

***History of the
C. T. Marcilio Dias - D-25***
Section Seven

1974 ~ 1994



***The Tucker in Brazil
Dias Specifications
Brazilian Navy Operations
The Final Disposition***

HISTORY OF THE BNS C. T. MARCILIO DIAS – D25



RADM R. G. L. Labarthe, the Brazilian Naval Attaché to the United States, accepted **TUCKER** for the Federal Republic of Brazil and the ex-**TUCKER** was commissioned in the Brazilian Navy as the **C.T. Marcilio Dias (D 25)** with CDR Tito her first commanding officer.

The ship's new namesake, MARCILIO DIAS, was similar to HENRY W. TUCKER -- both were enlisted men who died in the thick of battle for their ships and shipmates.

Marcilio Dias was a Brazilian Able Seaman (equivalent to an E-3) an enlisted sailor in the Brazilian Imperial Navy and hero of the battles of Payssandú and Riachuelo, during the War of the Triple Alliance against Paraguay in 1865. He literally died on the stern to protect the colors and helped the Brazilian Fleet win the decisive naval battle of the war. In fact, this was the last major naval battle Brazil had to

fight until World War II, when its navy distinguished itself by sinking a number of German U-boats in the South Atlantic. **C. T. Marcilio Dias (D 25)** is the fourth ship of the Brazilian Navy to bear that name, Marcilio Dias.

The first ship was a War Transportation ship commissioned in August 1865, which participated in operations in the Itapiru and Curuzu provinces of Brazil.

The second was a 150-ton torpedo boat, which participated in a "Revolt of the Fleet". The fleet was commanded by Admiral Custodio De Melo to break the blockade imposed by a fort on the entrance of Guanabara Bay near Rio de Janeiro.

The third ship was a destroyer built by Brazilian shipyards that operated in the Atlantic Ocean during World War II.

The fourth "**MARCILIO DIAS**" which joins the Brazilian Navy was expected to serve her Navy and country with the same dedication as her forbearers who have carried this proud name.

Shown is the ship's logo adopted for C.T. Marcilio Dias (D 25).



HISTORY OF THE BNS C. T. MARCILIO DIAS – D25

C. T. MARCILIO DIAS SPECIFICATIONS AS PUBLISHED BY BRAZIL

Displacement Tonnage	2,245 tons (light), 3,498 tons (full load)
Dimensions	Length: 119 Meters: Beam: 12.46 Meters; Average Draft: 5.63 Meters.
Propulsion	4 Babcock & Wilcox boilers; 2 General Electric steam turbines generating 60,000 shaft horsepower, connected to two shafts and two screws.
Speed	34.5 knots maximum
Range	5,800 nautical miles
Armament	Four 5" guns in two twin Mk 38 turrets; Two triple-torpedo launchers: antisubmarine Mk 32 torpedoes (12 ¾"/324 mm); One Mk 116 Mod. 3 ASROC anti-submarine rocket launchers with 8 tubes
Radar/Sonar	One SPS-40B air-search radar; One SPS-10C surface-search radar; One Mk 25 Mod\ 3 fire-control radar linked to a Mk 37 fire-control system; MAGE WLR 1C and WLR 3A; One CME ULQ-6B; One SQS-23D sonar system.
Aircraft	One Westland UH-2 Wasp helicopter.
International Call Sign	P W M D
Crew	301 men (18 officers, 283 enlisted men)
NOTE: The "DASH" helicopter was replaced with a version the Brazilians called the "WASP" to expand the anti-submarine range.	

The ship **MARCILIO DIAS** was home-ported in Rio de Janeiro and served as part of the Brazilian Navy for 19 years, finally to be permanently "retired" in 1992. The **MARCILIO DIAS** aka **HENRY W. TUCKER** had come to the end of her useful life.

C.T. MARCILIO DIAS (D 25) HISTORY -- Translated from the MARCILIO DIAS website.



In October, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in Operation UNITAS XVIII, together with the Brazilian Navy destroyers MARIZ E BARROS – D 26, (Former **USS Brinkley Bass (DD 887)**), MARANHÃO – D 33, (Former **USS Shields (DD 596)**) RIO GRANDE DO NORTE – D-37, (Former **USS Strong (DD 758)**) and ESPÍRITO SANTO – D-38, (Former **USS Lowry (DD 770)**) plus the Brazilian Navy submarines AMAZÔNAS – S 16 and RIACHUELO – S 22. **MARCÍLIO DIAS** also participated with three U.S. Navy destroyers and the nuclear attack submarine **USS Shark (SS 591)**, along with three Argentine Navy destroyers and two Uruguayan Navy destroyers. Participating in the operation were Brazilian Naval Air Force helicopters, plus two F5E Tiger II fighters and a P-16 Tracker patrol aircraft from the Brazilian Air Force.

HISTORY OF THE BNS C. T. MARCÍLIO DIAS – D25



In September and October, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in the second phase of OPERATION UNITAS XXI which took place in the naval operations area between Rio de Janeiro and Recife as part of a Brazilian Navy Task Group under the command of Rear Admiral Walter Faria Maciel. The U.S. Navy Task Group, under the command of Rear Admiral Peter K. Culkins, USN, was comprised of the U.S. Navy destroyers **USS Arthur W. Radford (DD 968)** and **USS King (DDG 41)**, the frigate **USS Pharris (FF 1094)** and the nuclear attack submarine **USS Snook (SSN 592)**.



In November during a mission off Cabo Frio, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** had its 200th helicopter landing. The event was proudly celebrated by the ship's crew, which gave a commemorative plaque to the pilot of Wasp helicopter N-7017.



In September, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION DRAGON XVIII as part of a Brazilian Navy Task Force under Squadron Commander Vice Admiral Arthur Ricart da Costa. It was comprised of the Brazilian Navy aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS, the destroyers SANTA CATARINA and MATO GROSSO, the oiler BELMONTE, the amphibious landing ships DUQUE DE CAXIAS and GARCIA D'ÁVILA, the naval training transports BARROSO PEREIRA, ARY PARREIRAS and SOARES DUTRA, the submarine CEARÁ, the naval tugboat TRIUNFO, the minesweepers ARAÇATUBA and ABROLHOS and three landing craft-utility, the GUARAPARI, TAMBAÚ and CAMBORIÚ, along with a contingent of 2,500 Brazilian Marines.



In October, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION FRATERO V, which took place with ships from the Argentine Navy along the Brazilian coast from Santos to Rio de Janeiro. Besides **MARCÍLIO DIAS**, participants in the Brazilian Navy Task Group included the frigates NITERÓI – F 40 and INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, the destroyer SERGIPE – D 35, the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27 and the submarine CEARÁ – S 14. The Argentine Navy Task Group was comprised of the surface ships SANTÍSSIMA TRINIDAD, DRUMMOND, GUERRICO and GRANVILLE and the submarine SALTA. The combined Task Groups visited the port of Santos in São Paulo State in Brazil.

HISTORY OF THE BNS C. T. MARCÍLIO DIAS – D25



PARREIRAS – G 21.

In January, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION ASPIRANTEX 84/TROPICALEX I/84, held in waters off Northeastern Brazil, as part of Task Force 10 under the command of Vice Admiral Luiz Leal Ferreira. Brazilian Navy ships included the aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11 (Flagship), the frigates NITERÓI – F 40, CONSTITUIÇÃO – F 42 and INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, the destroyers MARANHÃO – D 33, MARIZ E BARROS – D-26, ALAGOAS – D 36, ESPÍRITO SANTO – D 38, SERGIPE – D 35 (Former **USS James C. Owens (DD 776)**) and SANTA CATARINA – D 32, (Former **USS Irwin (DD 794)**) the naval training transport ARY PARREIRAS – G 21, the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27, the oiler BELMONTE – G 24 and the submarine CEARÁ – S 14 (Former **USS Amberjack (SS 522)**), plus the independently operating minesweepers ATALAIA – M 17 and ANHATOMIRIM – M 16.

MARCÍLIO DIAS, ALAGOAS, (Former Brinkley Bass) and UNIÃO are together during operation TEMPEREX in May 1984.

In May, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION TEMPEREX I/84 in southern Brazilian coastal waters as part of a Brazilian Navy Task Force comprised of the aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11 (Flagship), the frigates DEFENSORA – D 41, CONSTITUIÇÃO – F 42 and UNIÃO – F 45, the destroyers MARIZ E BARROS – D 26, SANTA CATARINA – D 32, MARANHÃO – D 33, SERGIPE – D 35 and ALAGOAS – D 36, the naval training transport ARY PARREIRAS – G 21, the submarines CEARÁ – S 14 and AMAZÔNAS – S 16 and the naval training transport ARY



In January, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** served in the Task Group participating in OPERATION TROPICALEX I/85, held in coastal waters between the states of São Paulo and Pernambuco under the command of Vice Admiral David Blower. The Task Group was comprised of the Brazilian Navy aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11 (Flagship), the frigates NITERÓI – F 40, DEFENSORA – F 41 and LIBERAL – F 43, the destroyers SANTA CATARINA – D 32, MARANHÃO – D 33, RIO GRANDE DO NORTE – D 37 and ESPÍRITO SANTO – D 38, the naval training transport BARROSO PEREIRA – G 16 and the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27. Escorting the Task Group were the submarines CEARÁ – S 14 and AMAZÔNAS – S 16 and the oiler BELMONTE – G 24. The Task Group visited the Brazilian ports of Recife (Pernambuco), Cabedelo (Paraíba), Maceió (Alagoas), Salvador (Bahia), Vitória (Espírito Santo) and Santos (São Paulo State).

In March, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** conducted joint training exercises with the destroyers MARIZ E BARROS – D 26, MATO GROSSO – D 34, SANTA CATARINA – D 32 and the submarine CEARÁ – S 14. The ships visited the port of Santos (São Paulo State).

In April and May, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION TEMPEREX I/85 in coastal waters between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo as part of a Task Force comprised of the Brazilian Navy ships INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, DEFENSORA – F 41 and NITERÓI – F 40, the destroyers MARIZ E BARROS – D 26, RIO GRANDE DO NORTE – D 37 and ALAGOAS – D 36, the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27 and the oiler BELMONTE – G 24. The ships visited the port of Santos (São Paulo State).

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In October, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION UNITAS XXVI in the waters between Santos and Salvador. The first phase of Brazilian Navy operations was commanded by Read Admiral Edson Ferraciu, while the second phase was commanded by Rear Admiral Gothardo de Miranda e Silva. The Brazilian Navy Task Force was comprised of the Brazilian Navy aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11 (Flagship), the frigates CONSTITUIÇÃO – F 42 and INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, as well as the destroyers ALAGOAS – D 36 and RIO GRANDE DO NORTE – D 37, the submarine RIACHUELO – S 22 and the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27. The U.S. Navy Task Force, commanded by Rear Admiral Richard C. Ulstick USN, consisted of the destroyer **USS Stump (DD 978)** (flagship), **USS Claude V. Ricketts (DDG 5)**, the frigate **USS Joseph Hewes (FF 1078)**, the amphibious landing ship **USS Saganaw (LST 1188)**, the fast combat support ship **USS Milwaukee (AOR 2)** and the nuclear attack submarine **USS Shark (SS 591)**. The Uruguayan Task Group under the command of Captain José Tomás, Commander of the Escort Division of the Uruguayan Navy, consisted of the destroyer escort 18 DE JULIO, plus U.S. Navy PC-3 Orion aircraft from Patrol Squadron VP-23, "The Seahawks."



In July, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION TROPICALEX II/86, as part of a Task Group that included, among other Brazilian Navy ships, the aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11 (Flagship) and the frigate INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44. The Task Group visited the Brazilian cities of Salvador (Bahia) and Recife (Pernambuco).

Between 9 and 20 September, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION FRATERNOS VIII, held jointly with units of the Argentine Navy.

This photo, taken in 1986 shows MARCILIO DIAS and the Argentine Naval ship Rio Grande do Norte (D 37), which was former USS Strong (DD 758).



In addition to **MARCÍLIO DIAS**, the Brazilian Navy Task Force included the frigates NITERÓI – F 40 and INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, the destroyer SANTA CATARINA – D 32 and the submarine AMAZÔNAS – S 16. The accompanying Argentine Navy Task Group was made up of the surface ships ALMIRANTE BROWN, LA ARGENTINA, HEROINA and ESPORA and the submarine SALTA. The Task Groups visited the Argentine ports of Puerto Belgrano and Buenos Aires.

In October, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION UNITAS 1986, during which the ship was honored for her outstanding performance in joint antisubmarine exercises. The commanding officer of the U.S. Navy's nuclear attack submarine **USS Shark (SSN 591)** presented a plaque to the commanding officer of **MARCÍLIO DIAS**, Commander Francisco José de Oliveira Lima that said "**TO SHARK KILLER.**"

On 10 November, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** was visited by the U.S. Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Carlisle C.H. Trost, USN.



In January, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** began a normal repair period, during which her sonar dome was repaired. In September, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION DRAGON XXIII as part of the Brazilian Navy Task Force under the command of Vice Admiral Mário César Flores.

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In January, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION ASPIRANTEX 88/TROPICALEX I/88, held in the maritime area between Rio de Janeiro and Alagoas as part of Task Force 10 under the command of Vice Admiral José Cabo Teixeira de Carvalho. Brazilian Navy ships included the aircraft carrier MINAS GERAIS – A 11, the frigates NITERÓI – F 40, CONSTITUIÇÃO – F 42 and INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44, the destroyers MARANHÃO – D 33, PIAUÍ – D 31, (Former **USS Lewis Hancock (DD 675)**), SERGIPE – D 35 and ESPÍRITO SANTO – D 38, the amphibious landing ship DUQUE DE CAXIAS – G 26, the naval training transport CUSTÓDIO DE MELLO – G 20, the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27 and the submarines HUMAITÁ – S 20, RIACHUELO – S 21 and GOIÁS – S 15. The Task Group visited the Brazilian ports of Salvador, Bahia and Recife, Pernambuco.



Between August and September, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** participated in OPERATION UNITAS XXX with a Brazilian Navy Task Group comprised of the frigates INDEPENDÊNCIA – F 44 and LIBERAL – F 43, the destroyers MARIZ E BARROS – D 26 and ESPÍRITO SANTO – D 38, the naval transport MARAJÓ – G 27 and the submarines GOIÁS – S 15 and AMAZÔNAS – S 16. Also participating in this exercise were the Argentine Navy ship GUERRICO – P 2, the Uruguayan Navy destroyer escorts DE JULIO – DE 3 and ARTIGAS – DE 2 and the U.S. Navy destroyers **USS Briscoe (DD 977)** and **USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG 23)**, the frigate **USS Jesse L. Brown (FF 1089)**, the amphibious landing ship **USS Manitowoc (LST 1180)** and the submarine **USS Tinosa (SS 606)**.



MARCÍLIO DIAS was formally decommissioned as an active ship in the Brazilian Navy.



In September, she was transferred to CASNAV – the Brazilian Navy’s Naval Systems Analysis Center, to be utilized as a target ship for live-fire exercises. She was sunk by the Brazilian Navy submarine TAMOIO – S 31 in the first test detonation of the new Brazilian MK 24 Tigerfish acoustic homing torpedo.

Electronic equipment, including the radar and radio antennas and all spare parts and stores were removed. All tanks of **MARCÍLIO DIAS** were pumped out to remove any remaining fuel or other hazardous materials. Some of the watertight hatches and doors were left open to force a “timed” sinking. On 19 September 1994, **MARCÍLIO DIAS** was then towed to south of area B4 by the tug “TRIDENTE”. Area B4 is located due south of Rio de Janeiro, far enough to be away from the coastal shipping lanes where Brazilian war ships can train and exercise. The Frigate “LIBERAL” participated in the exercise with her own aircraft to prevent any merchant ships from entering the target area.

MARCÍLIO DIAS was taken about 110 miles due south from Rio de Janeiro to the location:

Latitude 24° 48’ 12” South

Longitude 43° 16’ 48” West

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This location is just beyond the edge of the South American continental shelf where the water depth rapidly changes from about 900 feet (276 Meters) deep to over 6000 feet (1845 Meters) deep.



The portion of Brazil shown is outlined in the inset map of South America. The pushpin marker is the location of where *TUCKER* found her final resting place.

The following messages were recorded on board the Brazilian submarine "*TAMOIO*" at the time of the exercise:

"... Final firing observation: Mark 300 degrees, distance by stadimeter confirmed with the distance generated by the Fire Control System (Brazilian Initials) SDT."

"Fire Control System ready to fire."

"Launch!"

"Torpedo in the water, initiating it's firing run."

The sonar operator continuously indicates the course of the torpedo, confirming that it is heading in the direction of the target.

The Captain gives the order to arm the "combat fuse" (This permits the detonation of the torpedo's explosive charge, which will ignite when influenced by the target's magnetic field).

The torpedo acquired the target's magnetic field and makes corrections to its course.

The monitor of the fire control system indicates the torpedo running at its final depth.

All eyes are fixed on the cross hairs.

This is approximately an instant before impact, but the minutes seem to last like an eternity.

"Strong explosion bearing 301 degrees!"

Target hit; vibration registered on board.

The torpedo's explosion broke the target in half.

Twenty minutes after impact, the target sank at a depth of 650 meters (approximately 2000 feet).

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The first submarine constructed in Brazil thus successfully launched an acoustic homing torpedo.

"TUCKER'S END - 94"

WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED BY - TROY A. KRAUSE CS3

TUCKER Shipmate from January 1972. - November 1973

SHE SWIFTLY SINKS INTO THE SEA, FRIENDLY FIRE BREACHED HER SIDE,
SHE CAME TO REST IN THE BRINEY DEEP AND SOME SAY SHE DIED.

IT SEEMED SUCH AN IGNOBLE END, AT FIRST WE COULD ONLY CRY,
BUT ONE DAY SOON, SHE'LL SAIL AGAIN, FOR TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

YES FATE HAD CRUELLY PLAYED HER HAND, SHE WAS GONE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE,
THEY MAY HAVE SUNK OUR BELOVED TIN CAN, BUT TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

THEY SAID LIKE US, SHE WAS PAST HER PRIME, NO MISSION COULD SHE TRY,
YES FOR HER, TIS THE END OF THE LINE, BUT TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

SHE NO LONGER SAILS UPON THE WAVES, ON THE BOTTOM SHE NOW LIES,
YES, GONE DOWN TO A WATERY GRAVE, BUT TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

FOR THE MOMENT SHE SLEEPS, IN HER LIQUID TOMB, CUT OFF FROM THE SUNNY SKY,
AND WHILE IT APPEARS, THAT SHE IS DOOMED, TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

SAY NOT FAREWELL, TO OUR MIGHTY FRIEND, FOR AS GHOSTS WE'LL SAIL THE TIDE,
REST WELL, REST WELL, TIS NOT THE END, FOR TUCKER SHALL NEVER DIE.

Thus ends a truly extraordinary naval career for one of the most remarkable but unsung true workhorses of the Navy. I am sure we're all proud to have been a part of this fine ship.