

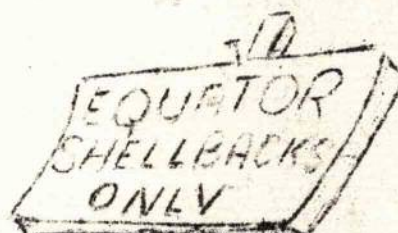


# CROSSING THE EQUATOR

99

July

1956



Equator crossed at  
80° 56' West

... 2 ...  
CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY \* H.M.C.S. ONTARIO

JULY 1956

KING NEPTUNE'S ROYAL COURT

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| NEPTUNE .....            | CPO McCULLOCH     |
| AMPHITRITE.....          | PO CLARKE S.      |
| HERALD.....              | CMDR RITCHIE      |
| SECRETARY.....           | AB BIG CANOE      |
| JUDGE.....               | CPO LANG          |
| DOCTOR (1).....          | PO PAGET          |
| DOCTOR (2).....          | LS CHARTERS       |
| DOCTOR (3) (Relief)..... | PO LAWLEY         |
| DOCTOR (4) (Relief)..... | PO REID J         |
| BARBER (1).....          | LS STANDLEY       |
| BARBER (2).....          | PO SENIOR         |
| BARBER (3) (Relief)..... | S/LT WAINMAN-WOOD |
| BARBER (4) (Relief)..... | CPO MITCHAUD      |
| CHIEF of POLICE .....    | CPO BLYTHE        |
| HEAD BEAR .....          | CPO MACINTYRE H.  |
| TRUMPETER .....          | PO SLOPAK         |
| SCRIBE (1) .....         | AB LEGACE         |
| SCRIBE (2) .....         | LS TRAHAN         |
| DAVEY JONES .....        | CPO WOOLLEY       |
| MERMAID (1) .....        | PO DONALDSON      |
| MERMAID (2) .....        | LS VERNER         |
| TRIDENT STAMPER (1)..... | PO JONES H.A.     |
| TRIDENT STAMPER (2)..... | SGT JONES         |

BEARS

POLICE

|               |                |                 |                  |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| AB MARLATT    | AB GRAY        | PO GOODMAN      | PO MANZER        |
| AB KLASSEN    | AB JOHNSON     | PO LYNCH        | AB COTTRELL      |
| AB CROSS      | LS DIONNE      | PO LAW          | AB ROZECK        |
| AB MEYERS     | AB ROUTIER     | CPO FORD        | AB SIEMENS       |
| AB ARMSTRONG  | LS MERRIFIELD  | PO COWARD       | AB WHARTON       |
| AB DROBOT     | CPO RAINES     | LS GAVIN        | PO BURNETT       |
| AB WOOD       | PO MCINTOSH    | LCDR MORGAN     | PO TEEPLE        |
| PO BLACK      | LS ROADHOUSE   | LCDR JUDD       | CPO CLEMENS      |
| PO PARSONS    | LS MERRITT     | PO JUPP         | AB FUMANO        |
| PO BRAIN      | PO WOOD        | AB POIRIER      | PO GEMMELL       |
| LS REID D.    | AB BEAULIEU    | PO MILNE        | LT CARLYLE       |
| AB GAGNON     | AB RILEY       | PO JACK         | AB SWANSON       |
| LCDR MARSTON  | LS BRIGHTMAN   | PO GOOD         | PO LONGSON       |
| MR. COURTNEY  | AB MEE         | PO CHALLONER    | PO ANDERSON      |
| PO HICKS      | PO SMITHSON    | PO CAINE M.     | PO HOGG          |
| CPO CADDELL   | AB FUNK        | CPO RIGG        | LS MUIR          |
| PO JOHNSON    | AB ACHTYMICHUK | AB KENNAUGH     | AB CURRIE        |
| LT WILLIAMS   | AB FERRIER     | PO CATHERINE    | AB MUELLER       |
| LT RIDDELL    | PO WIDNER      | AB SHIELDS A.L. | PO BROWN         |
| PO TOWERS     | LS HUGHES      | AB GUBBE        | AB CUMMINGS      |
| PO MCMILLAN   | CPO BISHOP     | LCDR PROSSER    | AB KING          |
| CPO PELLOW    | LT JACKSON *   | LCDR INGLIS     | CPO MILLER       |
| PO FERGUSON   | PO CLARK H.J.  | LCDR BUISSON    | CPO MACINTYRE T. |
| PO COOKE      |                | LT VONDETTE     |                  |
| AB CARTWRIGHT |                | AB MCIVER       |                  |
| LT MILLER     |                | AB HART         |                  |
| LCDR THILLAYE |                | AB GREEN        |                  |
| AB MCMILLAN   |                | PO JONES        |                  |
| CPO COPP      |                | PO FORD         |                  |
| CPO WYNN      |                | CPO ELSTON      |                  |

Commander's Office  
 HMCS Ontario  
 2nd. July 1956

### THE HISTORY BEHIND THE "CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY"

Way back in the enlightened days of the world's history when the Greek civilization was in it's prime...when Romulus and Remus were nothing more than twinkles in their father's eyes, and Britons were even less civilized than they are to-day...there was a god, a deity, called Poseidon. As the books have it, "His domain was of Hercules, and he had some authority"-in other words he was a 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. In fact, the Greeks went even further than we do to-day by erecting Atlas at seaports, and training specialist priests to attend to the rites and rituals. It was an extremely high organized business, but history does not relate whether or not Poseidon came through in the pinches.

Now Poseidon, by the simple expedient of turning on a storm now and then to frighten the poor Greeks, was doing quite well for himself for several centuries, and would have lived happily ever after if it hadn't been for the Romans. The Romans were not up to much in the way of seamanship, but they had all taken Leadership Courses, and even in those days this was what counted in the long run, for they finally succeeded in driving the Greeks from the seas. Even then, however, Poseidon continued to whip up the odd storm at sea, and the Romans, although this did not frighten them particularly decided it was only logical to do something about the situation. The answer was, of course, to obtain the services of a god who could effectively put Poseidon in the shade, and the Romans, having no spare gods around Olympus at that time, had to borrow one from the Etruscans (history does not relate if he was ever returned). His name was Nethuns, or Nethunus, depending on which part of Etruscia you came from, but the Romans called him Neptunus for short. Poor old Poseidon, of course, was left far behind, because the Romans were fairly rich, and could erect more altars, and sing more choruses of Eternal Father than the Greeks ever deemed absolutely necessary. In fact, to show you how far Neptunus did go, Poseidon had a wife called Amphitrite, who was, incidently, the daughter of Oceanus, a very big wheel in the Greek system, and he had gone to some trouble to marry this woman....she didn't particularly like the idea and had fled to Mount Atlas when she heard of it, but Poseidon had sent along one of his Dolphins to collect her.... Neptunus actually adopted this woman, which made him Poseidon's father-in-law, and Poseidon, on hearing this, committed suicide by drowning himself in his own ocean.

Well, to make a long story short, while we know all about Neptune, his life and works, historians of a later date were not so smart as the Romans and Greeks, and they did not write down how the "Crossing the Line Ceremony" came into being, so present day scholars have to say that "It's origin is wrapt (or shrouded) in mystery," and that "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 we must admit, is rather biased in those matters, 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.

Why they chose the Equator instead of the International Date Line or the Arctic Circle, is another point altogether, and your guess is as good as Callenders.

To bring this short history right up to date, it should be mentioned that certain sects or cults, such as the Royal Canadian Navy, still practice the ancient ritual of Crossing the Line (although in its enlightened form), and on the following pages will be found the complete details of the latest ceremony which was carried out in Her Majesty's Canadian Ship "Ontario" when it crossed the Equator in July 1956 enroute from Balboa to Salinas.

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 its 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 is when King Neptune retires to the Boatdeck and 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.

CLOSING THE LINE CEREMONY

ACT I

Scene 1:

The Bridge. As if by mistake, the whole scene is enacted over Armament Broadcast.

Time: Around 2000 the night before crossing the Line.

O.O.W. (Over Armament Broadcast). Object bearing right ahead, Sir. Looks like some sort of fish -(Short pause) Appears to be surfacing Sir!

CAPT. Very Good. That will be King Neptune's Herald. We are closing the Equator rapidly. Commander, Pipe clear lower deck to the Forecastle, Guns muster the Cadet's Guard, Officer of the Watch, stand by to ... (Capt. is interrupted by the lookout)

LOOKOUT  
(O.O.W.) GREEN ONE ZERO, Sir, a light, near!

CAPT. Very good, alter course towards it, Officer of the Watch.

The ship will close toward the alleged light for about five minutes with no further patter in order to allow the ships company to assemble on the Forecastle.

Scene II: Both Herald and Captain speak through loud hailer the Captain on the bridge and the Herald on the Forecastle.

HERALD: (From behind the fog spray) SHIP AHOY!

CAPTAIN: ONTARIO

HERALD: I've heard your ship's around,  
Now tell me, whither bound?

CAPTAIN: We sail for SALINAS BAY,  
We've steamed for many a day,  
Now I've got a lot to do,  
So tell me, who are you?

HERALD: I am the Herald of the court  
Of his Oceanic Majesty;  
King Neptune ordered me aboard  
And I'll commit no travesty.

CAPTAIN: For you I'll stop my ship.  
Come forth, and no more lip.

(Herald, accompanied by Davey Jones, 2 Mermaids, 2 bears, and a bugler, advance through the spray whilst the bugler sounds the alert).

Look sharp then sire, if you please  
By what right do you challenge us on the high seas?

HERALD: By the custom of powers invested right  
In King Neptune and Queen Amphitrite  
Who sent us to your mighty ship  
To check and see if you are fit,  
We cannot take you 'cross our line,  
Without the stamp of the Trident Sign.

(Herald draws his sword, and the bears growl ---  
Mermaids titter ---)

CAPTAIN: It is of course without disdain  
That I'll accept your word,  
We're crossing into your domain  
So sheath that mighty sword. (Sword of course,  
must be a ridiculous looking affair).

HERALD: 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 harder shellback never lived  
Or walked the ocean floor;  
So tell King Neptune that I've crossed  
His bloody line before  
And if you think I'm not so hard  
Have Davy Jones inspect my guard.

HERALD: I'll do your will  
So, Sound the still. (To trumpeter).

(Trumpeter complies, and as he does so Davey  
Jones steps through the spray. Meanwhile the  
guard has been marched to the front, and Davey  
Jones with lots of slapstick inspects it ....  
e.g. points out haircuts with a dead fish which  
he carries under his arm like a telescope.)

DAVEY

JONES: A froustier guard I've never seen,  
They look like Hell and smell unclean.

(Bears commence shouting "UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!! at  
the top of their lungs.)

HERALD: Keep silence in the Bears.

Before this mighty ship of war (To the assembled  
~~Had~~ slipped from her home port multitude)  
A spy of mine had come aboard  
Her complement to sort.  
He's scanned the names of every one ....  
Come forward now, your work is done.

(Secretary makes his appearance carrying a large  
book).

**SECRETARY:** The nominal list I've closely scanned  
To learn by whom this ship is manned:  
Five hundred persons more or less  
Who by their conscience must confess  
They have not joined our Royal Mess.  
They must be made to taste the salt  
Of my King's Royal Main,  
And choke upon our pills and soap  
'Ere they can cross again.

(Bears once more start shouting "UNCLEAN UNCLEAN!!")

**HERALD:** At two bells of the forenoon watch  
Tomorrow, come what may,  
His Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune will hold sway.  
And by the ancient laws laid down  
By custom will ordain  
That all you tadpoles, young and old  
Be initiated in our name.

**SECRETARY:** All Hail, King Neptune!

(Bears, in a fit of fanatic fervour shriek "BLOOD!  
BLCCD!")

**CAPT:** Keep silence .... (Pauses till shouting dies down)

Assure King Neptune that we all  
Are honoured by this meeting;  
And please convey to him our thanks  
And our most loyal greeting.  
We shall be ready for our King  
And glad to meet his queen  
And will she bring her daughters fair  
To beautify the scene?

(Bears make wolf calls, etc.)

**HERALD:** It cannot be: A sea nymph form  
Would take each sailor's heart by storm  
Our good queen spares them from such shows  
Because they haven't any clothes .....  
The Queen will come alone.

(Bears once again start wolf calls, etc.)

(The company commences retiring through the spray;  
the Herald is last to go through and just before  
he does, he turns to the multitude and says:

"I commend you all to rest with sorrow  
The fittest will survive tomorrow...."

(Very lights of various colours are shot from  
before the spray and as they are, all lights on  
the F.X. are turned out, and a heinous, sub human  
laugh is heard from the eyes of the ship.

ACT II

Scene 1:

The Quarterdeck. Lower deck has been cleared to the A.X. and King Neptune's court has assembled in full regalia in the Cadet's Study. King Neptune and the Queen are readied on two sedan chairs assisted by 8 bears. The remainder of the shellbacks, bears and police, have assembled in traditional garb in the torpedo parting space. The bears and Police having cleared the way in traditional fashion muster on the A.X. and it is now time for the Royal Court itself to arrive. King Neptune and the Queen will be carried to the Quarterdeck helped from their chairs, and assisted to their thrones. A signal will be passed down the Commander's hatch and the torpedo parting space for the remainder to appear.

HERALD: (On entrance) HEAR YE! HEAR YE! MAKE WAY FOR HIS MOST GLORIOUS OCEANIC MAJESTY NEPTUNE'S REX, RULER OF ALL WHO SAIL UPON THE SEA UPON THEIR LAWFUL OCCASION. HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

(On arrival of Neptune and Amphitrite) ALL HAIL KING NEPTUNE!

BEARS AND  
POLICE: ALL HAIL KING NEPTUNE!

HERALD: (Calls for silence and is assisted in getting it if necessary by Police).

Captain, call your crew to attention for the Oceanic Anthem.

CAPT. (Complies).  
Led by the Herald, the complete ensemble of shellbacks sing in delorous tones, the Oceanic Anthem, (tune of "All Hail Methusalem")

All Hail His Majesty,  
The Ruler of the raging sea  
All Hail Queen Amphitrite  
Her gorgeous beauty, - what a sight.

(Captain now stands the ship's company at ease and bids it pay attention.

In humblest duty, Sire, I bring  
To you, our Oceanic King  
All here on board, may they submit  
To what in Ancient Laws is writ.

NEPTUNE: (Acknowledges Captain's remarks, then turns to address ship's company:)

Good morning, Ontarios, 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.

HERALD: My barbers ar good, and widely renowned, (barbers  
step forward gesticulating sadistically.)  
Their razors are sharper than's ever been ground;  
My doctors are butchers and as for their pills,  
They're better than ExLax for curing your ills.

CAPTAIN: Ere you punish our crimes with that terrible fork  
I present for your favour my crew to your court.

NEPTUNE: From my courtly Herald I've heard it told  
That there're 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.

HERALD: (Reading from large scroll) Captain!

(Captain comes forth and kneels at the feet of the  
King.)

NEPTUNE: For steaming this ship from the Japanese Isles  
(The faces of your crew are still wreathed in smiles)  
To Pearl and Frisco, Balboa and all,  
You have driven this ship at a distance not small.  
I hope that you, Sir, will never disdain  
This Knightly Order of Propeller and Chain.  
(Captain is awarded Order and dubbed with Trident).

NEPTUNE: I also command you as King of the Seas  
To pay me a tribute while still on your knees  
This token to be an extra beer all round  
Or I'll take your old ship and run her aground.  
(Captain is awarded Order and dubbed with Trident).

CAPTAIN: "It will be done".

HERALD: ARISE OLD SEA DOG FIFTH CLASS OF THE ANCIENT ORDER  
OF PROPELLER AND CHAIN!

(Captain retires to the background, having been  
bussed on both cheeks A La French).

HERALD: (From scroll) Executive Officer!

(Commander comes forward and kneels)

NEPTUNE: For performing your chores as number one wheel  
And keeping her clean from her truck to her keel  
I decree that you, Sir, this ships first Rater  
will wear this Order of Paint Brush and Scraper.  
(Commander is awarded Order and dubbed with  
Trident.)

And while you are still on your knees Ch Commander,  
It is sad to relate that you've got up my dander,  
I order a tribute from you to your crew  
Of a "sleep-in" tomorrow. 30-minutes will do!

COMMANDER: It will be done, Ch King!

HERALD: ARISE OLD SEA DOG SIXTH CLASS OF THE ANCIENT ORDER  
OF BRUSH AND SCRAPER.

HERALD: Engineer Commander!

(Commander (E) comes forth, but does not kneel).

NEPTUNE: For devilish cunning investigation  
For supernatural castigation  
For Sherlock Holmesian talent to find  
A complex clue of any kind:  
You are appointed to date, so I decree  
Detective Inspector till the end of July.

HERALD: (Presents him with badges of office)

PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF TEMPORARY DETECTIVE  
INSPECTOR THIRD GRADE TO DATE THIS DAY! REPORT  
YOURSELF TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

HERALD: Commander (S).

NEPTUNE: For being well versed in the art of the book,  
For laying the law as to what Cooks can cook,  
It is seemly so right that your Order should be,  
An appointment as Baker in my depths of the Sea.

HERALD: APPOINTED BAKER SEVENTH CLASS TO HIS OCEANIC  
MAJESTY.

HERALD: Commander (L).

NEPTUNE: For delving into the Amps and the Watt,  
For keeping my Mermaids all hot to trot,  
You'll do me great honour, enough that I feel,  
To make you Head Charger  
To recharge my Eels.

HERALD: APPOINTED CHIEF EEL CHARGER GRADE THREE.

HERALD: Lieutenant-Commander MORGAN.

NEPTUNE: Here is a man with name renowned,  
Whose worthy of wearing a special crown,  
My depths he has hunted with tin fish and beer,  
It does me great honour by kneeling here.  
I hereby anoint him, this special son,  
With ninety overproof Pussers Rum.

HERALD: ARISE OH WORTHY ONE, STAND CLEAR OF THE MERMAIDS!

HERALD: Petty Officer HOGG.

NEPTUNE: Here is a shellback of great extension  
Has crossed many times without any mention.  
I hereby decree that Alexandrius Hogg  
Be awarded this Order of the Old Sea Dog.

HERALD: YOU'RE JUST THE SORT TO JOIN MY COURT,  
ARISE OLD SEA DOG AND PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE QUEEN.

HERALD: Lieutenant-Colonel SCHRAFFE.

NEPTUNE: Since I hear you're a Pongo of some repute,  
Who can cure a toothache that's rather acute,  
By the simple expedient of pulling the "toot"  
With little regard for the length of the root,  
I've a gift for you that I think is a beaut .....

HERALD: AWARDED ONE USEFUL GIFT!

HERALD: Chief Cook!

(Comes forth, kneels)

NEPTUNE: Since you're the man who sweats and cooks,  
And stands abuse and ugly looks  
And tries to keep things hot for noon  
I feel you're entitled to the Greasy Spoon.

(He is dubbed with the Trident and presented with the Spoon).

HERALD: ARISE SIR KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE VENERABLE  
ORDER OF THE GREASY SPOON.

(Addressing his Majesty).

If you're 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 you all shellbacks for "crossing the line".

NEPTUNE: Aye; lead on to the Boat Deck.

(Herald precedes His Majesty and the court falls in behind. Bears and Police commence heckling the tadpoles and fall in behind the court. The whole procession moves to the Boat Deck at the slow march, the Herald announcing all the way:

"MAKE WAY, MAKE WAY, FOR HIS OCEANIC MAJESTY!  
CLEAR A WAY YOU LOWLY TADPOLES!"

Scene ii: On the Boat Deck. The court and shellbacks have taken up their positions, and the King is ready to see his defaulters. Trumpeter sounds the Alert, and the Herald calls for silence.

NEPTUNE: King Neptune, I, Lord of the sea,  
Welcome you all who 'ere you be;  
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.  
In order then, as we command,  
Before us let each Tadpole stand  
Who has his freedom yet to win....  
ENOUGH ... MY TRUSTY MEN. BEGIN!

HERALD: If you will see defaulters first  
We'll save till last the best..... and worst.

NEPTUNE: So be it.

HERALD: CAPTAIN WISEMAN.

(Capt. Wiseman comes to the fore assisted (?) by various  
bears and police)

A most heinous act he did full well  
Upon an abalone shell  
He scraped and bleached it till it died  
An act of treachery I had spied.  
And so this Wiseman's not so wise,  
We'll cut him down a smaller size.  
Barbers do your duty well,  
Give him the works, he'll bake in hell.

JUDGE: Around his neck there will be strewn  
The shells of the creatures he did ruin.

(He is flung to the bears)

HERALD: LIEUT. COMMANDER HICKS.

For insubordination  
And haughty condemnation  
Against the Shellback Nation  
His attitude did show.  
He spied against the Crown  
With sneer and jeer and frown  
So give him hell and drop him  
To my trusty Bears below.

JUDGE: For these nefarious deeds we think-stink  
To-day you will buy every officer a drink.

HERALD: MASTER-AT-ARMS.

A dastardly deed he tried to do  
To provoke a revolt in the Tadpole crew.  
Insurrection he started but we did foil.  
It made the blood of the Shellbacks boil-  
And for this crime vengeance will we reap  
Confine his body to the deep.

JUDGE: For the insurgence he did rear  
He shall dhobey old Davy's Gear.

HERALD: C2ER SMITH

Here is a man of enormous distain  
Who refuses to live in King Neptunes Domain.  
Perhaps the salt water will improve his brain  
He won't get a chance to try it again.  
Barber him well this "Tad" of the Plain.

JUDGE: Because he looks on our Realm with gloom  
He'll stand the afternoon watch in the Engine room

HERALD: LEADING SEAMAN SEARS.

Did falsify the record of the Shellbacks ancient list,  
Was discovered by Old Davey whilst staggering through the mist.  
'Tis a crime most grave and vile  
We'll remember for awhile  
So confine him to the "salt chuck"  
And let him taste our bile.

JUDGE: For this crime there is no reprieve  
Scrub the Commander's Office on your knee.

HERALD: CADET CAMERON.

Here is a Tadpole of poor reputation  
Who caused a terrible conflagration,  
By tying a Seal to an Electric Eel  
And shorting the lights of My Nation.

JUDGE: Because he made our depths so black  
He can scrub all the tables in the Cadet's Mess Shack.

HERALD: R.P.O. STEPHENSON

This Pollywog creature of stature bold  
Did committ an act that leaves us cold.  
He dined with glee on Whale Purce  
And swallowed a Mermaid whole.

JUDGE: Because his crime was such a shocker  
Hold him one hour in the old Scran Locker

HERALD: CLER SHEA.

Here is a Cad that made Neptune sad  
From his Realm in the depths of the sea,  
He opened the latch of the Mermaids Hatch  
And chuckled with fiendish glee.

JUDGE: Because you are such a man about town  
The Engineer's hatch you will scrub down,

HERALD Chief Petty Officer Potter

This wretched creature here in view  
Has sinned most grievously t'is true  
E're entering this deep domain  
He spoke of King Neptune with disdain  
And said in tones of a thousand words  
This court is strictly "for the birds."

JUDGE

This crime of all is perhaps the worst  
Though this offender is by no means **first**  
For scornful sneers at gract affairs  
I bid you throw him..... to the bears

HERALD Loading Seaman Lovering

This miserable Pollywog  
We learn from near and far  
Has labored like a dog  
Cutting hair in the RMR  
In consequence of this report  
What is the judgement of this court?

JUDGE King Neptune's barbers look with wrath  
On Pollywogs who do ply their craft  
That you may learn how to operate  
They will now happily demonstrate  
And when a Shellback you have become  
Your shearing and clipping you may resume  
Barbers.....PROCEED

HERALD There are two Shellbacks we all know  
That belong to Davoy Jones' locker below  
But when across the seas they roam  
They leave their ruddy certificates home  
So bring them before me now my sproggs  
They are Chief Barker and Chief Dodds

Chief Petty Officer Dodds

You are a shellback, that is true  
Also president of the O.M.U.  
Now members you have got  
Now tricks you have taught  
Horsey-back, changers, seconders' too  
You have done your job in the O.M.U.

JUDGE Throw him in King Neptune's Brew.

HERALD Chief Petty Officer Barker

For all your efforts for Neptune's Court  
We'll admit your a genial sort  
But as a Shellback tried and true  
The Court demands a chit from you.  
And since yourself you want to see  
On film to show your family  
Judge, the usual fate for this man t'will be.

( ad infinitum )