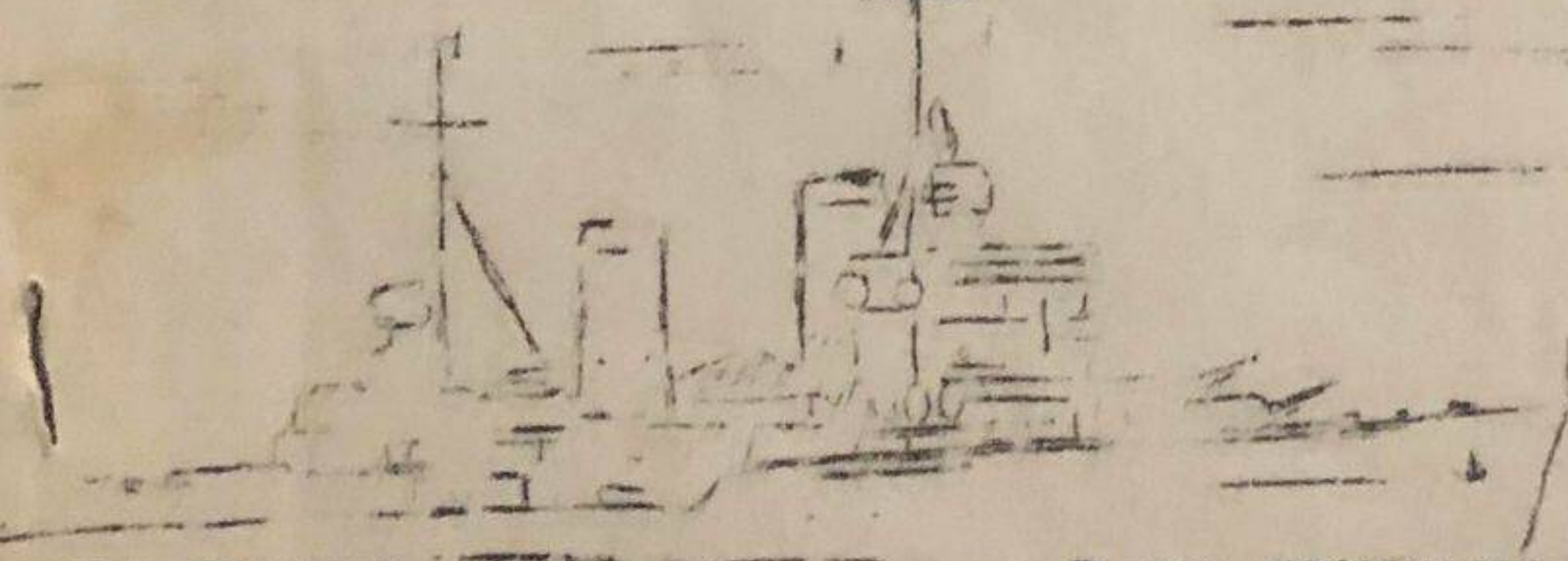
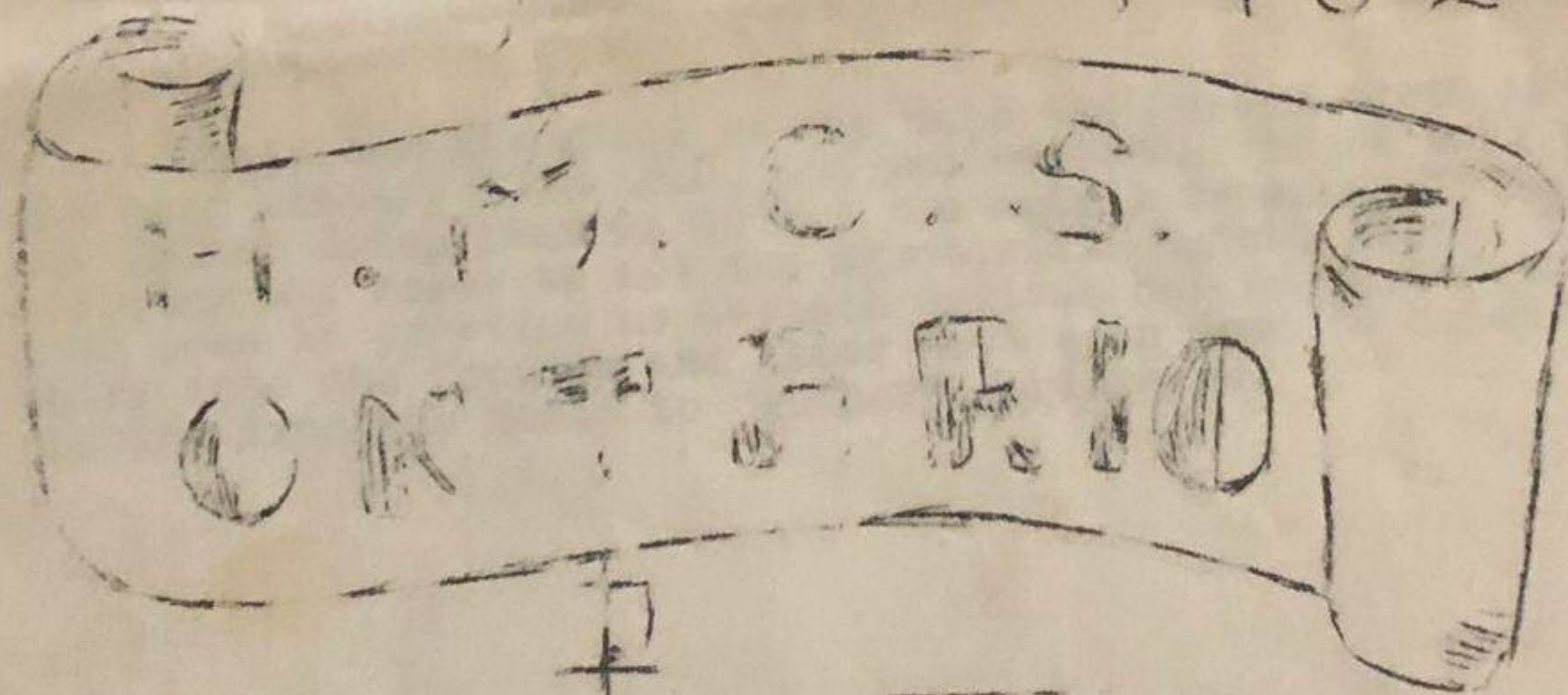


W. S. SIMON LINE

SEPT. 27<sup>TH</sup>  
- 1952 -



## HISTORY OF NEPTUNE

.....

The history is rather vague, but the Greeks who were the first to have a Navy adopted a deity, Poseidon. His domain was of Hercules, he had some authority, and no doubt the Greeks setting out on a voyage, burnt incense and in other ways interceded for his good offices.

Altars were raised to him at sea-ports and doubtless a special Priesthood took care of the Rites and Rituals. Kipling touches on Poseidon's Law.

For centuries before the Romans came into power, Poseidon's sway was unchallenged. The Romans never had a Sea God, but when they drove the Greeks from the sea, they borrowed a God from the Etruscans, who did know something of the sea. His name was Nethuns or Nephthunus, which the Romans converted to Neptunus. As the Greek sea power declined so the Roman's rose and the upstart Diety gradually thrust poor Poseidon into outer darkness. Neptunus even adopted his wife, Amphitrite. For Amphitrite was Poseidon's spouse the daughter of Oceanus, she fled to Mount Atlas when Poseidon desired her hand, but he sent a Dolphin to bring her back.

The Crossing Line as now celebrated, its origin is wrapt in mystery, it has come down from centuries.

Professor Callender, the Historian of the Navy has supplied notes on the subject and he thinks the custom was like many others of the Navy, brought into being in Nelson's time, there is a most entertaining account of the ceremony in a book called "The Adventures of Johnny Newcombe in the Navy", G. Alfred Mitford, (alias Alfred Benton.)

The date of the book was 1818, and as a custom has to be established before it figures in literature it must have been practiced earlier than that. Professor Callender thinks it originated in the East Indian Command, that is if it was of Royal Navy origin.

Conjecturally shall we say that the custom crept in during the half century 1778-1818, and was beginning to be well known at the latter date. That is to say the actual Crossing the Line Ceremony was reserved for the Equatorial region. Might it not have been in practice as Captain Sullivan has suggested to mark the entry into the Tropics and later have been done to celebrate the passing from the North to Southern Hemisphere.

CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY AND PROCEDURE

.....  
27th September 1952

1. The Crossing Certificates will be sent to the ship prior to leaving Panama.
2. Qualified men will be employed to form the court.
3. At about 0900 Saturday 27th September, 1952 the ceremony will take place. The Herd and boats will arrive on board at 2030 26th September, 1952.
4. Owing to the numbers who have to be initiated, it is proposed to divide the ship's Company into the following groups:

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Ware room Officers       | 5. Stokers    |
| 2. Gunroom Officers         | 6. Electrical |
| 3. Chief and Petty Officers | 7. Supply     |
| 4. Seamen                   |               |

.....  
DRESS

1. The Court:  
The court is to provide itself with all its necessary regalia.
2. All Others:  
Evening suit or sports. (Shoes are not to be worn whilst being dunked.)

THE COURT

KING NEPTUNE	--	C2GI3	B. CARTER
QUEEN AMPHITRITE	--	P2RC2	D. Rudolph
HERALD	--	C1TC2	J. WOOD
SECRETARY	--	LIEUT.	F. J. P. FRENCH
JUDGE	--	C2GI3	A. COCHRANE
DOCTOR	--	P1QR2	A. WORRAL
BARBERS	--	LIEUT.	J. N. BURKE
		CD. GNR.	G. A. GRIVEL
CHIEF OF POLICE	--	C2MR3	W. BELL
HEAD BEAR	--	C2PB3	J. WINGER
TRUMPETER	--	ABBD1	C. FINLAYSON

BEARS

P1	Oliver
P1	McGowan
C2	Oakley
C2	Lister
P1	Anderson
P2	Olson
P2	Peddigrew
P2	Linker
C2	Crossman
P2	Curray
LS	Robinson
LS	Watson
LS	Traham

POLICE

P1	Griffith
P1	Moskevan
P1	Emberton
C2	Dowle
P1	Doyle
P1	Wilson
C2	Martin
P2	McClellan
AB	Woods
P2	Hinds
C2	Reid
P1	Jacobsen

PROCEDURE

.....

The Ceremony is divided into three phases:

- (a) The Herald's greeting the night before crossing the Line.
- (b) The Court's presentation of Orders on the Quarter Deck on crossing the Line.
- (c) The Ceremony of Initiation at the Bath.

(d) Time: 2000: Lookouts to be placed throughout the ship.  
Dress: Hair ribbon-rolled up blanket slung over left shoulder  
- long handles- boot on left foot-sandal on right foot. Corn broom to be carried as rifle.

Time: 2030

Bridge

Lookout (Report to Captain on Bridge) "Line right ahead sir".

HERALD "Ship Ahoy" y'.

Captain "ONTARIO"

HERALD "Where are you bound?"

Captain "We are bound for Valparaiso. Who are you?"

HERALD " I am the Herald of His Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune, and I wish to come on board."

Captain " I will stop the ship." ( makes executed signal to stop engines) " My engines are stopped".

HERALD NOW ADVANCES WITH HIS BEARS FROM THE EYELS OF THE SHIP AFT THROUGH A SPRAY MADE FROM TWO FIRE HOSES

Captain " But what right do you challenge us on the high seas"

HERALD " By the right of powers invested in King Neptune and his Queen Amphitrite".  
HERALD BOWS AND BEARS GROWL

Captain " It is of course with so much pain,  
That I apoligize,  
We're crossing into your domain,  
So dry your Blinkin' eyes."

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.

PROCEDURE (continued)  
.....

Captain

"A better Shellback never lived  
Or walked the ocean floor,  
So tell King Neptune, that I've crossed  
His mouldy line before."

HERALD

"I shall report this to my Royal Master". BEARS GROWL  
To Boats - "Silence"  
To Trumpeter - "Sound the Still"

"Before the girls of Esquimalt Town  
Bade farewell to ONTARIO,  
A spy of mine made cunning entry  
Dodging Master-at-Arms and sentry,  
He's scanned the papers of everyone  
Come forward now, your work is done."

Secretary

"I am here". BOWS

HERALD

"The ledgers list I have closely scanned  
To learn by whom this ship is manned,  
Six hundred persons more or less  
Will find themselves bound to confess,  
They have not joined our Royal Order  
Through the Ordeal of Soap and Water."  
BEARS GROWL

HERALD TO THE CROWD

"At nine o'clock by the chronometer,  
And independent of height of barometer,  
King Neptune will in state appear,  
The customs that our ancient laws demand  
Shall be administered with iron hand,  
The Tadpoles will be bathed in beer".

Secretary

"Here!!!. Here!!!. BEARS GROWL

Captain

"Assure King Neptune that we all  
Are honoured by this meeting,  
And please convey to him our thanks  
And our most loyal greetings,

We shall be ready for the bowl,  
And glad to meet his Queen,  
And will she bring her daughters fair  
To beautify the scene?"

PROCEDURE (continued)  
.....

HERALD

"It cannot be- A Sea-nymph form  
Would take each sailor's heart by storm,  
The good Queen bars them from such shows,  
In any case they have no clothes,  
The Queen will come alone."  
BEARS RETIRE THROUGH SPRAY

HERALD

Bows and slowly retires through spray saying  
"Till to-morrow - Gentlemen All - Good night."  
ROCKETS - SIGNAL LIGHTS - etc.  
.....

(B)

CEREMONY ON THE QUARTERDECK

NOTE: Ships company will be assembled on the Quarterdeck at 0900. The court will muster in the Torpedo Space and form up for the procession to the Quarterdeck at 0905.

The Procession arrives on the Quarterdeck

Captain

" On humblest duty, Sire I bring  
To you the Oceans King,  
All here on board submit to-day  
To your most just and dreadful sway."

NEPTUNE

" Good morning Ontario, at the start I must say  
I have waited months for this glorious day,  
I am honoured indeed, that you now cross my path  
And hope and believe you'll receive a nice bath  
My barbers are good, and of course renowned  
Their razors are sharp, as have ever been ground  
Their lather you'll like - and as for their pills  
They are better than Beecham's and cure every ill."

Captain

" Ere you punish our crimes with that terrible fork  
I Present for your favour my crew to your court."

NEPTUNE

" Sires I am honoured to meet you,  
And my Bears in salt water will handsomely greet you."  
To Captain - " I hope that you sir will not now disdain  
The Old Sea Dogs Order of Fish and Chain."

NEPTUNE NOW HANGS THE ORDER AROUND THE CAPTAIN'S NECK.

CEREMONY ON THE QUARTERDECK (Continued)

.....  
HERALD "Executive Officer".

NEPTUNE "Of going the rounds, you have the knack,  
Of looking into every crack.  
This lamp will show in corners dark  
Where fingers black have left their mark.  
PRESENTS THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE PUSSERS LAMP

HERALD "Supply Officer".

NEPTUNE "You are the victualling Officer I understand.  
Who messes the troops on everything canned  
Cheer up Old Boy-don't cry for success,  
The man isn't born who can run a general mess.  
PRESENTS THE ORDER OF THE STATE LOAF- ( Foreign Branch)

HERALD "Gunnery Officer".

NEPTUNE "When landing parties are piped away  
And you are required ashore that day,  
Wear these gaiters if you please  
They'll stop the snakes from biting your knees.

HERALD "Chief Cook"

NEPTUNE "The Chief in the Galley, sweats and cooks,  
And stands abuse and ugly looks,  
He keeps the grub so warm for noon,  
He's sure entitled to this spoon."  
PRESENTS THE ORDER OF THE GREASY SPOON.

THE COURT PROCEEDS TO FYLE BATH FOLLOWED BY SHIPS COMPANY



THE CEREMONY OF THE INITIATION

(C)

On arrival on the Exle the court will pick up their positions for the initiation, officers and men will muster in their respective groups for the ordeal.

HERALD

" Silence for the King     Attention all"  
TRUMPETER SOUND THE ALERT

NEPTUNE

"King Neptune I, Lord of the Sea,  
Welcome you all wh<sup>o</sup> 'ere you be,  
I am Lord of all the Oceans wide,  
Lord of the Sea - Lord of the Tide.  
My law are strict, but have no fear,  
If you will only perservere.  
To attain 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 Novice stand,  
Who has the freedom yet to win,  
Enough -- my trusty men -- begin !"

CHARGES READ AGAINST THE OFFICERS AND MEN  
OF H.M.C.S. ONTARIO

.....

SECRETARY

" Lieutenant Commander Baldwin."

CHIEF OF  
POLICE

" Did on numerous occasions paint the Quarterdeck,  
which resulted in Divisions being cancelled.  
Thereby causing members of the Ship's company  
to suffer from sore throats etc, due to lack of  
singing practice."

JUDGE

" Have you anything to say - Keep silence !!!"

NEPTUNE

" Such fiendish ideas to employ,  
Docto - Let's go around the bouy."

SECRETARY

" Chaplain Pebbles."

CHIEF OF  
POLICE

" Was guilty of committing a terrible crime. Did  
on numerous occasions - (whispers crime to judge)"

JUDGE

" You've done a deed too bad to tell,  
Bears and Barbers, give him ---- The Works!!"

SECRETARY

" Captain Comichael R.C.D.C."

CHIEF OF  
POLICE

" Did disclose Ordinary Seaman Joe Pike, in that  
he did leave a foot print on the chin of the said  
Joe Pike whilst abstracting a tooth.  
SECONDLY - Did immediately after abstracting the  
tooth, dance around the dental clinic, waving his  
arms and screaming "reka!! Ureka!!"

JUDGE

" This man is a fiend"

NEPTUNE

" A snarling Pongo that you are,  
My bears will outdo you by far."

SECRETARY

" Mr. Giraud (Civy)."

CHIEF OF  
POLICE

" Did arrive on board H.M.C.S. ONTARIO at Esquimalt  
in a befuddled state, and after being informed  
that Naval Ships do not employ a Purser, demanded  
to see the General Manager"

CHARGES (continued)

- JUDGE "The man proceeds ignorance."
- NEPTUNE "A civy for a civy's life  
A sailor for the sea,  
So Bears and Barbers, dunk him well,  
A Shellback he shall be."
- SECRETARY "Fat Cart r."
- CHIEF OF POLICE "Did on various occasions decorate the Torpedo  
space with ridiculous looking signs,  
Such as; KEEP OFF - DON'T SLING HERE - WET  
DON'T LAY ON TUBE.  
Inereby causing passers-by to assume an air of  
guilt and self consciousness."
- JUDGE "Guilty on all accounts."
- NEPTUNE "Your future looks rather black,  
Give this man a double whack."
- SECRETARY "Chief Stoker Thyne."
- CHIEF OF POLICE "Did attempt to disguise H.M.C.S. Ontario in a  
cloud of black smoke, with obvious intent to  
dodge His Majesty's Courts."
- JUDGE "Guilty !! You coward !!"
- NEPTUNE "Your joke went flat, like an old flat tire.  
You big smok --- --- but no fire."
- SECRETARY "Able Seaman Howson."
- CHIEF OF POLICE "Where it has been reported to me. That on  
numerous occasions the accused did pollute His  
Ocea Majesty's Domain with foul stews, pies,  
prur peap and other s---ge."  
SECONDLY - "Did attempt to contact secret agents  
under water in that he was seen leaning over the  
starboard guard rail and sing out for a man by the  
name of B-I-L-L."
- JUDGE "A clear case I've ever saw one."
- NEPTUNE "We'll teach you to ride the rail,  
When this ship gets into motion,  
Shave the hair right off his head  
Then dump him in the ocean."

FINIS