**MENTIONS OF BIDDYS IN ROGER CASEMENT’S BLACK DIARIES**



Edward Kay Biddy was born October 11, 1895 in Kingstown, St. Vincent, Windward Islands, British West Indies. His father, Benjamin Kay Biddy, was a native of St. Vincent, born in 1860 either in Kingstown or on the nearby island of Bequia, where both his parents were born.

**1911 LEDGER**

Master E.K. Biddy.

Bishop’s Court Hill. **[See 29 August and 1 September entries for more on Teddy Biddy.]**

Bridgetown.

Barbados…

Monday 28th AugustArr. Barbados and landed. Wine a/c Barman for Boys 1.0.9. Steward 2nd Class for boys 5.0 **[Casement went 1st class while the two Indian boys who were being returned home after what must have been the experience of a lifetime, travelled 2nd class. Nina described them as “light‑mahogany coloured, their skins smooth as satin; extremely clean they would bathe if permitted half a dozen times in a day.”[[1]](#endnote-1) Happy and well‑looked after, as they were in England (particularly by Casement’s women) re‑entry to a dangerous and primitive existence after such cultural novelty and material wealth might have been very unsettling.]** Evening in Barbados To Club and Pier.

Tuesday 29th AugustAt Barbados. At Sea View Hotel…Boy to bathe 6d. **[In margin] X** 6d. …2 boys to swim today. Expect Teddy at 4. At 4 he has not come so I fear he is away in St. Vincent.

Boys R. and O. for spending 3.0.

Teddy came, met on bicycle and back to room and dinner. After dinner to room and he looked and looked. I saw his big huge and felt mine and he looked all the time and back on bicycle…Teddy to come tomorrow at 5 to bath. Then will see and feel. **[This day’s entry is marked on the government’s typed copy with a forest of crosses. Teddy Biddy, a previous acquaintance, must have been summoned immediately on arrival. The youth has a never-before noticed, or revealed history, dating three years back to the two month convalescence Casement spent, in 1908, in Barbados, when suffering terrible gastritis. In another cash ledger, a *Cyclopean Exercise Book*, inscribed “Notes at Barbadoes” he merited his own entry headed “Teddy a/c.” Casement carefully recorded eight different items in it amounting to “1.3.0”. They included “4.2” for a “Ticket” which from the price of four shillings for his own “Bath Ticket” suggests it too was a season entry to a swimming pool.[[2]](#endnote-2) This item is compelling, corroborative evidence of the authenticity of the Black Diaries.]**

Wednesday 30 AugustTo Hastings Bath 7.50 and several and then nice fair haired boy, blue pants and thick and stiff. To bath together 11.30. Bath 3**[d.]** Cgttes 1/‑. Bath (11.30) 5d. He then glorious form and limbs and it…Teddy and “Budds” at 5.30. Latter lovely and huge one too. Only 11 years old on 17th July. **[Details underlined in the police‑typed copy. Indeed Home Office markings here become febrile with Casement heading into under-age territory.]** Bath Budds present 5/-…

Seen to‑day 1 oldish man huge one

2 clergyman small

3 lovely youth thick fine one

4 big youth nice clean one

5 lover, only top stiff and lovely **[presumably Teddy]**

6 Budds beauty

**[The ten days on board ship crossing the Atlantic were followed, as on other occasions, by an explosion of sexual activity with frequent visits to a local seaside park, Hastings Rocks, to scrutinise boys – some of them disturbingly young, if apparently sexually mature. For another brief period, Casement’s erotic musings obliged him to write‑up his accounts in the extended form of diary entries – which duly caught the attention of his enemies.]**

Thursday 31 AugustTo Hastings Bath 5d, clergyman there told me was father of beauty. Returned 11 and beauty came glorious limbs but did not show it alas I love him…Walked to Father Smith and the Convent and then to Club…

Heavy rain all night. Got wet twice…

September 1911.

Begins at Barbados in Seaview Hotel.

Friday September 1st My 47th Birthday!

To Bath at Hastings to meet Beauty for last time. Bath 5d. His name is Hughes. Born March 16. (Did not come) Stamps 1/- Cg’ttes 1/10 Sweets 2/9. 5 7 Trams 8d. - Lunch with Crawford. Then a lovely Meztise boy **[a Mestizo is a person of mixed race, born of Indian and Iberian parents]** of 16 or 17 in blue at Church Sq.Longed for & talked to & asked to come to bath Sunday & was most willing. The Biddys at 6. Teddy looking often – They went 6.40. **[The reference to “The Biddys” is only explained by inspection of the inside cover of this journal. Alongside addresses for other sexual partners such as “Jean of Algiers” and “Amron Kali” is one for “Master E.K. Biddy”. These notes were not published in *The Black Diaries* and can only be detected in the original journal. (See also the 1911 Diary on this date: “The Biddys came at 6. Very sick at sight of them. They are beggars like all here.”) These Biddys were not Irish or some form of Barbadian street youths but a local family he had befriended, possibly to gain access to Teddy, who when met three years earlier in 1908 must hardly have been pubescent. From Casement’s scornful remark, the Biddys appear to be poor whites although his address was the former Bishop’s Palace. The same boy, Edward Kay Biddy, a clerk, born in 1895 in St. Vincent is recorded as travelling from Barbados to Hartford Connecticut in 1912, with his mother and five siblings. By 1917, he was an officer in the US Army only to die in the 1918 flu epidemic. He was an engineer with at least one patent to his name.]** To Hastings Rocks & then to town. Club 1/-. Darkie guide 1-. Trams 2d. 2 2 £0 8 2 **[This day’s entry in Scotland Yard’s typed copy is marked with two large crosses by the Home Office reader.[[3]](#endnote-3)]**

Saturday 2 Sept. 1911

Trams 6d. Paper 1d. Cgttes 3/8 Club waiter 4/- 8 .3

Cotton wool 1/. Beads for Nina 3/-. 4

Passage to Pará by Boniface **X**  16.13. 4

**X** St. John’s poor white boys **X**  6.10

Clothes for Ricudo and Omarino 1.17. 6

To waiter 3/**-** Tel 1/- Trams 1/- 5 0

Coleridge King. **[a line with an X connects his name to the above “poor white boys”]**

£23. 9. 2

6.10

23.16. 0 **X** Coleridge King **[37th sex costs accumulation]**

Sunday 3 Sept 1911Spent in Barbados…Still at Barbados. £20.3.1 “Boniface” not in during night. Hair cut 1/6 Cocktail 6d. Bathed at Light House. Fine big Darkie 1/-. Trams 6d. Club 1/6. Saw several beauties. Sundry 1 …

Monday 4 SeptOut to Light House & saw a nice boy. Asked him to bath & he came on bone. Stanley Weeks 20. Stripped. Huge one – circumcised – swelled & hung 9'' quite & wanted it awfully – asked come at 11.30. Boniface arr. & out at 12 & Stanley again & wanted it fearfully. His stiff & mine stiff. Then had to leave. Farewell to Stanley! **[“Stanley Weeks” is also written in both margins and once underlined while Xs appear in a snowstorm around the description. Connected expenditure of two and then three shillings is set within it. The whole entry is a classic stream of consciousness of which James Joyce would be proud. The late and badly-timed arrival of Casement’s ship, the *Boniface*, intruded in fact, and in mid-memoir, on the frustrated opportunity for significant sexual contact with the apparently eager Stanley Weeks.**

**There then follows the usual rush of items of expenditure to do with departure – the hotel bill, customs charges, tips, the luggage car and porters (with nine shillings going on chairs for the two Indian boys). Finally there is a record of an assignation made the day before:]** Coleridge King 5/- who left his address with Mrs Seon **[note, as in this case of leaving an address with the hotel proprietor, the cool demeanour of Casement and so many of his casual partners, who assume correctly that others are oblivious to anything untoward going on.]** – I want Stanley Weeks **[phrase underlined by the Home Office on their typescript.]** Left Barbados at 4 p.m £28 15 4…

23.16.0

5.0 Stanley Weeks 5/- **X X**

24 1.0 **38th sex costs accumulation]**

**1911 DIARY**

29 TUESDAY In Barbados. **[Casement knew Barbados well having recuperated there for two months in 1908 after one of the most serious of his myriad illnesses, acute gastritis. One author aptly described Casement as “a connoisseur of fevers.”[[4]](#endnote-4) On 20 August 1908 he had complained of Barbados to Bulmer Hobson, calling it “This ghastly little Britannic island of prigs and paupers.”[[5]](#endnote-5)]** Wrote Spicer about O’Donnell. **[The entry for 30 August is simply “Do.”.]**

31 THURSDAY Called at Ursuline Convent on nuns & Father Smith.

**SEPTEMBER**

1 FRIDAY My Birthday 47 today. Nina is over 55! At Barbados. The Biddys came at 6. Very sick at sight of them. They are beggars like all here.

2 SATURDAY In Barbados. Tried to get Dudley Stanson by telephone from Bathsheba. Poor boy could hear nothing of him. Saw Coleridge King & the other poor white boys.

3 SUNDAY Bathed & read novels.

**[At top of page:]** 4 Sept. Met Stanley Weeks at Barbados. Came back from Trinidad by “Voltavia” on 28 August & is looking for work at the electric. 20 years old.

4 MONDAY Out at 8.30. Met Coleridge King & took his a/c at Mrs Seon’s. **[She ran the Sea View Hotel in Hastings. Her letterhead read “Proprietress Mrs I. Seon. Cuisine properly attended to. A well stocked Bar.”[[6]](#endnote-6)]** Gave him 5/-. **[In margin: X** 5**]** Then to Bath & met Stanley Weeks 20 years. Has certificate from Trinidad Electrical concern – trying to get work here at the Electrical. Bathed together first 9 a.m. Huge one & then 12.45 – Huger still. Hung down curved & swollen & wanted awfully. **[In margin: X** 5**]** Poor boy. Wished I had taken him. Will try & get him to Iquitos **[Casement’s fantasy collecting syndrome again.]** Was waiter once in a B’bados Hotel. Two scars on face from fall. One on thigh too – & it – off in Boniface for Pará with Ricudo & Omarino.

1. B.L. Reid p. 142 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. NLI 13089/6 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. TNA HO 144/1637/139 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Costigan p. 292 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. NLI 13158/4 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. NLI 15138/3/9, bill dated 4 September 1911 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)