



www.BlackPoppyRose.org

Monday 21st November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

BlackPoppyRose would like to invite you to:

BLACKPOPPYROSE - TARANTO MUTINY 98TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Tuesday 6th December 2016

11am – 14:00

WEST INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE PERSONNEL HQ
165/167 Clapham Manor Street, Clapham, London, SW4 6DB
&

18:00 – 20:30

Karibu Centre, 7 Gresham Road, Brixton, London SW9 7PH



BlackPoppyRose – Taranto Mutiny 98th Anniversary
Adults £5 Children £1.50 (per event)

This is the launch of a 2-year UK campaign to ensure as many people learn this history as possible
6th December 2016 – 2018.

Tuesday 6th December marks the 98th year anniversary of the TARANTO MUTINY where the British West Indies Regiment rose up against unfair treatment after World War I and were severely punished for it. We will be screening a 17year old documentary called Mutiny which has servicemen Gershom Brown and Eugent Clarke (pictured below) who talk about their experiences within the war.

Read more about the mutiny http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/west_indies_01.shtml

Watch the trailer: <http://www.sweetpatootee.co.uk/work/mutiny/>

Email (me): Selena Carty info@blackpoppyrose.org

We hope to hear from you.

Warmest Regards

Selena Carty
Cultural & Ancestral Consultant
Afro-Centric Genealogist



Who we currently support

BLACKPOPPYROSE | 161 – 167 CLAPHAM MANOR STREET, CLAPHAM, LONDON, SW4 6DB |
BLACKPOPPYROSE IS A TRADING NAME OF SELENA CARTY
+44 (0) 2880 440 842 | INFO@BLACKPOPPYROSE.ORG | WWW.BLACKPOPPYROSE.ORG | SM @BLACKPOPPYROSE
REMEMBER ALL WHO FOUGHT, CONTRIBUTED & SACRIFICED

History of the Taranto Mutiny

During the war, 15,600 men in the regiment's 12 battalions served with the Allied forces, with two thirds of the volunteers coming from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Bahamas, British Honduras (now Belize), Grenada, British Guiana (now Guyana), the Leeward Islands: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Monserrat, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent.

After Armistice Day, on 11 November 1918, the eight BWIR battalions in France and Italy were concentrated at Taranto in Italy to prepare for demobilisation. They were subsequently joined by the three battalions from Egypt and the men from Mesopotamia. As a result of severe labour shortages at Taranto, the West Indians had to carry out arduous physical tasks. They had to load and unload ships, do labour fatigues Manual or menial labour and perform demeaning tasks like building and cleaning toilets for Italians & German soldiers, which all caused much resentment. As did the discovery that white soldiers were being given a pay rise while black soldiers were not.

By 6 December 1918 they had had enough: the men of the 9th Battalion revolted and attacked their black officers. On the same day, 180 sergeants forwarded a petition to the Secretary of State complaining about the pay issue, the failure to increase their separation allowance, and the fact that they had been discriminated against in the area of promotions.

Who we currently support

The West Indian Association for Service Personnel

Charity Number: 279644

www.waspuk.co.uk

After serving this country Great Britain, the belief is that the Government should be picking up the pieces for the lives of these soldiers, but it is charities like WASP who after 40 years are still struggling due to lack of funds to provide support, safety and recognition of the Black servicemen who have served who have no cultural support structures to enable them to reach their potential in society. WASP currently receive no government funding to support the ex-servicemen:

- Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress disorder – leading to: Drug and Alcohol abuse, isolation, homelessness, and imprisonment.
- Immigration
- Re-Training and equipping for civilian life and their natural progression.
- Age immobility
- Struggling to maintain bills, heat, food, and travel

Without WASP, these West Indian/Caribbean servicemen & women would fade away into the archives, never to be added to modern day education. This is the same for men/women who have served from the continent of Africa.

With the growth of the BlackPoppyRose we hope to start providing support for other groups that are doing the same thing. Creating a foundation of support for our communities within the places we call home.

I am making contact you today as we need practical help in securing resources & sponsorship to sustain the current services they provide to our veterans.

Once a stable foundation is set we can provide more support to the elders within the communities for the future to come.

This will also provide a place of education for all ages to learn about the contributions made.

There is so much more WASP would like to do/offer however need support to achieve this. Any help you could offer will be greatly appreciated. Email us: info@blackpoppyrose.org