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Club-A-Rama Week 46:

## HMS BOUNTY

1963

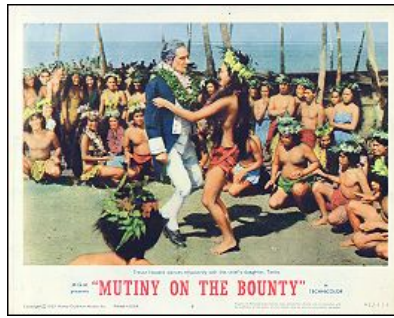


The **HMS BOUNTY** is one of the most storied ships, and movies, of all time. Hollywood has made no fewer than FIVE different movies about the **HMS BOUNTY**! This particular ship was made for the 4th copy of the movie - the one starring MARLON BRANDO. The **HMS BOUNTY** is well known for the storied mutiny that took place in Tahiti in 1789 on board the British transport vessel. The **HMS BOUNTY** was sent to the Pacific Ocean by the Royal Navy to acquire breadfruit plants and to transport them to the West Indies. But disagreements arose between Lieutenant William Bligh and his Sailing Master Fletcher Christian, leading to a mutiny on April 28, 1789.

Despite strong words and threats heard on both sides, the ship was taken bloodlessly and apparently without struggle by any of the loyalists except Bligh himself. Of the 42 men on board aside from Bligh and Christian, 18 joined Christian in mutiny, two were passive, and 22 remained loyal to Bligh.

The mutineers ordered Bligh, two midshipmen, the surgeon's mate (Ledward), and the ship's clerk into the ship's boat. Several more men voluntarily joined Bligh rather than remaining aboard. Bligh and his men sailed the open boat 30 miles to Tofua in search of supplies, but were forced to flee after attacks by hostile natives resulted in the death of one of the men. Bligh then undertook an arduous journey to the Dutch port of Coupang, located over 3,500 miles from Tofua. He safely landed there 47 days later, having lost no men during the voyage except the one killed on Tofua.





The mutineers sailed for the island of Tubuai, where they tried to settle. After three months of being terrorized by the cannibalistic natives, however, they returned to Tahiti. Sixteen of the mutineers and the four loyalists who had been unable to accompany Bligh remained there, taking their chances that the Royal Navy would find them and bring them to justice.

Immediately after setting the sixteen men ashore in Tahiti in September 1789, Fletcher Christian, eight other crewmen, six Tahitian men, and 11 women, one with a baby, set sail in the **HMS BOUNTY** hoping to elude the Royal Navy. According to a journal kept by one of Christian's followers, the Tahitians were actually kidnapped when Christian set sail without warning them, the purpose of this being to acquire the women. The mutineers passed through the Fiji and Cook Islands, but feared that they would be found there. Continuing their quest for a safe haven, on 15 January 1790 they rediscovered Pitcairn Island, which had been misplaced on the Royal Navy's charts. After the decision was made to settle on Pitcairn, livestock and other provisions were removed from the **HMS BOUNTY**. To prevent the ship's detection, and anyone's possible escape, the ship was burned on 23 January 1790 in what is now called Bounty Bay.

Thirty-five years later in 1825, HMS BLOSSOM, on a voyage of exploration under Captain Frederick Beechey, arrived on Christmas Day off Pitcairn and spent 19 days there. Captain Beechey later recorded the story of the mutiny on the **HMS BOUNTY** in his 1831 published account of the voyage, as did one of his crew, John Bechervaise, in his 1839 *Thirty-Six years of a Seafaring Life by an Old Quarter Master*. Beechey wrote a detailed account of the mutiny as recounted to him by the last survivor, Adams. Bechervaise, who described the life of the islanders, says he found the remains of the **HMS BOUNTY** and took some pieces of wood from it which were turned into souvenirs such as snuff boxes.



This replica **HMS BOUNTY** was built in Nova Scotia to the plans of the 18th Century original, and still attracts tourists (it is currently on the East Coast.) Built for the 1962 "Mutiny on the Bounty" with Marlon Brando, **HMS BOUNTY** sails the country offering dockside tours. It has appeared in many documentaries since, as well as in other movies such as "Pirates of the Caribbean - Dead Mans Chest" as the EDINBURGH TRADER.

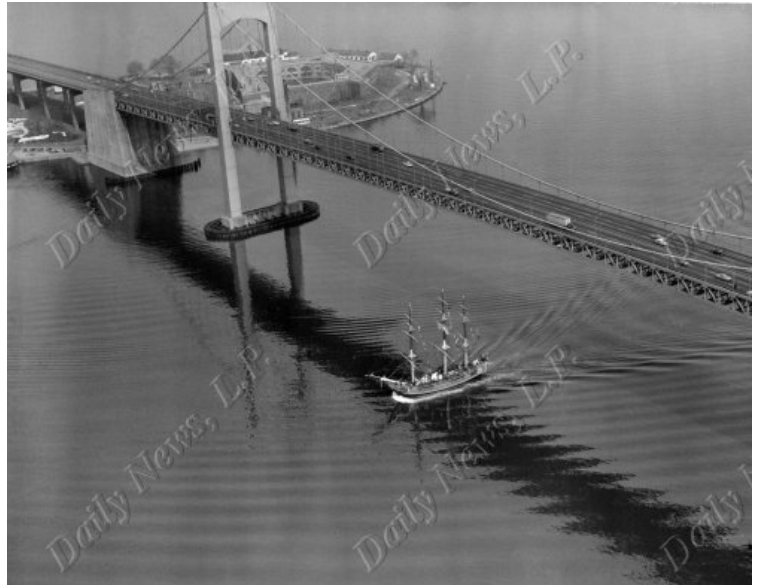
Marlon Brando later married co-star Tarita, and bought the tiny atoll of Tetiaroa.

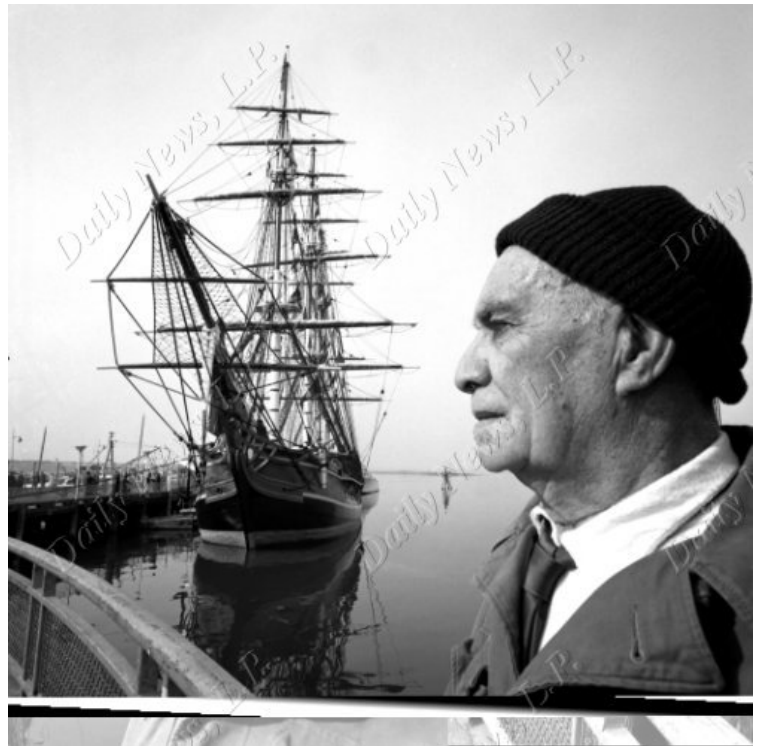


This is the replica **HMS BOUNTY** making its way in March 1964 for its exhibit at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

Given the large number of Mold-A-Rama machines present at the 1964 New York World's Fair, as well as the relatively large number of surviving moldsets of the **HMS BOUNTY**, leads to the obvious conclusion that the **HMS BOUNTY** mold was first vended at the 1964 New York World's Fair. The **HMS BOUNTY** was at the New York World's Fair only in 1964 though - apparently few visitors made it from the main Fair site over to the Marina. In early 1965 it sailed for Florida.

Right is 80 year old Parkin Christian, Great-Great Grandson of Fletcher Christian, in March 1964, with the replica **HMS BOUNTY** at the dock.





The **HMS BOUNTY** is very similar to the USS CONSTITUTION mold, which I am told was definitely vended at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.





This is the official trailer for the 1962 MGM film "Mutiny on the Bounty". At the end of this weeks video clip is a short home movie of a family's visit to the **HMS BOUNTY** in 1966 at Sunken Gardens, Florida.



Made for the promotional tour for the 1962 movie "MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY", the **HMS BOUNTY** moldset dates to early 1963. The mold is engraved **HMS BOUNTY** on the front, and "The Mutiny of the Bounty April 28, 1789" on the reverse. Another surviving moldset was later engraved as a souvenir from **SUNKEN TREASURE** when the **HMS BOUNTY** was on the St. Pete Pier in Florida in the 1980s.

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