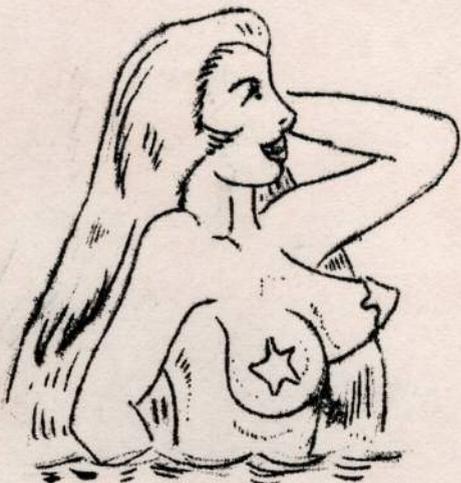
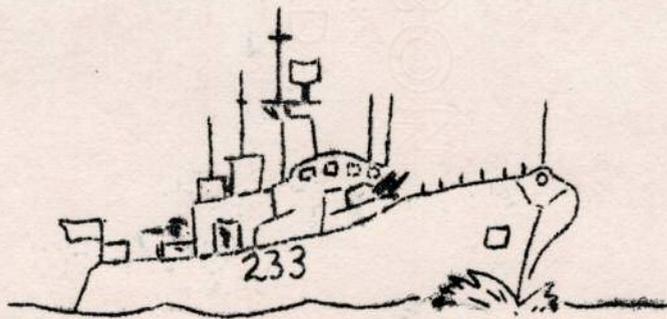




HMCS FRASER

CROSSING THE LINE '64'





HMCS FRASER

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE "CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY"

Among the Gods of Greek mythology was one Poseidon. As the books have it, "His domain was of Hercules and he had some authority" - in other words he was God of the Seas and the ancient Greek matelots were accustomed to burning incense and singing "Eternal Father" and other odds and ends to intercede for his good offices. Enter the first member of our cast, Amphitrite, daughter of Oceanus who was large in the Greek system. She became the wife of Poseidon and was to cause him great mental stress later in the story.

Poseidon's reign over the seas came to an end when the all powerful Roman element took over from the Greeks and installed Neptunus as their own ruler of the seas. Neptunus twisted the knife a little harder by actually adopting Amphitrite, thus becoming Poseidon's father in law. Poseidon, on hearing this, committed suicide by drowning himself in his own ocean, leaving Neptunus in power supreme.

Although the members of the story are quite well known, the origin of the ceremony is difficult to trace. One source claims that in the seventeenth century, when entering the Straits of Gibraltar, all those who were doing it for the first time had to pay their fee or else pass under the yardarm and be dunked. The ceremony apparently was then transferred to the Tropics and still later to the Equator. Why the Equator was the final choice and not the International Date Line or the Arctic Circle is anyone's guess. Present day scholars say, "Its origin is wrapt (shrouded) in mystery", and, "We can only guess at the actual date of its inception into the maritime services". Some fairly educated guesses have been made though and the dates have been narrowed down to the half century between 1768 and 1818. One Professor Callender, whose opinion could be biased, reckons that the custom was brought into being in the Royal Navy's East Indian Command during Nelson's day. Since most of the navy's most peculiar customs can be traced back to dear old Nelson one way or another this may be considered not a bad guess.

One of the few texts to mention the ceremony is 'Sports and Recreation in the Royal Navy'. The authors of this handbook admit the fact that the origin is obscure but they lead us to think that there is "little doubt that it originated from some form of pagan religious rites".

A lengthy description is given of the ceremony that was held on board HMS NEW ZEALAND, when the ship crossed the equator in 1919 with Viscount Jellicoe on board. The ceremony was conducted to a large extent by the ship's company, while the RCN sees the Wardroom play a more integral part and no distinction is made.



HMCS FRASER

When comparing the two ceremonies, we notice that although the general pattern is unchanged, the text is altogether different. There isn't one line that reads the same.

This illustrates how the script must be adapted to the local scene. The Captain may or may not be a shellback, the charges against the defaulters must always be original.

It cannot be forgotten that the NEW ZEALAND made a revival of the ceremony, which must have, at that time, been abandoned. The handbook points out; "it is hoped that it (the ceremony and text) may prove helpful to future generations of those who occupy their business in great waters".

Shall we one day have an official text that will be used in all ships? The question is difficult to answer. Through tradition, some of the verses will become part of the ceremony, but the remainder will always remain flexible and adapt itself to the circumstances.

There always seems to be, on the part of the tadpoles, a certain objection to being initiated. The reasons for these fears are well founded, but it should be realized that this ceremony should always be taken in fun, otherwise the whole spirit will die.

The following pages give the ceremony as it happened on board HMCS FRASER in March, 1964 when the ship, enroute from Singapore to Hong Kong, deviated slightly from course and crossed the equator.

The enlightened ceremony takes three phases: First, the Herald of His Oceanic Majesty comes on board the night previous to the actual crossing in order to inspect the ship and decide upon it's worthiness to receive on board, Neptunus Rex in all his glory. His opinion favourable, Neptune himself comes on board the following day with all his court, and presents Orders and Awards to those Shellbacks* who have proven themselves worthy thereof on the quarterdeck. The third and final phase takes place when King Neptune supervises the initiation of the tadpoles**.

NOTE: * A Shellback is one who has been initiated into the Ancient Order of the Mysteries of the Deep. i.e. One who has crossed the line before.

** A tadpole is one who has not yet had this privilege.



HMCS FRASER

THE PLAYERS

KING NEPTUNE :	Major CARMICHAEL
QUEEN AMPHITRITE :	C2FC3 LAZARUK
HERALD :	P1RP4 BROSTER
SECRETARY :	P1AW3 GEORGE
DAVEY JONES :	C2FC4 STEWART
SCRIBE :	C2WU4 FOSTER
JUDGE :	P1RP3 BRYAN
DOCTORS :	C2BN4 STEVENS ABFC2 LANGLOIS LT STEPHENS
BARBERS :	C2CM4 LOCKYER LSBN3 NORGAARD LSFC2 BROOKS
TRIDENT STAMPER :	SLT BERNARD
MERMAIDS :	ABRP1 MOORE ABRP1 SMITH
CHIEF OF POLICE :	C2ER4 HORNE
HEAD BEAR :	P1ER4 PURDY
BUGLER :	SLT HAHN

POLICE

LSC2 ANDROWSKI	C2WS4 SCHULZ
C2ET4 BRYNILDSEN	P1ET4 MCDOWELL
LSFC2 DUFFY	P2ER4 JOHNSTONE
ABEM2 BARTCH	LSRP2 BALL
LSEM2 HENDERSON	LSSW2 MURRAY
ABEM2 FISHER	LCDR BROOKBANK

BEARS

P1PW3 POOLE	LSEM2 BEATTY
P1ER4 BLACK	P1VS3 PRIZEMAN
P1ER4 ERVEN	P2VS3 NICHOLSON
LSVS2 ERICKSON	ABWU1 WRIGHT
ABWS2 WELLS	LSSN3 ROTH
P1WU4 ROBERTS	LSEM2 COX
LSSG2 COMIS	LCDR HITESMAN

COURT POLICE

P2RP3 REDING
P2LT3 WARDELL
LSET3 FINLEY

QUEEN BEARERS

LSRP2 GARBET
LSRM2 WOOLFORD
P1FC4 YOUNG
LSBN3 RILEY

MERMAID BEARERS

C2HT4 CADWALLADER
P1SW3 WURBAN
C2ST4 LESOWAY
LSNS2 TAYLOR



HMCS FRASER

SHELLBACKS

HAYES G.H.	CAPT	STEPHENS T.V.	LT
BROWN A.	LCDR	VOYER L.L.	LT
HITESMAN R.E.	LCDR	BERNARD R.M.	SLT
BROOKBANK A.H.	LCDR	HAHN R.W.	SLT
WORMALD R.	LCDR	STEVENSON J.P.	SLT
CARMICHAEL D.J.	MAJOR	PRESTON R.L.	SLT
WATSON J.F.	LCDR		

ANDROWSKI D.	LSCK	FOSTER T.	C2WU	PRIZEMAN R.	PIVS
BAGLEY R.	PIER	GARBET J.	LSRP	PURDY P.	PIER
BALCOMBE H.	C2WR	GEORGE H.	PIAW	REDING R.	P2RP
BALL G.	LSRP	GREIG W.	LSSG	REGNIER O.	ABEM
BARTCH L.	ABEM	HENDERSON A.	LSEM	RILEY C.	LSBN
BEATTY D.	LSEM	HORNE A.	C2ER	ROBERTS W.	PIWU
BLACK L.	PIER	JOHNSON C.	LSCK	ROBERTSON J.	P2ER
BROOKS R.	LSFC	JOHNSTONE W.	P2ER	ROSS A.	P2ER
BROSTER G.	PIRP	KING J.	LSFC	ROTH G.	LSSN
BRYAN R.	PIRP	LANGLOIS D.	ABFC	SCHULZ C.	C2WS
BRYNILDSEN S.	C2ET	LAZARUK N.	C2FC	SMITH R.	ABRP
BUCHANAN W.	C2ER	LESOWAY P.	C2ST	STEVENS H.	C2BN
CADWALLADER C.	C2HT	LITTLE J.	PIER	STEWART J.	C2FC
CHARLES E.	P2PH	LOCKYER R.	C2CM	STUDLEY D.	C2ER
COMIS J.	LSSG	McDOWELL R.	PIET	TAYLOR D.	LSNS
COX K.	LSEM	MOFFAT D.	RO2 (RN)	UMPLEBY D.	P2ER
CRONE E.	CIER	MOORE D.	APRP	VLIET L.	PIRM
DUFFY R.	LSFC	MURRAY T.	LSSW	WARDELL K.	P2LT
ERICKSON J.	LSVS	NICHOLSON J.	P2NS	WELLS R.	ABWS
ERVEN K.	PIER	NORGAARD L.	LSBN	WOOLFORD D.	LSRM
FENNER D.	ABEM	OSLAND L.	PIMA	WRIGHT H.	ABWU
FINLEY R.	LSET	POLLARD W.	C2HT	WURBAN A.	PISW
FISHER L.	ABEM	POOLE C.	PIPW	YOUNG J.	PIFC

TADPOLES

ADAMS J.	OSSN	ADAMSON E.	LSER	ALISCH G.	ABSG
ANSELL A.	ABEM	ARMSTRONG C.	OSSN	ARNTSON M.	LSBN
ASPINALL R.	ABHM	BAIER G.	ABSW	BAKER R.	ABEM
BALLENTINE D.	OSRP	BANKS W.	ABRM	BARKLEY J.	OSWU
BARNARD W.	ABRM	BASSINGTHWAITE J.	OSEM	BAZINET J.	OSBN
BEAUREGARD L.	OSRP	BECKLEY D.	ABWS	BIRD W.	ABSW
BOSTROM E.	OSRP	BOUGHTON B.	PIBN	BRYSON E.	PIER
BUCKOWSKI J.	ABBN	BURGESS R.	OSSN	BUXTON V.	ABRM
CAMPBELL D.	LSAW	CHESTNEY R.	OSRP	CLARK R.	OSCK
CLAWSON Y.	ABAP	CLEMENTS M.	OSSN	CONN P.	OSEM
CONNELLY C.	LSRS	COUPAR G.	OSWS	CUMMINGS D.	LSSN
DACRE C.	LSRS	DASCHNER D.	ABWS	DEAN M.	SGT
DEAN E.	OSSW	DEHNKE R.	OSWS	DEMERS E.	ABWU
DEMONTIGNY R.	LSET	DENNY G.	OSEM	DEWAR F.	OSEM
DICKSON R.	ABCK	DOOL K.	ABWU	DUCHAK K.	OSSW
DUNN M.	ABWS	DURANA D.	OSEM	EGGLETON F.	P2PT



HMCS FRASER

ERSKINE D. ABEM	FAIRCLOUGH J. ABCK	FILLION R. ABBN
FINLAY W. ABEM	FISHER G. P2LT	FISHER W. P2HT
FODOR G. ABWS	FORMAN M. ABWU	FREEMAN W. ABAP
GAETZ R. ABWS	GATES C. OSLM	GIBSON B. LSHT
GRANT R. LSSN	GREEN W. OSRP	GREENFIELD W. P2SN
GRIEVE D. ABWU	GROUT F. OSSG	GULAK G. OSRP
GUTERSON D. OSBN	HAGEN D. OSFC	HALL E. ABFC
HARPER G. ABWS	HARRIS D. OSRP	HART G. OSEM
HARVEY J. P2RS	HILLIKER B. ABRB	HLADY J. ABWS
HOLSWORTH R. OSSN	HOPKINS E. ABEM	HUDKINS C. OSRM
HUDSON R. ABWS	JAMIESON D. ABSG	JARVIS B. OSSN
JOHNSTONE A. ABAP	JONES E. P2BN	JORDAN D. ABSN
KATTLER M. ABBN	KIRSTEIN L. ABRM	KITSON M. LSER
KOLODYCHUK J. ABWU	LAFRANCE E. ABRB	LANGTRY G. OSHM
LEACH R. ABAW	LEIDAL R. OSFC	MACDONALD A. OSLM
MACLEAN J. ABAP	MARSDEN R. LSSG	MATHERS J. OSFC
MAXWELL R. OSCK	MARTHUR W. PLWS	MCDONALD D. ABSN
MCDOWELL T. OSSN	MCKENZIE C. OSSG	MCKENZIE N. ABWS
MCKINNON S. ABAP	MCKINNON W. ABWU	MCLELLAN J. P2CK
MCLEOD J. OSEM	MSMILLAN L. ABRP	MERRICK P. ABAP
MILLER D. OSSN	MILLER W. OSBN	MOHNS B. PLSN
MONTEITH I. OSLM	MORCUM R. ABRM	MUNRO R. ABAP
MUNROE G. OSRP	MUSE R. ABRM	NICHOLS E. ABSG
NOWICKI R. ABVS	NOYES R. OSSN	O'NEILL W. OSWU
PARKINSON K. OSSN	PATTERSON D. LSLM	PATTERSON T. OSWU
PEDERSEN L. OSRM	PEPIN R. LSWB	PESCLEVITCH T. ABRM
RAYMENT L. P2SG	REEVES E. OSFC	REGENWETTER L. OSWS
REID R. ABRB	RIVA J. C2LT	ROBERTS C. OSRP
ROBERTSON W. OSRP	ROBINSON K. ABEM	ROBSON T. ABEM
ROBSTAD J. OSRP	ROTH D. USWU	RUSSELL R. ABHM
RUTHVEN L. ABSG	SCRIBNER D. OSVS	SEMYROZ D. ABSG
SHANNON S. OSWS	SHARP J. OSSN	SINCLAIR L. ABRM
SINCLAIR S. OSCK	SINCLAIR R. P2ET	SLIPEC L. OSSN
SMITH E. ABRB	SORBIN R. OSSW	SPEAREY E. P2WS
SPOONER J. OSHM	STAPLES L. ABRM	STENNES A. P2ER
TAIT B. OSBN	THATCHER L. OSRP	THOMLINSON R. LSSW
TOTH W. OSFC	TWEET B. OSRP	VEASEY J. ABLM
WATSON K. ABAP	WEATHERBY L. OSRP	WEBER B. LSET
WEBSTER H. ABRP	WELLS B. ABHM	WIEBE W. ABAP
WILSON E. ABNS	WILSON R. P2SG	WONFOR D. OSWU
WYATT S. C2SG	YAKABUSKI J. P1LT	YATES A. OSBN
YEO C. ABAP	ZUK C. ABSG	

THURBER R.C.	CDR	KAUTZ G.W.	SLT
ILSLEY C.P.	LCDR	PAYNE P.T.	SLT
BOLT G.M.	LCDR	MORGAN W.A.	SLT
BUCHAN J.D.	LT	NEWMAN R.D.	SLT
JESSOP J.C.	LT	THOMAS J.F.	SLT
DESROCHERS A.	CHAP(RC)		



HMCS FRASER

TIME: 2000 23 March, 1964

The following dialogue is heard over the ship's broadcast - (Someone left a mike open)

SCR - "Bridge - SCR, unidentified underwater noises, bearing Red 45, range 2000 yards, classified non-sub. Appears to be surfacing Sir."

OPS - "Pilotage - Ops - new contact bearing Red 45, one mile."

OOW - "Roger - report."

OPS - "Pilotage - Ops - contact Red 45 stationary by plot."

CAPTAIN - "Very good - that will probably be King Neptune's Herald. Alter course towards and clear lower decks to the Focs'le."

Bosn Mate - "Clear lower decks to the focs'le. Ordinary Seaman's guard muster on the focs'le."

The ship alters toward the alleged contact and nothing further is heard until the ship's company is assembled on the focs'le. Both the Herald and the Captain speak through loud hailers; the Herald on the focs'le and the Captain on the bridge.

HERALD - (From behind the spray) "Ship ahoy"

CAPTAIN - "FRASER"

HERALD - "I am the Herald on the Court
Of His Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune.
I heard that your ship was around,
Now tell me, whither bound?"

CAPTAIN - "Today we sailed from Singapore
Homeward bound from Jet-64.
Here we cannot stay too long
Er'e we miss our arrival in old Hong Kong.
So come aboard, I've stopped my ship
And state your case with no more lip."

The Herald accompanied by Davey Jones, the Secretary, 2 mermaids, 2 bears, and a bugler advance through the spray while the bugler sounds the Alert(?).



HMCS FRASER

- 2 -

HERALD - "I'm no stranger and uphold the right
To board your ship this very night,
As Neptune's Herald, and I mean
To find out if this ship is clean."

CAPTAIN - "You'll find it clean, I have no doubt
We are ship shape in and out.
And now without further ado,
Inspect the Guard I've mustered for you."

HERALD - "Very well Captain, I'll do your will.
Faithful bugler sound the still.
Davey Jones - inspect the Guard."

Davey Jones receives the report of the Guard Officer and proceeds to inspect the Guard with a great deal of flourish and two very dead fish which appear to be used as soap to clean up the Guard.

DAVEY JONES - "So this is the Guard you mustered for me.
A more horrible sight I never did see.
I've inspected many, and I can tell
They look unclean, and smell like hell."

The mermaids shriek "Unclean - unclean" and the bears growl and shout "Unclean".

HERALD - "Keep silence in the bears.

King Neptune will be glad I'm sure
To have you cross his border.
If you're a Shellback, let us hope
Your papers are in order."

CAPTAIN - "A tadpole I am, but cannot remain,
For I've crossed the line in his great domain.
So to your great king take this report,
I'll be subject to trial in his oceanic court,
And tomorrow I submit to bath and potions,
To become a Shellback on his mighty oceans."

The bears shout "Blood - blood - blood".

HERALD - "KEEP SILENCE"
"While at Langkawi this great ship did lie,
A messenger of Neptune was sent here to spy.
He scanned the records and papers galore,
To find out the number who'd been here before.
To our great surprise, and not to our sorrow
Many a tadpole, becomes a Shellback tomorrow."



HMCS FRASER

- 3 -

SECRETARY - "I was the spy who scanned the papers,
To learn all I could of numerous capers
That have been pulled by this ship's crew,
Now listen closely while I tell you.
From this unclean rabble, this motley mess,
Two hundred persons, more or less,
Will learn tomorrow of their horrible fate,
From the Royal Court of Neptune the Great.
And furthermore, I must report,
I plead, no mercy, from the Court."

The bears once more start shouting - "Unclean".

HERALD - "By nine o'clock from the ship's time check,
The court will be held on the quarterdeck.
King Neptune will in state appear,
By the ancient laws well steeped in beer,
And here he shall with iron hand,
Initiate the tadpoles of your band."

SECRETARY - "All hail King Neptune."

The bears in a fit of fanatic fervour shriek "Blood -
Blood."

CAPTAIN - "Keep silence . . .
We shall be ready for your King,
And glad to meet his queen.
Now, will she bring her daughters fair
To beautify the scene?"

Bears emit wolf calls.

HERALD - "It cannot be; a sea nymph's form
Would take each sailor's heart by storm.
Our good Queen spares them from such woes,
Because they haven't any clothes."

More wolf calls from the bears. The Company starts
retiring through the spray, the Herald goes last and pauses
to say in a loud clear voice:-

HERALD - "I commend you all rest with sorrow,
The fittest only, will survive tomorrow."

. . . / 4



HMCS FRASER

- 4 -

The scene shifts to the quarterdeck the following morning, 24 March, 1964. Lower decks have been cleared to the quarterdeck. King Neptune's court in full regalia has assembled in the Weapon's Workshop. The bears and police have placed themselves around the royal throne awaiting the grand entrance. The Herald comes onto the quarterdeck.

HERALD - "Hear ye. Hear ye, make way for his glorious Majesty Neptunus Rex, ruler of all who sail upon the sea. Hear ye, hear ye."

King Neptune enters followed by the Queen and the remainder of the royal court.

HERALD - "All hail King Neptune."

The bears and police repeat - "All hail King Neptune".

After all have taken their positions on the thrones the Captain steps forward to address King Neptune.

CAPTAIN - "As Captain of this ship
In humblest duty, Sire, I bring
To you our Oceanic King
All here on board. May we submit
To what in ancient laws is writ."

NEPTUNE - "Good morning FRASER's, you've come a long way,
And I've waited months for this glorious day.
You all know full well what I've come to do
For, I hear there are tadpoles among your crew.
My barbers are good and widely renowned,

(At this the barbers step forward and wave the tools of their trade.)

Their razors are sharper than have ever been ground.
My doctors are butchers, and as for their pills,
They're better than Ex-Lax for curing your ills."

CAPTAIN - "Before you punish our crimes with that terrible fork,
I present for your favour, my crew to your court."

NEPTUNE - "Sir, I am honored to meet you,
And my bears in salt water will handsomely greet you.
I hope that meanwhile you will not disdain,
The Old Sea Dog's Order of the Propeller and Chain."

The Order is placed around his neck. Neptune then touches his shoulder with the trident and the Herald intones:-



HMCS FRASER

- 5 -

HERALD - "Arise Old Sea Dog fifth class of the Ancient Order of Propeller and Chain. Retire, but do not go far."

The Captain rises and moves to the background as Neptune addresses the crowd.

NEPTUNE - "From my courtly Herald I've heard it told
That there are some in your crew so brave and bold
As to warrant my favour . . . there may be some missed,
So Herald bring forward my Honour List."

The Herald calls out the names of those to be honored as follows:-

CAPTAIN HAYES

NEPTUNE - "Since you first crossed my line, was it '38,
Your rank is greater, so is your weight,
Your loyalty and trust is something great,
A loyal Shellback we appreciate.
You move around on many ships
A racing dinghy you never tip.
As the veteran member of this ship's salty crew,
Honorary Police Chief's rank is awarded you."

HERALD - "Awarded the rank of Temporary Acting Honorary Chief of Police, second class. Carry on."

LCDR WATSON

HERALD - "As Executive Officer and number one wheel
Before our great king we must ask you to kneel."

NEPTUNE - "While you kneel before us illustrious X.O.,
We have here an honour on you we bestow.
For X.O.T.M.'s you produce by the score,
This Order's reserved for one thousand and four.
Awarded the Venerable Order of the Paper Weight.

No wrong you have done but a promise we ask,
It's really quite simple and hardly a task.
An extra beer all round is easily done,
To round out this day of mischief and fun;
What say you?"

X.O. - "It shall be done."

HERALD - "Arise, Sir Knight Commander of the Venerable Order of the Paper Weight, double away smartly and organize the beer."



HMCS FRASER

- 6 -

LCDR BROOKBANK - LCDR HITESMAN

NEPTUNE - "For duties and deeds too numerous to mention,
You should be given ninety days detention
But to award this punishment a different way
I award you the order of I.F.R.A."

HERALD - "Awarded the double order of IFRA. Rise. Left
turn. Double march."

LEADING SEAMAN KING

NEPTUNE - "For performing your chores, as laundry chief
And from time to time, bringing us grief.
For losing our shirts, and dungarees,
And giving most of the work to the two Chinese.
For devotion to duty with nary a screech,
We offer you the order of Soap Suds and Bleach."

HERALD - "Arise Exalted Knight of the Dhobey Firm, double
away to your Bendix."

LEADING SEAMAN HENDERSON

NEPTUNE - "For devotion to duty as Tool Crib Keeper,
Your bloody rules could be much meeker.
At dipping tanks you're becoming skilled.
But keep it up, and we'll all be killed.
So for sitting all day on your trusty stool,
We give you the Order of the Mighty Tool."

HERALD - "Awarded the Order of the Mighty Tool. Arise Sir
Tool Crib and carry on."

On the completion of the awards the bears and police
move in and the Herald addresses the king.

HERALD - "If your Majesty finds it convenient,
We've had time enough to be lenient.
It's just about time for that big tank of brine,
To make some new Shellbacks for 'crossing the line'.
And if you will see defaulters first,
We'll save till last the best . . . and worst."

NEPTUNE - "So be it."

HERALD - "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. The local Shellback
court of His Oceanic Majesty, Neptunus Rex is now
in session, Judge Samuel J. Seaweed presiding."

JUDGE - (Rapping gavel) "First case."

The defaulters are held at regular intervals, not
necessarily in the following order but with the following
culprits:-



HMCS FRASER

- 7 -

CDR THURBER

HERALD - "Before this court you see the worst,
But tis only fair he be the first.
For 23 years he's roamed northern climes
Ne'er crossing our line in all of this time.
His name has been noted in our waiting book,
Then Jet 64 was all it took.
Let the judge, in his wisdom, pronounce his fate,
For eluding the court until this late date."

JUDGE - "Your naval career will now be enlightened,
But why of this court have you been so frightened?
I understand also, you'd not be here yet,
If you hadn't been sent to partake in the Jet.
I see no reason for this ghastly crime,
Twenty three years is an awful long time.
Let us no longer, wait in vain,
But make him a member of the Royal Domain.
Take him away bears."

PETTY OFFICER YAKABUSKI

HERALD - "This pollywog creature of stature bold,
Committed a crime that leaves us cold.
A dastardly deed he tried to do,
To start a revolt against a Shellback true.
And used his Highness's name in vain.
I trust this court spare him no pain."

JUDGE - "A dastardly deed, this revolt you planned,
And from this court you should be banned.
But as a Shellback you wish to become,
Repent this deed which you have done.
So dunk him twice my worthy bears,
And barbers, shorten up those hairs."

SGT MAX DEAN

HERALD - "Good King Neptune has many rules,
And these are broken by many fools.
If you break a rule, or commit a crime,
Your eventually caught, and tried in time.
You broke a rule, a crime you've committed.
The guilt of this crime was self admitted.
You got your hair cut, he used a razor,
By a non-union man, not even in FRASER."

JUDGE - "This sort of skulduggery we cannot allow.
I find you guilty, and sentence you now;
A shave, and a haircut, spare him no pain,
To offend our barbers, he may try again.
Take him bears and cleanse him."

LT BUCHAN

HERALD - "For many a year you've avoided our line."

JUDGE - "Guilty!"

HERALD - "This is not so, for liquors and wine."

JUDGE - "Guilty!"

HERALD - "A harmonious Ops team you've tried to combine,
With screaming and shouting, and chaos sublime."

JUDGE - "Guilty!!!"

HERALD - "For your offences you're being tried today."

JUDGE - "Guilty!!!"

HERALD - "These crimes can be paid for in only one way.
So down on your knees you tadpole bum,
And drink without stopping this pusser rum."

JUDGE - "Now that you've downed it your debt is paid,
Into the pool now a Shellback to be made.
Take him bears."

LCDR ILSLEY

HERALD - "While scanning the books, your honour I find,
A crime's been committed of a different kind.
He handles the money, and juggles the books,
But has his excuses like most other crooks.
His reasons and excuses tho somewhat absurd,
About changing money he speaks not a word.
And this your honour strikes me as funny,
He certainly could change ship's company money."

JUDGE - "This crime tho it's small, like you hear of in school,
I'll let you off lightly because you're no fool.
I can't just dismiss it, I'll go by the rule,
Dunk him you bears, 4 times in the pool.
Take him away."

PETTY OFFICER BOUGHTON

HERALD - "For many years he's bided his time
And sailed up north avoiding the line.
This is no crime as you can see,
But to terrorize young lads is a felony.
So here in this court, the judge will agree,
He's been tried fair and square, and is guilty.
So take him oh bears and of this I trust,
Dunking 4 or 5 times is a definite must."

JUDGE - "Guilty of terrorizing Bosn's - Dunk Him." .. 9

ORDINARY SEAMAN BOSTROM - ORDINARY SEAMAN GUTERSON

HERALD - "Here stand two tadpoles, small and short,
About to face King Neptune's court.
It has been observed, by one and all,
That in the heads they have a ball.
The bowls are past the ruddy knee,
And both, must sit down to pee.
So before we hear their moan and lament,
I offer them to the court for punishment."

JUDGE - "I am small, and I am short,
But just remember, I'm judge of this court.
With the charge I must agree
You just can't sit down to pee.
Guilty as charged you tadpole scrub,
I order you into the Royal tub."

PETTY OFFICER MCLELLAN

HERALD - "A loyal shellback he claims to be,
And is free to sail upon the sea.
This privilege which he has abused,
Has this court completely confused.
This time he's caught, while he does roam,
He left his bloody certificate at home."

JUDGE - "A loyal Shellback you may be,
But who's here to vouch for your days at sea?
A signed certificate is what we need,
So, once more in the pool, to repent your deed."

PETTY OFFICER FISHER (P2HT)

HERALD - "To Manila our ships did come
To see the sights and have some fun.
But this young man, who is a defaulter,
Picked up a girl and played with her halter.
But, to sum it up on this occasion,
He ne'er broke down to her persuasion,
And he, the very thought leaves me cold,
Is still a virgin, of this I've been told."

JUDGE - "On this day you have no plea,
So the doctors you'll have to see.
Until the doctors reports I've seen,
I cannot report you to the court as clean.
So my bears sit him on the stool,
And dunk him twice in the pool."

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WYATT

HERALD - "We have before us an old sea dog
Who has seen good storms of wind and fog,
And finally as all things do,
Neptune's Court has caught up to you.
For many years you've been north of the line,
Now for your sins you'll pay the fine.
I ask the court what they think
Of committing the dog to Neptune's drink."

JUDGE - "For such behaviour he's not to blame,
It took a long time but he finally came.
Now before much more ado,
Trusty barbers I give him to you."

LEADING SEAMAN CUMMINGS

HERALD - "This miserable little pollywog
We know so very well.
He's laboured like a racing dog,
Cutting hair in our squid well.
In consequence of this report,
What is the judgement of the court?"

JUDGE - "King Neptune's barbers don't agree
On pollywogs who charge a fee.
So you may learn to operate,
Let our barbers demonstrate.
When your certificate you do obtain,
Your shearing and clipping may start again."

"Barbers -- proceed."

CONCLUSION

When all or nearly all, tadpoles have been initiated the Herald calls for attention for King Neptune's farewell:-

HERALD - "Hear ye, hear ye. Silence for His Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune."

NEPTUNE - "King Neptune, I, Lord of the brine,
Welcome you all, new subjects of mine.
I am the Lord of the oceans wide,
Lord of the rivers . . . Lord of the tide.
My laws are strict, but do not fear,
If you will only persevere
To keep the freedom of the seas,
As recognized by our degrees.
Here are the bears, the suds, the bath;
They are the only certain path
For all who wish to cross the line,
And be enrolled as sons of mine.

I command you go now, your many ways.
Take what you have learned to future days;
Teach others the mysteries of my mighty deep,
I go now, below, my vigil to keep.

Farewell FRASER's."

As the King and his court depart the way is cleared by the Court Police and the Herald.

HERALD - "Make way, make way, for His Oceanic Majesty;
Make way."

finis