

ZANZIBAR PROJECT MERCURY  
BOX 1283, ZANZIBAR, EAST AFRICA  
TEL. 2297 AND 2303

PERSONNEL ROSTER

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL DUTIES</u>
Tom Spencer	NASA Station Director	-
	T & C Personnel	
Roger Locke	M & O Supervisor	-
Joe Miller	Site Engineer	Backup M & O
George Burch	Site Engineer	Sim Coord Astro Sim
Irv Zolo	TM Supervisor	<del>TM Coordinator</del>
John Ross	TM Technician	-
Ron Burke	TM Technician	-
Gerry Hedberg	TM Technician	-
Gerry Petro	A/G Comm Supervisor	-
Frank Montgomery	A/G Comm Technician	-
Herman Trust	A/G Comm Technician	-
Tom Hardesty	Acq Aid Supervisor	-
Don Schurr	Acq Aid Technician	-
Bob Burchill	GCC	
Marvin Straus	TTY Technician/Operator	
Don Tracy	PBX/Intercomm Technician	
Hank Brodeur	TTY Operator	
Bill Brown	TTY Operator	
Bob Mason	Supply	Messenger
Herb Hoover	Timing/Test Equipment	<del>Messenger</del>
Jim Demasters	Plant Facility Supervisor	-

TM COORDINATOR



NAMEPOSITIONADDITIONAL DUTIES

POINT TO POINT COMM PERSONNEL  
CABLE & WIRELESS, LTD.

Dennis Payne	Engineer	
Brian Wood	XMTR Ass't Engineer	
John Bagelow	RCVR Ass't Engineer	
Dete Charation	XMTR Technician	
Bill West	XMTR Technician	
Derrick Eyes	XMTR Technician	
Kingsley Austen	RCVR Technician	
Doug Picton	RCVR Technician	
Dete Craig	RCVR Technician	

Home phone numbers of key personnel : Spencer (8-274), Locke (2350), Miller (8-278), Burchill (8-259), Zolo (2451) and Payne (2177).



RETURN TO FILE



THE  
*Zanzibar*  
STORY

PREPARED BY

**Bendix** FIELD ENGINEERING CORPORATION

OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND



## THE ZANZIBAR STORY

Some useful facts and figures for  
personnel proceeding to the Project  
Mercury Tracking Station (Site No. 6)  
at Zanzibar.

prepared by  
THE BENDIX FIELD ENGINEERING CORPORATION  
subsidiary of Bendix Corporation  
Owings Mills, Maryland  
28 September 1962





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## PART I

### A. HISTORY, DESCRIPTION AND CLIMATE

Though the first written records concerning Zanzibar date from the year 60 A.D., it is believed that the island was visited by many ancient races - the Sumerians, Assyrians, and Phoenicians. More recently, Indians, Egyptians, Southern Arabians and Persians left their mark on this area as their civilizations expanded across the Indian Ocean.

As a result, the population of Zanzibar is extremely mixed, though the great majority of the indigenous people are of African (Bantu) origin. The most important additions to the main indigenous stock came from Persia and Arabia, particularly from the latter after political control passed into the hands of the Omani Arabs in the 17th century.

In 1822, Seyyid Said bin Sultan, ruler of Muscat and Oman, moved his capital to Zanzibar which became the political and commercial center of East Africa by the end of his reign in 1856. It was in this period that Zanzibar's first lasting contacts with the West began. In 1833 the Sultan signed a treaty with the United States, and in 1837 the American Consulate at Zanzibar was established, the first of the Western Powers to be represented here.

Seyyid Said was the founder of modern Zanzibar and its basic industry, the production of cloves. By the mid 18th century Zanzibar had also become a depot for the slave trade, but in 1873 Sultan Barghash agreed to abolish the great slave market at Zanzibar, and to prohibit the export of slaves from his dominions in East Africa.

British influence grew until 1890 when the Sultan formally placed his dominions under the protection of the United Kingdom. However, the Sultan's sovereignty is explicitly recognized, which places Zanzibar in the category of "protected state" rather than that of an annexed colony.

His Highness the Sultan's Government is administered by a British Resident (now His Excellency Sir George Mooring) under the control of the Colonial Office. Questions of importance are referred to an executive council over which the Sultan presides. There is a legislative council which consists of the British Resident (President), four ex-officio members, five official members, and



eight unofficial members appointed by the Sultan. Legislation is by decree of the Sultan, which, when countersigned by the British Resident applies to all persons within the Protectorate.

Zanzibar town itself is divided into two sections - Stone Town, which lies largely along the waterfront, and is populated by some 20,000 Arabs, Asians and a few Americans and Europeans. The other portion of Zanzibar town is called Ngambo, which is largely the home of 40,000 Africans and/or Shirazis.

Stone Town, with its narrow picturesque streets, has many buildings of architectural interest. Particularly attractive are the beautiful hand carved antique, brass-studded Arab doors. Stone Town derives its name from the two and three story dwellings which stand haphazardly amongst the narrow, winding lanes of the area near the port.

In addition to Stone Town and Ngambo, there are areas along the road to the airport (four miles from the center of town) where housing for upper-grade British civil servants and well-to-do Zanzibaris have been built since World War II. The main area of this kind, Mazizini, is between 2 and 3 miles from town. Although most housing in this area is government or commercially owned, private homes exist and are occasionally available to newcomers. The majority of houses along the airport road are located on relatively large plots of ground near the beach and offer a contrast to apartment living in Stone Town.

The island of Zanzibar (area 640 square miles) lies 22 1/2 miles from the East African coast, with Pemba (area 380 square miles) 25 miles to the Northeast. At the 1958 census the population totalled 299,111 (Zanzibar Island 165,253 and Pemba 133,858). The racial composition was: Africans 228,815, Arabs and Indians 46,989, Comorians 2,880, Europeans 507, Somalis and others 1,586. The European population consists mainly of government officials, bank officials, missionaries, and some representatives of steamship, airline, import-export firms and other commercial agencies. American residents, including dependents, number a total of 80. They consist of 53 Bendix, 13 American Consulate, and 15 educational personnel.

The chief language is Swahili, but English, Arabic and Indian are widely spoken and understood.



Climatic conditions are governed by the monsoons. The climate is tropical, but the heat is tempered throughout the year, except during the change of the monsoons, by constant sea breezes. The heavy rains come in April and May just before the Southwest monsoon and the light rains and scattered showers in November and December before the Northeast monsoon. The mean maximum temperature is about 85 degrees F. and the mean minimum 73 degrees F. The average annual rainfall is 58 inches. The weather is usually warm and humid. From December to March, when the Northeast monsoon blows, it is hot and comparatively dry. June to December is the driest and coolest period.

B. INDUSTRY

The economy of the Protectorate is almost entirely agricultural, the chief crops being cloves and coconuts. Clove oil is distilled in Zanzibar and there is a thriving copra industry. There are several factories which produce coconut oil and fiber. Secondary crops include cocoa, chillies, limes, and there is a factory which processes lime fruit for oil and juice.

C. CURRENCY AND BANKING

The unit is the East African shilling, which is divided into 100 cents. One shilling is worth fourteen U.S. cents. 20 shillings East African = 1 Pound Sterling - \$2.80 U.S. Shilling note denominations are 100, 20, 10 and 5. Coin denominations are 1 shilling, 50 cents, 10 cents, 5 cents and 1 cent. This currency is uniform throughout Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Aden and Zanzibar.

Currency can be transferred without restriction from the U.S. to Zanzibar through the normal banking system - payroll checks, personal checks and travellers checks.

Shillings are converted to U.S. dollars by dividing by seven; hence 140 shillings equals 20 dollars, 20 shillings equal \$2.80 and 10 shillings equals \$1.40.



## PART II

### A. ZANZIBAR ENTRY

A passport is required and non-British subjects must have a visa.

An International Certificate of Vaccination against smallpox is necessary, and against cholera if traveling from an endemic area. Although not compulsory, it would be advisable to have yellow fever, typhus, typhoid, polio and tetanus immunization.

### B. HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

There is some malaria and a mosquito net must be used in unscreened bedrooms. An anti-malarial drug must be taken as a preventive and this should be started two weeks in advance of estimated Zanzibar arrival and continued two weeks after Zanzibar departure.

The recommended adult dose of malaria prophylaxis is 500 mg of chloroquine phosphate per week. For children:

AGE	DOSAGE
Under 1 year	1/8 to 1/6 Adult
1 to 3 years	1/4 to 1/3 Adult
3 to 6 years	1/3 to 1/2 Adult
6 to 9 years	1/2 to 3/4 Adult
9 to 12 years	3/4 to full Adult

Government maintains a hospital in Zanzibar with some European doctors and Nursing Sisters. Officially, admittance is limited to government employees, but Americans are treated on an emergency basis. Hospital standards and facilities are far below American but qualified doctors, dentists and medical facilities are available in nearby cities of Dar-es-salaam, Mombasa and Nairobi. Zanzibar has several private Indian doctors, one European doctor, one private dentist and three government dentists who practice privately. Again, standards and facilities are below American. Doctor and dentist fees are approximately one-half Stateside cost.



Prospective assignees should request that Mercury Home Office personnel brief them on the Bendix policy regarding major and emergency medical treatment in Zanzibar.

It is highly recommended that all personnel anticipating residence in Zanzibar have a complete physical and dental checkup prior to Stateside departure.

#### C. PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

The most common endemic diseases, of a serious nature, likely to effect Americans are malaria and dysentery. Efforts of the World Health Organization have greatly reduced malaria on the island and occurrence is rare among personnel regularly taking the proper suppressives. Dysentery is more common among new arrivals. Reasonable care and the exercise of normal precautions usually eliminate recurrence.

The water supply in Zanzibar town is excellent and boiling or filtering is unnecessary. Fresh fruit and vegetables should be washed.

Insect bites or scratches should be treated with care and attended to immediately. Due to the warm tropical climate, infection can set in rapidly and healing is slow.

Bathing or wading in still pools is unwise because of Bilharzia Worm, and children should not go barefoot outdoors, except on the beaches, because of hookworm and chiggers.

Rashes, boils and other minor skin irritations are not altogether uncommon but are usually more uncomfortable than serious.



### PART III

#### A. STORES

There are no department stores or supermarkets in Zanzibar. Food supplies are purchased in stores equivalent to small U.S. neighborhood markets which were common ten to fifteen years ago. Fresh vegetables, fruit and fish are bought in an open air market-place. Such items as clothing, household goods, recreational supplies and dress material are stocked in small shops which abound in the downtown and outlying areas.

#### B. CLOTHING AND SHOES

The European and American dress in Zanzibar is dictated by comfort, climate and ease of care. People wear light clothing the year round since there is little change in temperature, although they sometimes have occasion to wear light sweaters and jackets during the cool season.

Washable cotton dresses are suitable for everyday wear. Dressy cottons will do for the evening. Cocktail dresses are popular. Ready made clothing for most of the family can be purchased, but it is expensive and the selection is very limited. Good dressmakers are inexpensive and an excellent variety of high quality material is available.

Hats and gloves are seldom worn except to church and for official functions to which all the Americans are occasionally invited. Shorts and bermudas are common for both men and women. Stockings are rarely worn.

Underwear suitable for a hot summer in the southern part of the United States will be satisfactory. Men's sox and underwear are either expensive or of a poor quality. Women's underwear, bras, girdles and lingerie of a good fit or quality are difficult to find and an ample quantity should be brought. Swimmers are advised to bring more than one bathing suit.

Light, inexpensive cotton or wash-and-wear clothing is ideal as wash-boys are apt to wear out clothes and linen much faster than the usual washing methods at home.



Evening wear at dances and large parties tends to be formal. For the socially inclined a white dinner jacket would be a good investment. They can be tailored here but the material is of poor quality. Black dress trousers can also be made locally but the material is quite heavy; black stripe is customary. A good white shirt can be worn in lieu of a dress shirt and accessories such as cummerbund, black tie and black sox can be purchased locally.

Zanzibar dry cleaning facilities and methods are inferior and clothing which requires such attention should be minimized. For male personnel, one light to medium weight suit, dark in color should be adequate.

One clothing restriction exists in Zanzibar; Moslems are offended by women wearing extremely abbreviated or tight fitting shorts or pedal pushers in public. This does not apply to the home or beach areas although conservative bathing attire is recommended. Bikini bathing suits might as well be left at home.

Ready made shoes are expensive and of a lower quality than American products. Women's dress shoes are low quality, out of style and expensive. There are plenty of men's and women's flat sandals available and some of the ladies Indian sandals are inexpensive and most attractive.

Decent hand made shoes can be obtained at reasonable prices and tennis shoes of medium quality are quite low in cost.

Shoes, clothing and luggage frequently mildew during the humid part of the year and regular inspection and cleaning is necessary.

Wives who enjoy sewing might do well to ship a sewing machine. However, basic patterns are not available.

#### C. CHILDREN TOYS

The selection of children's toys, games and books is extremely limited. Unfortunately, comic books are available.



D.        FOOD

A good variety of local and imported fresh fruits and vegetables are available in season. Fresh fish is excellent and crab, shrimp and crayfish can be purchased in season. Most meats, with the exception of ham, chicken, turkey and pork which sell for about one dollar per pound, generally cost approximately one-half of what it would at home; however, the quality also equals one-half. Local beef and veal meats are usually improperly cut and not aged, which contributes to the toughness. An American housewife should be prepared for a butcher shop that is less sanitary than she is used to.

Imported Kenya steak selling for seventy five U.S. cents per pound is quite good, although only one variety is available and the taste becomes monotonous after a few months. Both local and imported eggs of good quality can be obtained at prices comparable to the States. Butter and milk costs less than in the States but the milk has a peculiar flavor, requires home boiling due to the lack of pasturization facilities and the nutritional value is doubtful. Powdered milk is stocked by most stores.

Residents find that temporary shortages of almost everything occur regularly.

There is a large supply and variety of European and American canned goods but it is more expensive than in the States. Stores stock canned and packaged baby and junior foods. Powdered whole milk, evaporated milk, frozen cream and ice cream are provisioned. Bread and rolls are very inexpensive but of poor quality.

All staple food products are obtainable, although many products popular in the States are not.

Due to a soil deficiency and lack of crop rotation, it is advisable for all residents to take vitamins regularly. Price is roughly equivalent to the States.

The United States Consulate does not maintain a commissary.



E. MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES AND FACILITIES

Women's cosmetics and toiletries are satisfactory. Staple household toiletries such as tooth paste, hand soap, razor blades, deodorant, shampoo and hair tonic are stocked at twenty five percent above U.S. prices. Men who are accustomed to super or golden razor blades are advised to bring a supply. Regulars are always obtainable.

Satisfactory mosquito repellent is currently on the market. Women's personal sanitary needs can be purchased in the local drug stores.

Male barber shops charge forty U.S. cents per head.

One satisfactory beauty shop is located in the downtown area and present prices are less than one-half Stateside.

F. LIQUOR AND CIGARETTES

A plentiful supply of liquor and mix is available. Gin and rum, three to four dollars per fifth; Scotch, four to five dollars; American and Canadian whiskey, five to six dollars; European beer, twenty-four U.S. cents per can. Wine prices are comparable to the States.

Most brands of American cigarettes are obtainable at slightly less than three dollars per carton.

Cokes, soda and mix prices are about the same as the States.

G. BENDIX WIFE'S COMMENTS

It would be advisable to ship a roaster and pressure cooker, however, stoves here are small and the roaster must fit in an oven 14 1/2 inches wide, 12 1/2 inches high and 15 inches deep.

Following items are either very expensive or of very poor quality:



Table cloths  
Sheets and pillow cases;  
Towels and wash cloths.

Following goods are either difficult or impossible to purchase:

Good cooking utensils  
Measuring cups and spoons  
Flour sifter, pastry brush and miscellaneous kitchen  
utensils.

China and glasses are inexpensive but tableware is of poor  
quality stainless steel.

Due to the limited variety of meat, seasonal fish, vegetables  
and fruit, Bendix wives claim one of the most valuable and appre-  
ciated items one can bring is a good cook book. The more com-  
prehensive the better.

Costume jewelry should be brought. On the other hand precious  
and semi-precious stones are most reasonable and considered a  
good buy. All types of gold and silver jewelry is hand made, locally,  
at attractive prices. French perfume is inexpensive; American is  
costly.



## PART IV

### A. HOTELS AND TEMPORARY ACCOMODATIONS

Zanzibar has two hotels which are satisfactory for Americans, although they are small and definitely second class by our standards. Both the Zanzibar and Pigalle hotels are located in the downtown area and charge about 35 shillings (\$5.00) per day per adult, including 3 meals. Family and monthly rates are offered.

Pigalle: Friendly and courteous management; food good but somewhat monotonous (typical of East Africa); bar but no lobby; restaurant screened; rooms small, clean and screened; family rates as low as \$10.00 to \$12.00 for a family of four, including 3 meals.

Zanzibar: Food and service somewhat better; menu fixed and no deviation possible as in Pigalle; lobby and bar; rooms are larger but not screened and mosquito nets must be used, except in two air conditioned rooms which are occasionally available; family rates are 1/3 to 1/2 higher than Pigalle.

Neither of the hotels have rooms with bath. Bring a robe.

Rooms (six of which are air conditioned) are available at the English Club for members only.

### B. TIPS

The standard acceptable tip for a bartender, porter, room boy or laundry boy is 30 local cents (4.2 U.S. cents). Waiters and others providing extra service usually receive 50 local cents (7 U.S. cents).

### C. HOUSING

One of the first problems to confront the newcomer will be locating adequate housing at a reasonable rate. The difficulty is not so much a housing shortage but lack of apartments and homes which are furnished and equipped (screens, plumbing, kitchen cabinets, floor covering, hot water heater, etc.) to meet our standards.



Several of the station personnel have taken relatively bare places and fixed them up using local labor and materials. New and used appliances can be rented or purchased. Spreading the cost over a years time they have done quite well, i.e., \$75.00 to \$100.00 per month depending on the basic rent and the amount of work and furnishings required.

Becoming familiar with the available housing and rents, locating a place, negotiating with the landlord or local merchants, and waiting for repairs and improvements to be completed generally requires a total of 4 to 6 weeks.

Two bedroom, fully furnished apartments in the downtown area rent for \$115.00 to \$120.00 per month, including utilities. Homes in the residential and outlying areas cost \$100.00 to \$140.00 (1 to 3 bedrooms) and \$140.00 to \$175.00 (3 to 4 bedrooms). This occasionally includes a limited amount of linens, towels, pots and pans.

Several new homes are now under construction and the present price is 1,000 shillings (\$140.00) per month, excluding utilities.

Newcomers can expect a great deal of help and advice from station personnel and their wives in locating suitable quarters, and replaced personnel will vacate housing which is already suitable for immediate occupancy. All station personnel and their dependents have found housing which is more than adequate, although below our Stateside standards.

#### D. SERVANTS

Most European and American families employ African servants, the number depending on the size of the household and grounds. More than one is not uncommon because household conveniences are somewhat limited, wages are low, and most African servants are not very efficient. With the exception of nursemaids, almost all servants are male. Very few servants speak English, but this seldom presents a problem.

Wages for domestic servants range from 100 shillings (\$14.28) to 140 shillings (\$20.00) per month. They usually work 9 hours per day, six days per week.



## E. EDUCATION

There are several schools in Zanzibar which are satisfactory for American children through the 8th grade. Parents with older dependents might be well advised to investigate a correspondence course such as Calverts to supplement the local education. Boys and girls government schools, one privately endowed school, two nursery schools and a Catholic Convent school (open to Protestants) comprise the educational facilities available. Standards and subjects in the lower grades are considered above American schools, but this has a tendency to taper off in the upper grades. Instruction in all of the schools is in English. Registration fees in the government and private schools are nominal, the nursery schools charge about \$3.50 per child per month and the Catholic Convent school tuition is \$3.00 to \$4.00 per child, per month plus books. Classes are conducted from 7:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. five days a week. The school year is divided into three semesters with a months vacation between semesters. There are presently fourteen American children from 3 1/2 to 13 years of age attending local Zanzibar schools.

Children's group activities such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are fairly well established.

## F. CHURCHES

Although the local population is almost wholly Moslem in religion, there are two churches suitable for infidels; Cathedral Church of Christ (Protestant) and St. Joseph's Cathedral (Roman Catholic).



## PART V

### A. SPORTS AND OUTDOOR LIFE

One of the principal advantages of life in Zanzibar, in addition to the climate, is the abundance of outdoor sports and recreation available. Excellent swimming is to be found on many of the fine beaches throughout the year. There is very little danger from stray sharks even at great distances from the shore. As a rule, there are no dangerous currents or quicksands.

Very good fishing may be had in Zanzibar all the year round; the best period being mid-October to February. The recommended grounds are at the southern and northern ends of the island. Good sport is obtainable, however, in the harbor and other points on the west coast of Zanzibar, although the big fish are rarer in these waters. The usual method of fishing is by trolling from motorboats which can be hired by the hour or day at the wharf. A good selection of name brand fishing equipment is available locally at prices below Stateside.

The abundance of fish, lobster; attractive coral formations and outlying small islands offer the skindiving (goggling) enthusiast many varied activities. European equipment of high quality can be purchased in town; however, rubber suits and pressure tanks are not on the market here.

The harbor and outlying waters afford good sailing, and there is a sailing club in town which provides changing rooms and showers for swimmers in addition to boating facilities. A limited selection of sail and motor boats are available in Zanzibar and nearby East African port cities at a cost below Stateside. Full membership in the sailing club is limited to boat owners.

There are several private clubs, organized by the various national communities, which offer both sports and social activities.

English Club: Sports section has facilities for golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and squash. The social section provides a library, billard room, bar, dining room, living accommodations and evening functions such as band concerts and dances. The entrance fee for both sections is \$21.00 and the monthly dues are about \$4.00.



Karimjee Club: Open to all races and offering tennis, squash, cricket, bar, ballroom and one or two social events per month. The entrance fee is \$14.00 and the dues are approximately \$2.50 per month.

Sailing Club: Boating, swimming and bar facilities; offers one or two social activities per month. Entrance fee is \$21.50 and quarterly dues are \$3.50.

Golfers must bring their clubs as none are available in Zanzibar either for sale or for rent.

All forms of hunting are very limited.

Anyone interested in conchology can find many shells of interest around the beaches of Zanzibar, especially on the west side where the tide recedes a great distance and exposes a large area for "shelling".

#### B. SOCIAL RECREATION

Most entertaining in Zanzibar is done in the home. "Sundowner" cocktail parties and dinner parties, which are both formal and buffet, are common.

The various private clubs mentioned above are open to Americans and offer such facilities as dining room, bar, and game rooms. They conduct dances, parties, outings and the like for members and their guests.

#### C. ENTERTAINMENT

From an American point of view there is practically no commercial entertainment in Zanzibar. There are three motion picture theatres in the city which show a variety of American, British, and Indian movies, only a very few of which are less than two or three years old.

There are no night clubs or television stations.

A small museum located within walking distance of the downtown area displays local artifacts, agricultural products, island fish, flora and fauna.



One pleasant and inexpensive change is provided by the Italian Line passenger ships when they arrive in port once a month. It is possible to have luncheon, dinner and cocktails on board. Also gift and beauty shops attract the wives.

The Zanzibar Broadcasting Company transmits locally in Swahili and English on the standard band. However, with a good shortwave receiver (available locally) one can easily pick up Dar-es-salaam and Nairobi rebroadcasts of B.B.C. and European programs in addition to programs originating in East Africa. Like the Voice of America, the Voice of Cairo comes in loud and clear. To supplement the radio a music lover should bring a phonograph, hi-fi system or tape recorder. European power, 50 cycle - 230 volts, necessitates equipment conversion. Equipment which is not adaptable to 230 volts will require a two to one step down transformer. American and British long-play records of a very limited selection are available locally for about six dollars each. One should bring spare cartridge pickups or phonograph needles for turntables of American, Japanese or European manufacture.

Zanzibar is a scenic paradise for the photographer. An adequate assortment of cameras are available at prices below U.S. Film is also stocked locally but color film is more expensive than in the States. Color film is mailed to London or Johannesburg, South Africa, for prompt processing. Costs are equivalent to American. Black and white film is processed locally at reasonable rates.

#### D. NEARBY POINTS OF INTEREST

East African cities of Dar-es-salaam, Mombasa and Nairobi provide Zanzibar residents an opportunity for weekend or vacation visits at round trip air travel fares as low as \$10.00 to \$75.00 per person. Night clubs, excellent restaurants, game parks, up-to-date movies, African safaris, supermarkets and department stores offer Zanzibaris a pleasant change from the quiet island life.

#### E. LIBRARIES AND READING MATTER

There are several libraries in Zanzibar, the best selection being available in the United States Information Service library located in the U.S. Consulate building.



A good supply of fiction, almost entirely British paperback publications, can be purchased at a local magazine stand. European editions of American magazines, including Life, Look, Post, True, Vogue, Seventeen, McCall's and Good Housekeeping are sold in the local stores although the selection is not always current. The principle East African newspapers are printed in English and air mail editions of the London Times and Newsweek and Time magazine are sold.

Since surface mail takes at least two months, magazine subscriptions are considered somewhat impractical except for periodicals that need not be current, i.e., National Geographic, technical and professional publications, home town newspapers, etc.



## PART VI

### A. ZANZIBAR POLITICS

The political situation here is touchy and the newcomer would be well-advised to avoid discussions on this subject with locals until properly briefed.

### B. PROJECT MERCURY STATION

The site is located ten miles from Zanzibar town and the trip takes about twenty minutes by auto. Station personnel complement is fifty six; twenty Bendix, twenty-seven indigenous plant maintenance workers and nine Cable and Wireless subcontractors.

Station equipment consists of Telemetry, Spacecraft Voice Communications, Acquisition Aid, Ground Teletype, PBX-Intercom and Voice Communications, Time Standard and Test Equipment.

Normal nonmission working hours are 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with a half-hour lunch period. Personnel bring lunches from home or the hotel. A stove, refrigerator, cooking and eating utensils provide facilities for a hot lunch.

Ground communications coverage is from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. , Monday through Friday.

One of the advantages of a Zanzibar assignment is the pleasant mission working hours. Personnel are scheduled to arrive on site at 9:00 or 10:00 A.M. and a mission workday seldom exceeds nine or ten hours for a three orbit mission.

Six vehicles provide station transportation and are used on a share alike basis during off-duty hours. Senior personnel are responsible for the automobiles.



C. COMMUNICATIONS

Station mailing address:

Bendix Field Engineering Corporation  
Project Mercury  
Box 1283  
Zanzibar, East Africa

Station telephone numbers:

Zanzibar 2297 and 2303

Air mail transit time from the States averages 5 to 6 days and surface mail about 60 days. Packages and shipments should also be sent to the above address.

Bendix rents a post office box to enable site personnel to pick up private mail during off-duty hours. This box number is 752 and a key is available for fifty U.S. cents.

Cable and Wireless maintains a telegraph facility and the normal site mailing address should be used.

Long distance telephone calls to and from the States are virtually impossible.

Station contact: Roger B. Locke  
M&O Supervisor  
Home Phone - Mazizini 8-263

D. TRANSPORTATION

Rental cars are very reasonable in cost, averaging 40 to 60 dollars per month for adequate transportation. Decent used autos can be purchased for 400 to 600 dollars. New cars are a bit more expensive than in Europe.

Motor scooters are available but expensive. ®

Bicycle rental or purchase is less costly than in the U.S.



There is no bus service on the island suitable for Americans; however, taxi service is available at reasonable rates.

Rickshaws can be hired by the hour to provide a leisurely sightseeing tour of the downtown area. Organized tours with English speaking guides are available at low rates.

E. ZANZIBAR DRIVER'S LICENSE

A valid U.S. or International license will obtain a Zanzibar driver's license without undergoing a test. Three passport size photos are required.



## PART VII

### A. CUSTOMS AND DUTIES

Personal effects and property for the employee's use while in Zanzibar, but not to be sold here, enters duty free. However, goods passing through the post office are often subject to duty as high as 25%, regardless of new or used condition.

### B. SHIPPING

(Reference Dependent Relocation, Household Moving and Storage Expense Interdepartmental Bulletins dated 16 and 28 May 1962 respectively.)

Although reimbursement for movement of personal effects is based upon air travel excess baggage charges, the employee may elect to ship by air freight or surface. Air freight costs are about one-half of excess baggage and transit time from the East Coast averages 7 to 10 days. Surface shipments require at least 60 days but the rates are quite low. The employee should contact experienced commercial firms in the States for details on transit time, relative costs and packing. In all cases a shipping document listing the contents of crates or boxes and stating "Used personal effects of John B. Doe, Custom Exempt", should accompany the goods. The shipping address is the same as the mailing address.



## PART VIII

### A. LIQUOR PROHIBITION

As Zanzibar is a Mohammedan State, the possession or drinking of intoxicating liquor is prohibited by law except by license or permit. Travellers or tourists visiting the Protectorate for up to thirty days do not have to take out permits under the law (provided they are not prohibited persons such as Moslems). Persons staying longer than thirty days must register with the Municipal Officer in order to take out a certificate of exemption.

### B. KENYA VISA

Non-British passengers are not allowed out of the Nairobi, Kenya, airport area without a visitors visa. The ever present possibility of an unscheduled layover would make obtaining a Kenya visa, prior to Stateside departure, a wise precaution.

### C. CONCLUSION

The people of Zanzibar are very friendly, kindly, and hospitable, and an American coming to the island may be assured of a pleasant stay.

How well the station personnel and their dependents like the assignment in Zanzibar is illustrated by the number of people who extended their tour beyond the minimum of one year. Most families remain for 18 months and more than one have stayed 20 to 21 months.

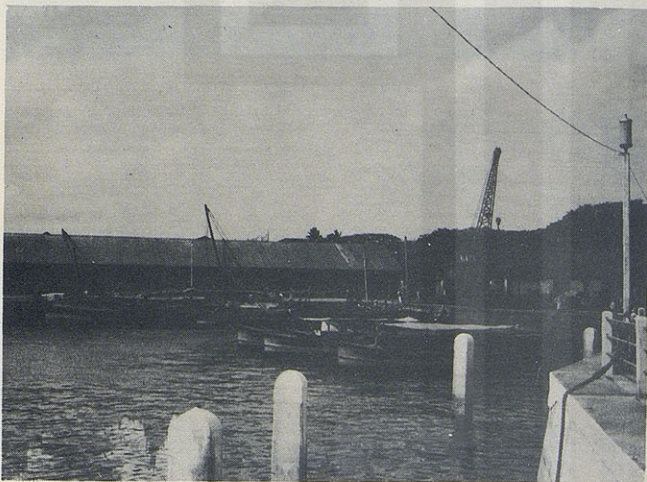
Persons requiring further information should not hesitate to write the M&O Supervisor.





Dock Area and Barges

Zanzibar Beach Scene



Dock Area

Telemetry and Control Building



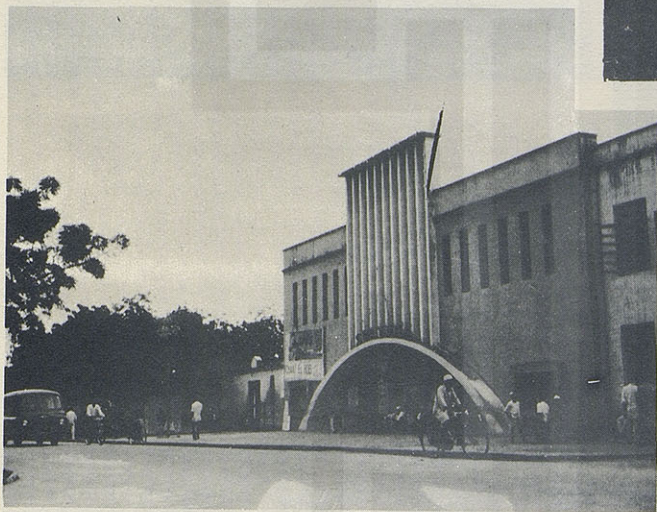




African Marketplace



Zanzibar Museum

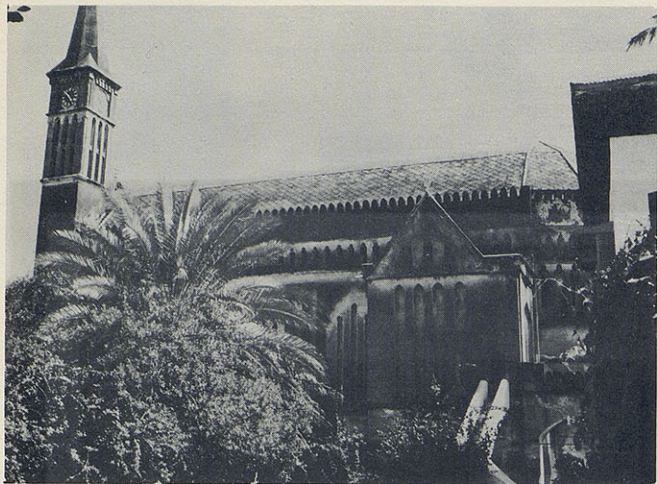


Sultana Theatre



Main Street

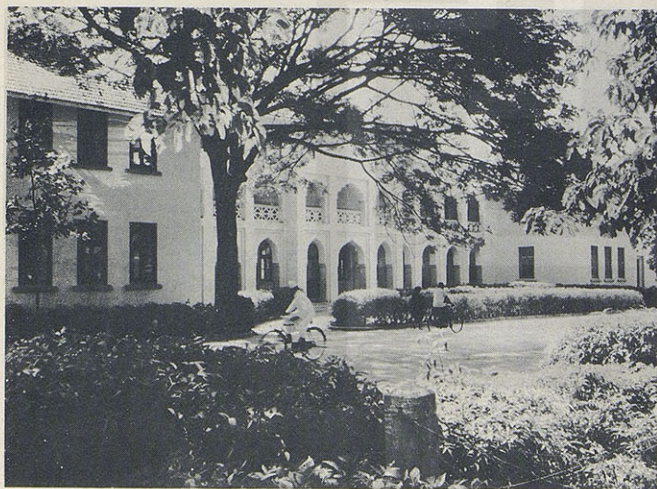




Protestant Cathedral



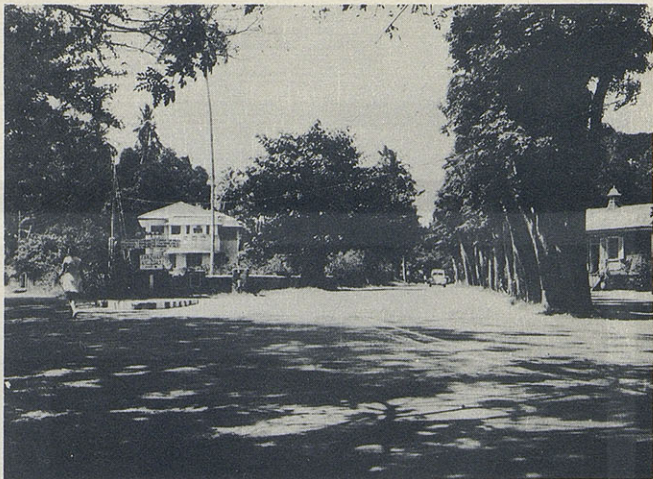
Catholic Church



Government Boys School



Airport Road



Market Stalls



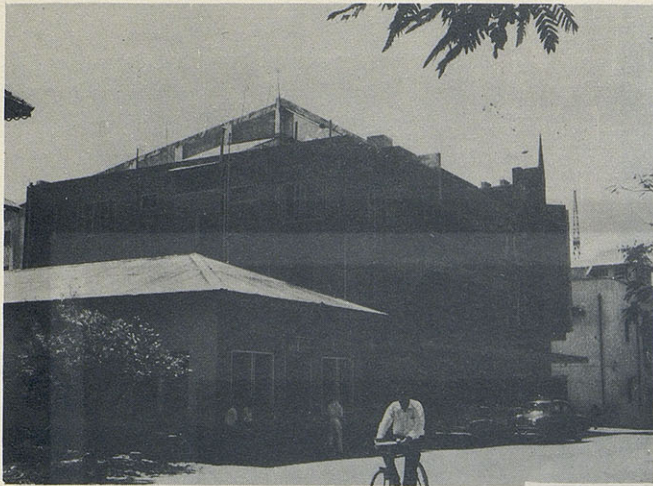
Vuga Road





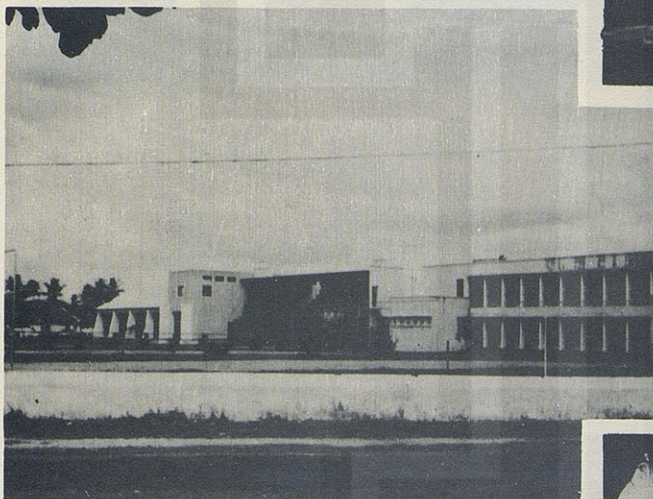
Typical Zanzibar Stores





Pigalle Hotel

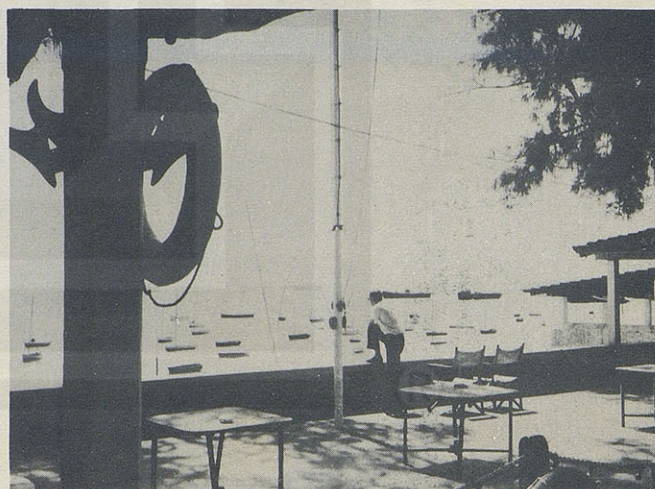
Pigalle Hotel Dining Room



Karimjee Club

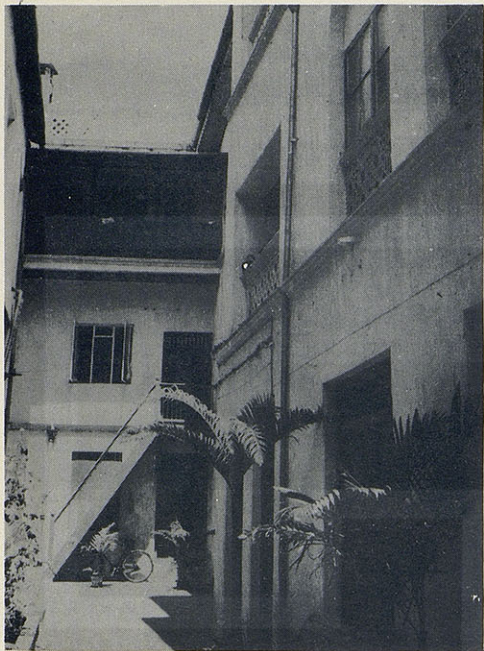
Tennis, billiards, card tables,  
ballroom, bar, and library

Sailboat Club

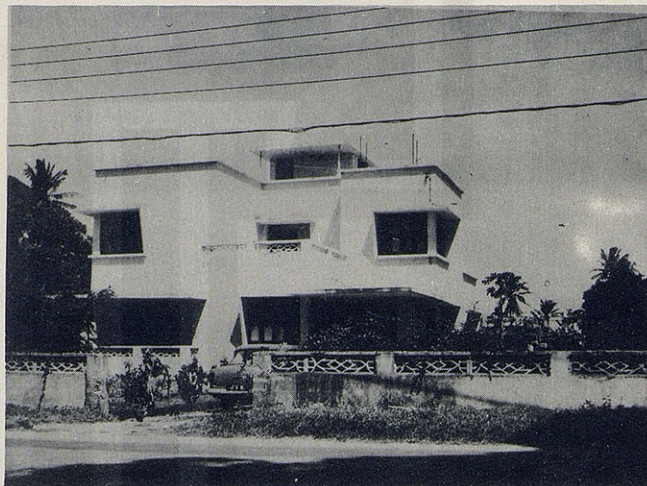


Sailboating, repair facilities, and bar



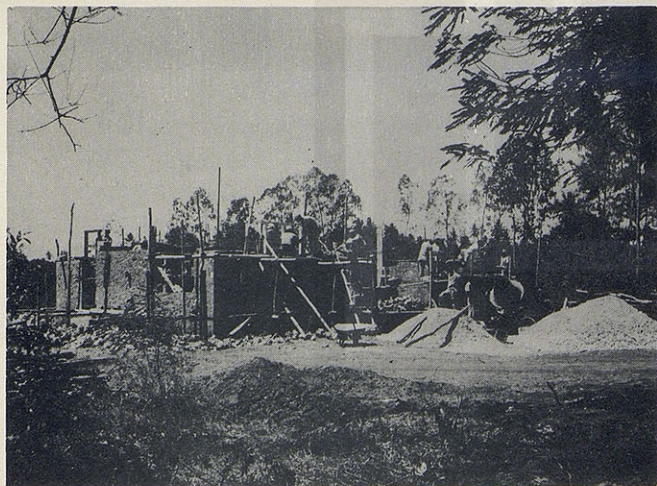


Stonetown Apartment Building



Postwar Housing

Located in Mazizini area



New Home Construction