elderly gentlemen were able to divulge freely their remembrances of the American days in Trinidad.



The interviews were conducted in the oral-aural tradition. No notes were taken during the interviews nor was any recording device like a tape recorder used. The interviews were conducted over a period of three days, during the morning period.

In an appendix will be found not only a compilation of questions asked in the interviews but also a list of the names of people who were interviewed, with only first names plus the initial of the surnames given because of the need to preserve the anonymity of the oral sources at their request.