

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Preserving Ghana's Military Heritage: An Enquiry into the Intangible Heritage Assets of the Ghana Navy

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Abstract

The study sought to investigate the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy after the Second World War (WW II). It examined what constitutes intangible heritage, who determines these heritage assets, and the relevance of its conservation. Using an interpretive research approach, the study explored intangible heritage assets of the Ghana Navy and their associated tourism potential. Drawing on civil-military relations theory, the study aims at understanding the relationship between the military and society in preservation and promotion of military heritage. Using, ethnographic research design, the study used observation and participants' interview. Primary data was collected from both active and veterans of the Ghana Navy while secondary data sources were obtained from archival, library, and other literary sources. The findings revealed that the Ghana Navy has been built by many years of experience, customs, and traditions which form the bedrock of the institution. However, there was a general lack of publicity on these heritages and the tourism potential associated with them. It also contributed to the

public understanding of the Ghana Navy's collections of intangible assets, while also deepening the understanding of the military as an institution with an enduring history and legacy as well as the tourism potential of naval heritage in Ghana.

Introduction

This study sought to investigate what may be referred to as the intangible heritage of Ghana's Navy and how this heritage functions within Ghana's socio-economic framework. The term, "heritage," has been defined by many scholars (Thérond, Trigona & Council of Europe, 2009; Timothy & Boyd, 2003; Harrison, 2010). It is defined as the past made present, or a cultural construction in the present that has recourse to the past (Guthrie, 2010; Palmer, 2009; Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, 1998). Based on this definition, heritage implies present-day uses of the past for a wide range of strategic goals. Though heritage is linked to the past and what has been inherited, its construction and value are determined by choices that various groups of people make in the present.

A military heritage which is the focus of this study encompasses customs, traditions, and other collections, such as colours, medals, armored cars, anti-aircraft and guns, photographs, portraits, cemeteries, and monuments. This heritage is immortalized at sites linked to war, martyrology, military history, and famous war heroes, among other things (Timothy & Boyd, 2003; Kolito, 2010). There has been an ongoing debate about the popularity and promotion of sites that house such heritages, as they evoke a deep sense of nationhood and encourage patriotism (Sharpley, 2009). People's interest in preserving military heritage to evoke sentiments, local pride, nostalgia, commercialization, and tourism development is profound (Timothy & Boyd, 2003). This helps in construction and reinforcement of group identity and national pride (Smith, 2006). Similarly, the activities of the military including the development of destructive weaponry and the horrific levels of casualties that armed forces and civilians have suffered, have had profound impacts on countries around the globe (Giddens, 1993). Military heritage has become a major tourist commodity globally of which Ghana can take a clue. Today, military heritage is among the fastest-growing segments of world tourist attractions with an estimated 37% market coverage according to UNWTO (Gaworecki, 2010).

What constitutes Ghana's military heritage includes the tangible and intangible assets of the military. These heritage valuables have been kept and preserved by Ghana's Ministry of Defense (MoD), officers and men of the military as well as other stakeholders. These heritages are the result of the military's role in defending Ghana's internal and external territories against aggression, assisting civil authorities in maintaining law and order, and assisting in other interventions during emergencies. The Ghana Navy as a unit of the Ghana Armed Forces has been involved in global peacekeeping activities and the legacies of these

operations have been a valuable asset to the Navy (Venter, 2017). The operations of the navy have been an important part of the history of Ghana, and the legacies of these operations have reinforced the national pride and socio-political aspirations of Ghanaians. Preservation of these legacies as heritage can enhance understanding of the national history and important societal ideals and traditions (Venter, 2017). It is of interest to military history enthusiasts who are intrigued by the sacred nature of places that memorialize the dead, the heroism of the navy as well as other members of the general public (Timothy & Boyd 2003). The development of the Ghana naval heritage sites will attract visitors as in the case of the Imperial War Museum, in London (Tourism NT, 2015: Venter, 2017).

Available literature indicates that only a few heritage institutions in Ghana focus on the military heritage. These include the Ghana Armed Forces Museums and Biekro Museum, located at Kumasi and Accra respectively. However, only a handful of members of the general public visit these military heritage institutions due to the restrictive nature of the military installations.

With the emergence of Ghana as a sovereign nation, the Ghana navy has undergone major changes in terms character and performance in both domestic and international operations. For example, acquisition of the state-of-the-art naval patrol ships, construction of new naval headquarters to reflect the status of the modern navy, training of personnel overseas, inclusion of women into the navy among others. Many of its operations and performance are preserved in museums in the form of intangible (songs, traditions, customs among others) and tangible assets (uniforms, colours, photographs). The navy has its institutional celebrations and participates actively in the nation's independence anniversary celebrations. It is also involved in the formation of the Naval Cadet Corps in high schools and tertiary institutions. During these activities, its members interact with the general public with whom they share their experiences and provide opportunities for appreciation of the navy's heritage. However, the rules, regulations, and professional activities of the Navy limit the extent to which members of the general public engage with the Ghana Navy. This is attributed to the navy's involvement in military rule in Ghana between 1966 and 1992 where some civilians were brutalized by some military personnel. Again, the Ghana Navy suffered a steady decline after the military coup that saw the overthrow of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah on the 24th of February 1966. There were also attempted coups d'états in Ghana in which some Ghana Naval senior officers were implicated.

Besides, the sailor magazine which is the mouthpiece of the Ghana Navy in terms of communication of all their activities both internally and externally is published annually and is not accessible to the general public, as it is restricted to only naval installations and allied agencies. As a result, there is a gap in knowledge among many Ghanaians of the navy's heritage, which appears to influence the promotion of this heritage and sites that memorialize it across Ghana. Yet, there has not been any major investigation of this heritage and how it relates to the nation's social and economic development agenda, including the promotion of naval heritage sites for tourist attractions. This study, therefore borders on what

heritage is especially, intangible heritage, who determines it which assets of the Navy are kept and conserved, and why these assets are selected and conserved.

Theoretical Review

A theory is a systematic expression of ideas, principles, and concepts that help to explain a particular phenomenon (Lederman et al., 2015). This study was guided by the civil-military relationship theory. The term civil-military relationship (CMR) connotes all kinds of links between civil society and people with arms or the military. Meri (1991) contends that the military is a very special organization, trusted with powerful arms and whose members have undergone intensive training including how to take other people's lives in combat zones. Military personnel undergo intensive training as part of their professional development. Meri further questioned the historical influence that underpins the development of the principle of democratic control and the relevance of this role in modern society. Civil-Military Relationship provides a framework that ensures a harmonious relationship between military and civilians. Huntington explained the Civil-Military Relationship as striking a balance between a functional imperative and a societal imperative which maximizes military effectiveness without harming the democratic nature of the state (Rena, 2002; Huntington, 1957). The use of Civil-military relations in the study throws more light on the clear line between military and civilian activities. The existence of a cordial relationship between the military and civilians enhances understanding of the work and operations of the military. A healthy civilian-military relationship is important for the management of military heritage while toxic relationships between military and civilians produce either distraction or mismanagement for the existence of the heritage they are supposed to protect. The military and society (civilian) form an organic whole that should not be torn apart (Janowitz, 2009; Schiff, 1995).

Applying these frameworks helped to identify, understand, and document civilians' perceptions of military heritage. Historically, military installations all over the world are very restrictive to the general public including Ghana. Closely related to this phenomenon in Ghana is the misconceptions held by civilians against the military making it impossible for the public to understand the activities of the military in Ghana including their heritage. The study used the theory of Civil-Military relations to suggest that when there is a cordial relationship between the military and civilians, military heritage like other heritages of the society will be known and patronized by the general public (Ghana Tourism Board, 2000). Involving civilians in the conservation of the naval heritage creates an opportunity for people to understand the military, and its past, appreciate its relevance, and build trust amongst those previously skeptical of the value of the military. This intellectual underpinning has revealed that the military should not see their heritage in isolation because it is through society that their heritage is created. It was against this back drop that we conducted an ethnographic study at the Western Naval Command, Sekondi; Eastern Naval Command, Tema, and the Naval

Headquarters, Burma Camp, Accra, to examine relevant literature to holistically document the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy.

Other theories have been advanced to explain civilian-military relations. These include classical and postmodern theories. The classical theory of the civil-military relations, sheds more light on the interaction between the military and civilian institutions in a society. The theory traced its root to the work of ancient scholars such as Aristotle and Cicero (Feaver, 2017). The bedrock of this theory are objective control, subjective control, professionalism and civilian supremacy. These are complex and multifaceted idea that have influenced the role of military in the society and the relationship between the military and civilian institutions (Loboda, 2018). On the other hand, postmodern theory evaluates what extent the civil-military relations have changed and what have these critical factors played in changing the relations. Unlike the classical theory, the postmodern theory deals with a critical perspective that challenges the traditional idea of power, identity and knowledge (Kim, 2009). It focuses on the ways in which civil-military relations are shaped by myriads of factors including culture, history and politics (Loboda, 2018). The theory suggests that variables such as political threat, political change and social valuable account for military transformation and civil-military relations (Kim, 2009). It has been criticized for not relying on empirical research and practical application.

Methods

The study is an exploratory focused on qualitative data-gathering strategies. Primary data was gathered from active service personnel and veterans of the Ghana Navy. The study utilized ethnographic research methods and techniques (interview, observation, and visual documentation). The secondary source of data was obtained from archives, libraries, and other literary sources. The main population for this study comprised personnel of the Ghana Navy on one side and naval veterans. In other words, Naval personnel including officers and ratings (were drawn from the Naval Headquarters, Burma Camp- Accra, Western and Eastern Commands at Sekondi and Tema respectively), and ex-naval officers. The choice of this population is mainly because of their association and experience with the Ghana Navy. Again, these groups of people are knowledgeable in the history, and traditions of the Ghana Navy. The sample of this study was purposefully selected. The core sample consisted of Navy personnel in active service and veterans of the Ghana Navy. Both naval officers and ratings in active service of Ghana Navy, comprising higher ranking naval officers such as commanders of the various naval bases were interviewed in addition to the head of the ratings. This was done to obtain in-depth knowledge about their experiences in the Ghana Navy.

In all, a sample population of twenty (20) participants participated in the study. Out of the twenty (20) participants selected, five (5) of the participants representing twenty-five percent (25%) of the population were veterans with over fifteen years (15) experience in the Ghana Navy. Additionally, eight (8) of the participants representing forty percent (40%) were naval

officers. Seven (7) of the participants constituting thirty-five percent (35%) were naval ratings (junior officers). The diagram below summarizes the number of participants.

Table 1: Number of Participants

S/n	Category of Participants	Number of Participants	Percentage (%)
1	Officers	8	40
2	Ratings (Junior Officers)	7	35
3	Veterans	5	25

Source: Field Data, 2022

From the diagram above, the naval officers constituted the largest population of the participants whereas the veterans form the least number of participants in the study. While veterans selected had spent more than 20 years serving the navy, the majority of the officers and the ratings have been with the Ghana Navy for more than five years. Regarding data collection on the veterans, the study considered veterans with more than fifteen years (15) years of experience serving the Ghana Navy. The purpose of selecting veterans with such criteria was to ascertain their experiences and knowledge during the long period of service in the Ghana Navy. The study chose officers with more than five years (5) experience in the Ghana Navy. The study considered the educational background of these officers (the entry requirement for an office is a bachelor's degree). Additionally, most of the officers interviewed were at the management level. This was to help in explaining decisions and trends on how their heritage is being managed and conserved. Concerning the naval ratings, men and women with more than five (5) years of experience in the Ghana Navy were also selected. Many years of service exposed them to various traditions and routine practices of the Navy. Additionally, some selected participants work at the naval bases manning the military artifacts as museum assistants at the naval headquarters.

Different data collection techniques comprising interviewing, observation, participation, and visual documentation were used to collect data from the field. For example, three weeks before administering the interview, we designed a data collection plan and discussed it with the flag officers at all the naval installations, and the head of the administration in charge of the Veteran Association of Ghana. The date and time for the interviews were agreed upon. Also, the participants were pre-informed about the questions that would be asked during the interview. We met with the participants on the scheduled days and times. Interviewing the subject selected for the study was useful as it offered the researchers the opportunity to gather responses that we could rely on. It was also convenient for collecting data as it allowed the participants to express their views without being influenced and ensured their anonymity (Creswell & Baez, 2020). The interview guide was categorized into four (4) sections with each section focusing on one objective: section A, covered areas such as the ranks, years of service, and gender. Section B dealt with the various material and non-material heritage of the Ghana Navy. Section C covered documentation of the military heritage and the relevance

of the naval heritage in Ghana. The final section sought information on the relevance of military heritage (Naval) for the social and economic development of Ghana.

Kvale (1996) holds that interviews are exchanged between two or more people on a subject of mutual interest. In the study, a carefully designed structured interview guides were used to collect data from the participants. This tool aided in eliciting information on the essence and bringing to light the historical narratives of place and discourses on military heritage with the Ghana Navy as a case study. The use of this interviewing format was to ensure that all interviewees were given precisely the same framework of questions. All interviews were conducted in English language.

Participants were interviewed on diverse areas for their views on dealt with the various material and non-material heritage of the Ghana Navy, military heritage documentation and its relevance, (heritage management, and the promotion of naval heritage). As stated earlier, the sample that formed the individual groups for the interviews was selected from a broad-spectrum including officers, ratings, and ex-naval officers. Additional information was obtained from curators of the various military museums at Accra and Kumasi. Curator interviews focus on some exhibitions on display at the military museums in Accra and Kumasi, this was to know why they are showcased or displayed and what they represent in the museum. Before interviews at the Ghana Naval Bases, the researchers obtained permission from the Ghana Naval Headquarters in Accra as well as consent from the participants (See appendix 1 and 2). This involved explaining the purpose of the study, procedures, benefits, confidentiality, and non-financial rewards for participation. Participants were granted an opportunity to ask questions before taking part in the study. Researchers scheduled interviews with participants at the Naval base and homes of naval veterans. Semi-structured interview guides were used while allowing for flexibility to explore relevant issues that might arise. Active listening skills were used to ensure a productive conversation to gather comprehensive data on the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy.

Again, researchers visited the Veteran headquarters in Accra and were received by the veteran administrator. With the help of the veteran administrator, other naval veterans were introduced to the team of researchers. Thus, during the study, participants or key informants referred other people who were potential custodians of reliable information about military heritage and the Ghana Navy. This technique ensured that the known participants were introduced to other potential participants within the population or target group. Most of these individuals were aged and had in-depth knowledge about the history of the Ghana Armed Forces explicitly the Ghana Navy. They were met either independently or in groups as we visited their houses to interview them on their stories and experiences when they were in active services.

Observation is one of the most important tools for collecting data in qualitative research. It is the act of taking note of a phenomenon in the field setting. Creswell (2013), states that observation involves the use of all the five senses-sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste in

data collection. At the respective Naval Bases visited during the study, the researchers became both direct and participant observers, as we observed among other things naval ships, uniforms, weapons, customs, traditions, and behaviours. As part of the study, the researchers attended several open days, military ceremonies (e.g., parade), military graduations, and games at the naval bases to observe the traditions and customs of the navy. Researchers analyzed interview data systemically to identify common themes, patterns, and insights into the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy. Thematic analysis was employed and used to make meaning of the qualitative data collected from the participants.

The methodology of the study is limited by the number of participants selected for the study. Additionally, the observation and participation method employed by the study also required researchers to visit naval installation from time to time to observe their activities. Though, it was time consuming, however, it was very effective in terms of accurate data collection.

Results and Discussion

The study presents the background information of the participants as shown in Table 1 above. Overall, 20 participants made up of 8 officers, 7 ratings (junior officer) and 5 naval veterans were the basis of the primary data for the study. The participant's demographic features provided insights into their various backgrounds in the services. The study also analyzed the participant's characteristics such as ranks, sex distribution, age, years of service, and educational background. The majority of the participants were active service personnel made up of ratings and officers. There were 17 male participants to 3 females. Gentry et al. (2019), puts forward arguments underlying the imbalance between men and women in the security services. In the case of the Ghana Navy, women had been excluded from the service for more than four decades (Amoo-Welsing et al., 2019). This might be attributed to the history of the maritime world, where women were deemed to possess some bad luck (Amoo-Welsing et al., 2019). This is in sharp contrast with the assertion that ships have traditionally been referred to as women in the maritime world because of the protection it gives to sailors (Kontoh et al., 2019). Women's inclusion into the military service especially Ghana Navy started after the Beijing Conference on 4th September 1995 (Amoo-Welsing et al., 2019). This was a period when the Ghana Navy was undergoing a major re-organization under the leadership of Vice Admiral Owusu Ansah (Amoo-Welsing et al., 2019). Women were encouraged to join the Officer Corps of the Ghana Navy during his administration. Before that, women were forbidden to serve aboard ships (Amoo-Welsing et al., 2019) since women were physiologically regarded as incapable of handling combat. (Farouk, 2019).

The study also reveals that heritage may be understood as present-day uses of the past for a wide array of strategic goals that may include economic, group, and national identity constructions, and pride (Nilson & Thorell 2018; Hoelscher & Anheier, 2011). It is important to note that contemporary demands to create economic enterprise for local people in the

area of employment and revenue mobilization become the driving force for creating heritage. What heritage may be referred to within any nation or society, however, is often determined by the dominant group's local history, ideology, and interests (Smith, 2006). The definition of heritage changes over time just as the interests of people may change from one generation to another. Hoelscher et al. (2011) further observed that while earlier definitions focused on heredity and the transfer of possession, contemporary definitions emphasize origins, identity, and sense of place and belonging. This assertion has been reaffirmed by Henderson (2001, 2002). In his opinion, there is a possibility that what is termed heritage could be fabricated or reinvented by hegemonic groups to support their identity. Intangible heritage generally constitutes the non-physical—practices, performances, representations, ideology, knowledge, beliefs, and skills and the varied media by which they are expressed. In the case of the Ghana Navy, the intangible heritage includes naval traditions, customs and rituals, oral histories and stories, music and dance, art and craft, naval folklore, and mythology. The intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy is seen in everyday life of the navy. It includes ceremonies such as crossing the line, the naval salute, commissioning and de-commissioning of the navy ships, ceremonies of colours of sunset, strip wetting, and naval burial.

The study revealed that intangible heritage had gone through many processes of cultural, historical, and operational changes over time (Logan et al., 2015). Indigenous knowledge of coastal communities, including the use of ancient knowledge of celestial navigation, honouring marine deities and ancestors, rituals, and ceremonies (pre- and post-arrival at the sea) characterized the activities of the Ghana Navy (Owusu-Ansah, 2023). British colonial legacy – the adaptation of the Royal Navy tradition and customs, and the establishment of the Gold Coast naval unit have also influenced the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy.

Regarding the determinants of the Ghana Naval heritage, our study identified various stakeholders such as the leadership of the Ghana Navy, Naval historians, Ghana Museums and Monuments Boards (GMMB), Ghana National Commission on Culture, and the United Nations Education and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). These stakeholders work hand in hand to identify, document, and preserve the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy. This heritage asset comes with a huge financial benefit to both the institution and the nations (Amenyo-Xa, 2020).

Concerning how intangible heritage is kept and conserved, the Ghana Navy uses names of national heroes, historical towns in Ghana, and important landmarks named after their fleet of ships. For example, Ghana Naval ships are named after warriors such as Yaa Asantwaa and Naa Gbawa, landmarks such as Yogaga, Volta, Afadjato, and historical towns such as (Elmina, Kemenda, Achimota) in Ghana. The GNS Yaa Asantawaa was named after the late Nana Yaa Asantwaa I, the Queen Mother of the Ejisu Traditional Area in the Ashanti Kingdom. In 1901, she exhibited incomparable courage and leadership by re-mobilizing the Ashanti Army in an uprising against the British Army invaders of the Ashanti Kingdom. This followed the capture of Nana Prempeh I. Though the British conquered the Ashanti eventually, act of courage and

exceptional bravery exhibited by Nana Yaa Asantawaa continue to demonstrate a sense of pride and patriotism to many Ghanaians.

Similarly, the GNS Gbewaa was also named after the late warrior king, Naa Gbewaa of the Dagomba Kingdom. He was well known for his extraordinary gallantry and valor in the battles across the Northern savannah plains of the Gold Coast. He was strong enough to mobilize the armies of Dagomba to conquer and establish in the Northern Region, Ghana around Yendi. Others are named after important towns such as Elmina and Komenda. Historically, these towns in Ghana had encounters with the Europeans during the contact period. Elmina was the first European settlement town in West Africa during the contact period. The town is home to Fort Coenraadsburg on St. Jago Hill, built by the Portuguese in 1555 under the name Forte de Santiago. It was a major centre of commerce between the indigenes and the Europeans. In 1637, it was conquered and renamed by the Dutch, after they captured Elmina's main castle. Today, Elmina's main economic industry is fishing, salt production, and tourism (Sonne, 2010). The Ghana Navy has a close tie with the people of Elmina. During the annual Bakatua festival, some naval personnel are sent there to take part in the celebration as a way of fostering a good relationship with the town. Historically, Komenda was one of the ancient towns in Ghana. The town used to have a great and fearful hero who used to go to the forest to kill the beast and show the body to the eldest of the town. The news about this hero spread to other settlements around. The Ghana Navy still maintains strong ties with the people of Komenda.

Concerning the landmarks in Ghana, the Ghana Navy has some ships that have been named after River Volta and Mountain Afadjato, Yogaga among others. These are important landmarks in the development of Ghana. The Volta River is the largest in Ghana. It flows south into Ghana from the Bobo-Dioulasso highlands of Burkina Faso. The river passes through Akosombo where it has been dammed for hydropower generation/electricity. Mount Afadja is also located close to the Ghana-Togo border. Known as Afadjato to the Ewe people of Ghana and Togo, it is the highest mountain in Ghana. It is in the Volta Region of Ghana, close to the villages of Liati Wote and Gbledi Gbogame in the Afadjato South District and Hohoe Municipality. Mount Afadja is one of the most visited tourist attractions in the Volta Region of Ghana, welcoming thousands of visitors from around the globe annually. Naming ships after important landmarks, historic towns, and legends in Ghanaian history, not only portrays naval ships as strong and formidable, but also evokes a deep sense of nationhood, patriotism, and local pride among Ghanaians (Sharpley, 2009).

With respect to why these assets are selected, the study revealed that the intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy represents a symbol of maritime history and heritage for generations yet unborn, evokes a sense of national pride and identity (Sharpley, 2009) as well as a teaching tool for naval history and traditions. Again, conserving Ghana's Naval heritage promotes cultural preservation, facilitates cultural exchange with other navies around the world, and fosters community involvement and awareness. It also provides affordable insight into past operations of the Ghana Navy.

Concerning how these assets are conserved, the study revealed that the Ghana Navy has a robust archive (Beikro Museum) where history, documents, and records are conserved at the naval Headquarters in Accra. In addition, naval regulations, traditions, and costumes are passed down from generation to generation. Moreover, Ghana is also a signatory to many international conventions and treaties on safeguarding intangible heritage. For example, the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), Ghana also ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) in 1989.

In a broader term, the intangible heritage of the Ghana navy has important implications for the country's national identity as the naval cultural and traditions reflect the values and norms of the country's coastal communities. The Ghana navy has a deep respect for the sea and its powers. These are manifested in its traditions and norms. The personnel are often engaging in rituals and ceremonies that appease the goddess of the sea for safe passage and good fortune. Additionally, the folklore and storytelling of the Ghana Navy reflect the cultural practices of the coastal communities as personnel share stories and legends of sea creatures passed down from generation to generation.

The intangible heritage of the Ghana Navy also has national security implications with other regional navies and maritime stakeholders both in West Africa and Africa. Cooperation and collaboration with other regional navies and maritime stakeholders in the areas of maritime communication and understanding for proper territory control and patrols. The trust and confidence demonstrated by the Ghana navy have played significant role in shaping its intangible heritage. The institution has gained recognition for its professionalism, reliability and responsiveness to emergencies situations. The study revealed that the naval personnel are proud of their cultural heritage and are prepared to preserve and promote it.

Conclusion

The Ghana Navy's heritage, established after World War II with the formation of the Gold Coast Voluntary Naval Force, represents over six decades of maritime tradition. This heritage emerged alongside the establishment of the Gold Coast Voluntary Naval Force following World War II. The force initially focused on conducting seaward patrols and clearing coastal waters of sea mines to ensure maritime security. This study reveals significant opportunities to enhance public awareness, educational programs, and tourism development around naval heritage sites.

The study recommends deliberate public awareness programmes such as exhibitions and commemorative events, parades, ceremonies, reenactments, and honouring military personnel. These strategies have the potential of raising public awareness and promoting national pride. The study further recommends developing a mobile app that provides information on Ghana's naval heritage including its history, culture and traditions. The study put forward creating a documentary on naval heritage that interviews experts in the military and historians who have contributed to the Ghana Navy as an institution.

Additionally, public education strategy in second-cycle institutions in Ghana as well as public advertisement in both the print and electronic media will equally bring to the attention the intangible heritage asset of the Ghana Navy. These will help create further awareness and promote tourism potential of the Navy. Education on military heritage will improve awareness about the importance of maintaining military heritage, military sites, artifacts, and documentation. It is also an indicator of well-informed management strategies needed to prioritize the preservation of military heritage to ensure accessibility for future generations

The study further recommends that the strategic development of naval heritage tourism could attract public interest while generating sustainable revenue for national development initiatives. There is a need to boost the tourism potential of the Ghana Navy by collaborating with state institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism, as well as other private tour operators to promote military heritage tourism in Ghana. Again, there is a need for supporting heritage conservation. Policymakers need to appreciate the need to preserve military heritage, which will result in policies that fund conservation projects, protect military heritage, and historical landmarks, and establish legal frameworks to protect and prevent the destruction of heritages.

Military heritage management should be guided by educational insights that ensure that the narrative is not only inclusive, but also reflects diverse perspectives, such as those of local communities, veterans, or indigenous groups. This approach can strengthen community ties and local support for heritage projects. There is a need to educate stakeholders on military heritage which will help develop tourism strategies that offer authentic and educational experiences. This approach will attract visitors interested in military tourism, such as battlefield tours, museum visits, and memorials.

In conclusion, comprehensive approaches in public awareness, education programmes and tourism development are important strategies for promoting Ghana's naval heritage. It ensures that its history and traditions are preserved and commemorated. Knowledge of military heritage and history will also reinforce national pride and can influence foreign policy by acknowledging the lessons learned from the past.

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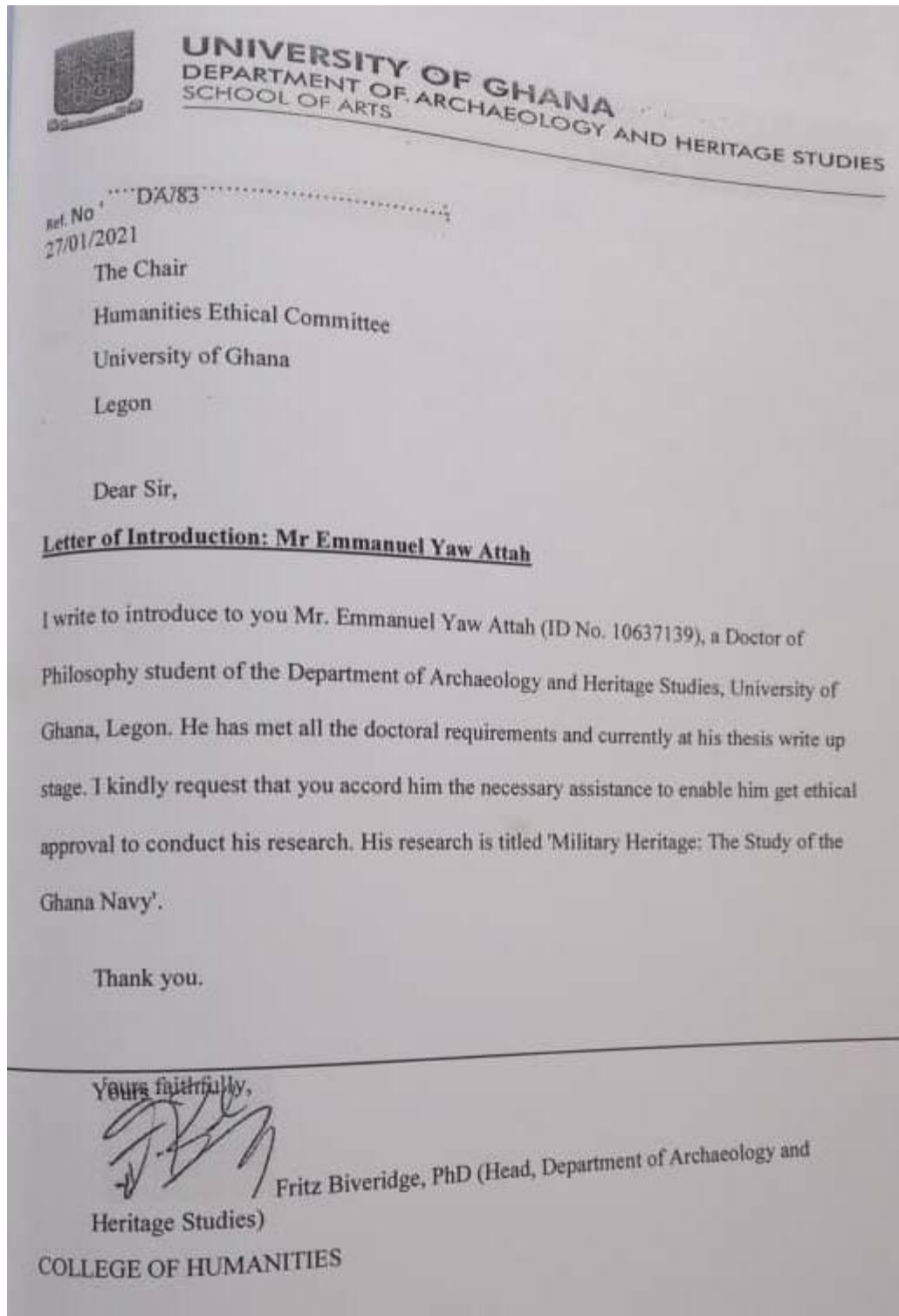
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APPENDIX 1:



APPENDIX 2:

CONSENT FORM TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDY

Research Topic: Preserving Ghana's Military Heritage: An Enquiry into the Intangible Heritage Assets of the Ghana Navy

Researchers: Emmanuel Yaw Attah, Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah and Alexander Kwabiah

Purpose of the Study

You are invited to participate in a research study examining the intangible heritage assets of the Ghana Navy. This study aims to investigate what constitutes intangible heritage, its relevance for conservation, and who determines these heritage assets. The research explores the tourism potential of naval heritage and its role in Ghana's socio-economic development.

Research Procedures

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be involved in the following activities:

- Participating in an interview conducted in English
- Sharing your knowledge and experiences related to naval heritage
- Potentially being observed during naval ceremonies, parades, or other relevant activities
- Having your responses documented for research purposes

Duration

The interview will take approximately 10 minutes of your time.

Confidentiality

We assure you that:

- Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential
- Your responses will be anonymized in any publications or presentations
- All data will be stored securely and accessed only by authorized researchers
- No personally identifying information will be shared without your explicit consent

Risks and Benefits

Risks

- There are minimal risks associated with participation in this study
- You may choose to skip any questions that make you uncomfortable

Benefits

- Contributing to the documentation and preservation of Ghana's naval heritage
- Helping improve public understanding of naval traditions and customs
- Supporting the development of military heritage tourism in Ghana

Voluntary Participation

- Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary
- You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty
- You may refuse to answer any questions without consequence

Participant's Agreement

I have read and understood the information provided above. I voluntarily agree to participate in this research study. I understand that I will receive a copy of this consent form.

Participant's Signature

Date

Bio Notes

Emmanuel Yaw Attah (Ph.D.) is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of the Department at the Social Development Section of the Centre for Languages and Liberal Studies (CELLIBS), Takoradi Technical University. He holds PhD in Museums and Heritage Studies from the University of Ghana, a master of Arts in World Heritage Studies from the Brandenburg University of Technology- Cottbus, Germany and B.Ed. (Social Sciences) from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. His research interest includes African and heritage studies.

Francis Kwesi Kyirewiah (Ph.D.) is a lecturer at the Social Development Section of the Centre for Languages and Liberal Studies (CELLIBS), Takoradi Technical University. Mr. Kyirewiah holds a PhD and MPhil in International Relations from Jilin University and Zhejiang University in China respectively. His research interests include African Studies, international relations, cultural heritage and diplomacy.

Alexander Kwabiah, is a lecturer at the Tourism Department of the Takoradi Technical University. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at the Durban University of Technology, South Africa. His research areas include Agricultural tourism. Kwabiah holds a Master of Science in Tourism from Durban University of Technology, South Africa.

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