

French Warship Salvage Operation in Samana Bay

The recent discovery of a French warship, "Le Scipion" sunk in Samana Bay on October 18th, 1782, has led to one of the first full-scale recovery operations of its type in the Dominican Republic.

Deep Blue Marine, the company conducting the recovery plan to photograph, map and recover "significant" artifacts from the Le Scipion, including the 74 cannons. The ships lies at a 15 degree angle to the ocean floor and is now mostly covered with sand. The

74 cannons broke loose during the sinking and lie on the ocean floor.

The ship originally sank after running into a coral reef during a full pitch gun battle with two English warships, 98-gun "London" and 74-gun "Torbay", after a valiant fight along with its 40-gun escort frigate, the "La Sybille".

Since January 2007 Terry Leonard, researcher for Deep Blue, has found over 1,000 pages of vital information about this wreck and the 74-gun ship,

including but not limited to blue prints, construction history, stores, payroll and possible cargos carried on board. Cannons and wine bottles have already been recovered along with other artifacts needed to confirm the vessel's identity.

Le Scipion has a famous history as one of the 20 ships sent by France to America during the war of Independence, and it's claimed she played a major part in assisting the Americans against the English.

Do you have a license for that sporran?

Scotland has recently introduced new legislation requiring kilt wearers to have a license for their sporran.

For those of you unsure exactly what a sporran is, a sporran is a pouch or purse hung round the waste usually made of leather or fur. It's usually worn with a kilt as kilts don't have pockets.



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Traffic Police Get Tough

A crackdown on driving under the influence of alcohol was carried out recently by the National Police and the Metropolitan Transport Authority (AMET). Over one weekend in the Monument area in Santiago, near restaurants and bars, at least 16 people were arrested for driving while over

the permitted alcohol limit.

Drivers acting suspiciously were stopped and asked to take the breathalyzer test. Drivers failing the test were taken into custody while their cars were towed away by AMET towing trucks. Motorcyclists were also stopped and tested.

The Monument area is being

remodeled by the Secretary of Culture and the Municipality of Santiago, and even though entrance is restricted to the public, thousands of people congregate there at weekends.

On another matter, police recently apprehended three couples in separate incidents, who were having sex in their

cars. One of the couples was found by a passing police patrol in R. Cesar Tolentino Street, when they noticed the couple naked in the car.

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