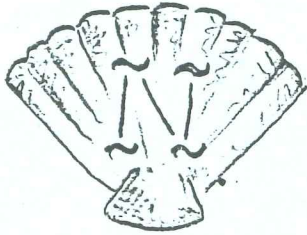


SOA LOY 86

CROSSING THE LINE





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 the Britons were even less civilized than they are today)... 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 "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 today, by erecting statues of Atlas at seaPorts, and training special Priests to attend to the Rites and Rituals. It was an extremely highly organized buisness, unfortunately, history does not record whether or not Poseidon came through in the pinches.

Now Poseidon, by the simple expedient of turning on a storm once in a while, to frighten the poor Greeks, did 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 ways of Seamanship, but they had all taken Leadership courses, and even in those days, this is 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 not particularly frightened, 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 Neptune, or Nethunus depending on which part of Etruscia you came from. But the Romans called him Neptunus for convenience. Poor old Poseidon, of course, was left far behind because the Romans were fairly rich, and could erect more alters and sing more choruses of "Eternal Father" than the Greeks ever deemed necessary. In fact, to show you how far Neptunus did go, Poseidon had a wife called Amphitrite, who was incidentally 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 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, upon hearing this, committed suicide by taking a "Deep Six" in his own ocean, leaving Neptunus as the SUPREME POWER.

Well, to make a long story short, we know all about Neptuneus, his life and works, historians of a later date were not so close up as the Romans and Greeks, and they did not record how the "Crossing The Line Ceremony" came into being, so Present day Scholars have to say that "It's origin is wrapped (or shrouded) in Mystery" and that we can only guess at it's inception into the Maritime Services. Some fairly educated guesses have been made and the dates have been narrowed down to the half century between 1768 and 1818. One, Professor Callender, who's opinion we must admit, is rather biased in these 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 peculiar customs can be traced back to Dear Old Nelson, one way or the other, 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 Professor Callender's.

To bring this short History up to date, it should be mentioned that certain Sects or Cults, such as the Sea-Fairing side of the Canadian Forces, still practice this Ancient Ritual of "Crossing the Line", although in a lighter form. On the following pages will be found the complete details of the latest "Ceremony" carried out on Her Majesty's Canadian Ship YUKON when she crossed the "Line" in September, 1986, in company with her sister ships QU'APPELLE and SASKATCHEWAN, enroute from Pearl Harbour to Pa90-Pa90.

NEPTUNE'S COURT

King Neptune	CP02 F. Daidlaw
Queen Amphitrite	PO2 R. Fiset
Davey Jones	PO1 T. Creus
Judge	LCDR R. Harrison
Herald	PO1 P. Dunn
Scribe & Registrar	PO1 B. Dempsey
A/Scribe & Registrar	MS G. Veagh
Chief of Police	PO2 B. Chénier
Head Bear	CP01 J. Reece
Bugler	PO2 T. King
Mermaids	CP01 T. Workman
	PO2 M. Becevel
Doctors	LS M. Ramage
	LS D. Fournier
Barbers	PO1 B. Kirkland
	LS M. Ba9shaw
Senior Shellback	PO1 R. Mitchell
Royal Baby	OS A. Hannah
A/Chief of Police	LS V. Taylor
A/Head Bears	MS A. Skinner
	LS A. DeLóor
Baby Bear	LS J. McGill
Cooks	PO1 N. Crawford
	LS R. Jordan
Trident Stampers	PO2 J. Spence
	LS B. Kavana9h
Photographers	MS J. Rue99
	LS S. Taylor

Policemen:

CP02 B. Moodie	CP02 E. Schefield
P01 F. Dick	P01 S. Hutchings
P01 R. Last	P01 J. Armitage
P02 D. Gordanier	P02 D. Hayes
P02 J. Hills	P02 H. Learning
P02 B. White	P02 U. Steubner
P02 K. Freeman	P02 J. Deschenes
MS J. Ewanchuk	MS R. Bonde
MS R. Cosford	MS P. Cook
LS D. Cameron	LS R. Jordan
LS D. Lamb	LS C. Scheidl
AB D. Carter	AB C. Colbourne
LS R. Weber	LS C. Harner
LS J. Cameron	

Bears:

CP02 A. Lyon	CP02 C. Wilshire
P01 D. Waetzold	P02 J. Gauvin
P01 N. Crawford	P02 C. Helmeczi
P02 F. Walker	P02 B. Trudel
MS M. Engeland	MS S. O'Quinn
LS A. Bento Da Ponte	LS C. Katan
LS J. Lajoie	LS M. Perkuhn
LS D. Welsh	OS J. Croteau
OS A. Stewart	OS H. Gajowski
OS K. Knight	OS W. Gruzias
N/Cdt R. Perks	

TADPOLES

CDR K. Nason	LCDR D. Carpenter
LCDR R. Gair	LT J. Allison
LT J. Bergeron	LT D. Cameron
LT R. Forrington	LT H. Harvey
LT J. Heath	LT E. Miska
LT D. Peterman	LT C. Savage
LT T. Shirriff	LT J. Lammermeier
LT J. Bolduc	SLT J. Russell
SLT G. Snow	SLT R. Lyon
SLT P. Talbot	SLT R. Landry
LT D. Cameron	CPD2 A. Stuart
P1 G. Cormier	P1 T. Sinclair
P2 A. Balogh	P2 P. Brown
P2 G. Cousineau	P2 R. Hogan
P2 C. Michel	P2 P. Nowlan
P2 R. Parrish	P2 J. Filote
P2 D. Ross	P2 F. Ryan
MS T. Beaton	MS M. Beaudry
MS P. Burton	MS A. Cherbonneau
MS A. Kinney	MS R. Sanderson
MS J. Racicot	MS D. Tales
MS J. Lachapelle	MS J. Ouellet
MS J. Smith	DS S. Carriere
LS S. Coudell	LS G. Harmon
LS P. Kleinschmidt	LS E. LaFosse
LS J. Leclerc	LS J. Meir
LS J. Misneault	LS K. O'Brien
LS G. Payne	LS D. Rawson
LS T. Rea	LS I. Reber
LS R. Rocheleau	LS G. Rowland
LS T. Scott	LS S. Smith
LS C. Wilson	LS P. Martin
LS J. Percival	LS C. McMurray
AB M. Anderson	AB D. Babbage
AB P. Boechler	AB J. Bouchard
AB J. Boudreau	AB K. Bryson
AB J. Gendron	AB C. Gosselin
AB D. Lampron	AB J. Maclellan
AB D. Murch	AB T. Peart
AB G. Zohner	AB M. Ferguson
AB J. Pellerin	AB S. Elliot
OS M. Bryson	OS T. Calderbank
OS J. Caouette	OS J. Carriere
OS J. Carriere	OS J. Clement
OS C. Ansell	OS D. Courtens
OS D. Devlieger	OS M. Downey
OS D. Dubchak	OS G. Durkin
OS D. Bartesko	OS H. Epton
OS J. Ericsson	OS J. Fortier
OS A. Foxall	OS D. Francis

OS J. Gagne	OS J. Gauthier
OS J. Gendron	OS B. Harder
OS K. Hever	OS R. Houghton
OS B. Howe	OS W. Jodoin
OS G. Johnson	OS J. Jones
OS J. Jourdenais	OS K. Knight
OS J. LLevellan	OS A. Massie
OS G. Matthews	OS D. McDonnell
OS M. Michel	OS M. Olsen
OS D. Orr	OS J. Perreault
OS P. Perrin	OS J. Picard
OS B. Richter	OS J. Riendeau
OS A. Roberts	OS J. Scambler
OS L. Tendoeschate	OS D. Trafford
OS J. Trevorrow	OS P. Weavers
OS D. White	OS J. Williams
OS C. Wincott	OS B. Wright
OS R. Youmans	OS J. Coyle
OS S. Doan	OS T. Moreau
OS D. Moss	OS S. Newman
PTE B. Hodgins	OS K. Skaalrud
OS J. Pellerin	OS C. Nickles
SLT D. German	NCDT D. Blois
NCDT J. Bocarro	A/SLT J. Cadrin
A/SLT D. Demirkan	A/SLT C. Gosson
NCDT G. Hayward	NCDT C. Ipe
NCDT D. Klein	NCDT B. Pauls
NCDT M. Rozon	NCDT A. Stewart
NCDT J. Trahan	NCDT M. Suszko
NCDT C. Hafey	NCDT C. Cadfain
A/SLT R. Briand	A/SLT J. Fortin
A/SLT W. Coxon	A/SLT J. Dewar
A/SLT P. Blumenstock	A/SLT J. Champagne
A/SLT J. Duchesne	A/SLT J. Lemelin
A/SLT G. Royston	A/SLT R. Turcotte
SLT C. Wardle	A/SLT S. Hughes
A/SLT J. Jean	A/SLT M. Liang
A/SLT C. Lindon	A/SLT M. Melnychuk
A/SLT G. Bourgeaux	A/SLT J. Brisson
A/SLT J. Ellis	A/SLT M. Field
A/SLT A. James	A/SLT K. Langland
A/SLT J. Loyer	A/SLT R. Sibbald
A/SLT A. Slegers	A/SLT E. Straw
A/SLT D. Timms	A/SLT H. Elderfield
NCDT M. Basden	NCDT B. Johnston
NCDT R. Richea	NCDT F. Duchesne
NCDT T. McDermott	NCDT B. Walsh
LS A. Scallion	

SCENE ONE

Place- The Bridge

Time - Around 2030. The night before crossing the Equator.

As if by accident, the whole scene is enacted over the ship's broadcast. (Someone left a mike open.)

S.C.R.

"Bridge - S.C.R. Unidentified underwater noises, bearing Green 20, 2200 yards, classified Non-sub, appears to be surfacing Sir."

BRIDGE

"Roger."

OPS.

"Bridge - OPs, new contact bearing Green 20, one mile."

O.D.W.

"Roger, report."

OPS.

"Bridge - OPs, contact at Green 20, stationary by Plot."

CAPTAIN

"Very good, that will be King Neptune's Herald. Alter course towards the contact and clear lower decks to the fo'c's'le. Muster the Honor Guard."

BOS'NS MATE

"Clear lower decks to the fo'c's'le, Honor Guard to muster."

The ship alters course toward the alleged contact for about five minutes without further pattern, to enable the Ship's Company time to assemble on the fo'c's'le.

PRIORITY

020210Z SEPT 86

FROM NEPTUNUS REX

TO YUKON FOR CO,
 XO AND SHIPS COMPANY

INFO CANCOMDESRON FOUR

UNCLASS

MY SPIES HAVE JUST REPORTED TO ME
 THAT IN YOUR WARDROOM THERE ARE MANY
 WHO SAIL UPON MY OCEANS BLUE
 THAT ARE NOT SHELLBACKS TRIED AND TRUE

ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER TENTH
 AROUND THE HOUR OF TWENTY THIRTY
 UPON THE FO'C'S'LE IN A CLUSTER
 A GUARD, I BID YOU MUSTER

IT SHALL CONSIST OF ACTING SUBBIES
 DRESSED TO A TEA, I'LL SEE NO GRUBBIES.
 AND LED BY THE ONE WHO LEADS THE SAME.
 ACTING SIBBALD IS HIS NAME.

ALSO ATTIRED IN SUITABLE THREADS,
 SHALL BE SEVEN MORE OF THE WARDROOM'S DEAD HEADS
 I'LL SEE THEM ALL, FOR THAT'S MY CHORE
 SAVE THOSE WHO ENTERED MY REALM BEFORE

AND ON THE RIGHT AS MARKER BRIGHT
 WILL BE THAT AUSSIE, CLOSE UP TIGHT
 FAIL YE NOT AT THIS SIMPLE TASK
 LEST IN MY WRATH YOUR SHIP WILL BASK

NEPTUNUS REX

OFFICERS GUARD

I/C	A/SLT Sibbald
Guard	SLT Talbot
	A/SLT Ellis
	A/SLT Timms
	A/SLT Langland
	A/SLT German
	A/SLT Liang
	A/SLT Melnychuk
	A/SLT Royston
	A/SLT Demirkan
	NCDT Rozon
	LT Allison
	SLT Bolduc
	LT Forrington
	SLT Snow

SCENE TWO

Both captain and herold speak through loud hailers. The herold on the foc's'le and the captain on the bridge.

HEROLD (from behind the spray)
 "Ship ahoy"

CAPTAIN
 "YUKON"

HEROLD
 "I've heard your ship's around.
 Now tell me whither bound."

CAPTAIN
 We've sailed away from HI AH WHY,
 We're Pa9o Pa9o bound.
 So come aboard and don't stay long,
 My ship and crew are sound.

(The herold accompanied by Davy Jones, the scribe, two bears and a Piper, advance through the spray, while the Piper pipes the still.)

HEROLD
 "I'm no stranger and uphold the right
 To board your ship this very night,
 As Neptune's herold, I am most keen
 To ascertain if this ship is clean."

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

HEROLD
 "Very well captain, I'll do your will,
 Faithful Piper sound the still,
 Davy Jones inspect the guard."

Davy Jones receives the report of the guard officer and proceeds to inspect the guard with a great deal of pomp and flourish and some very dead fish which appear to be used to clean up the motley group.

DAVY JONES

"So this is the guard you've 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 Bears shriek "UNCLEAN-UNCLEAN"

HEROLD

"Keep silent in the bears."

"If you are a Shellback, and your papers are in order,
King Neptune will be glad to have you across his border."

CAPTAIN

"A mightier tadpole has never lived,
Or walked the ocean floor,
So tell King Neptune that I've not crossed
His bloody line before.

And yes there among my crew
Something between two hundred and two
Tadpoles all, who need the Potion
That is dispensed from your mighty ocean."

HEROLD

"When at Esquimalt, this ship did lie,
A messenger of Neptune's was sent to spy,
He scanned the records and paper galore,
To find the number who'd been here before,
To our surprise, and not to our sorrow,
Many a Tadpole becomes a Shellback tomorrow."

SECRETARY

"I was the spy who scanned the papers,
To learn all I could of the numerous capers
That have been pulled off by this ship's crew,
So listen closely while I tell you,

From this unclean rabble, this motley mess,
 Two hundred bodies, more or less,
 Tomorrow will learn of their horrible fate,
 Dispensed by the court of Neptune the Great,
 And furthermore, I must report,
 I Plead NO MERCY, from the court."

Bears shout "UNCLEAN !!"

HEROLD

"By nine o'clock from the ship's time check,
 The court will muster upon the quarterdeck.
 His Majesty, King Neptune, will in state, appear,
 By ancient laws, well steeped in beer,
 And there he shall, with iron hand,
 Initiate the tadpoles of your band."

SECRETARY

"All hail King Neptune."

(Everyone yells "Hail King Neptune")

CAPTAIN

"We shall be ready for your King,
 And only to glad to meet his Queen,
 Will she bring her daughters fair,
 To cast their beauty upon the scene?"

(Bears emit wolf calls)

HEROLD

"Alas, it cannot be, a Sea Nymph's form
 Would take each sailor's heart by storm,
 The good Queen saves them from such woes,
 Those lovely beauties have no cloths!"

(More wolf calls from the Bears)

(The company starts to retire through the spray, the Herold goes last and Pauses to say in a loud clear voice:)

HEROLD

"I command you all to rest with sorrow,
 Only the fittest will survive tomorrow!"

SCENE THREE

The scene shifts to the Quarterdeck the following morning. Lower decks have been cleared to the Quarterdeck. King Neptune's Court, in full regalia, has been assembled in the Weapons Workshop. The Bears and Police have placed themselves around the Royal Throne awaiting the Grand entrance.

The Herald and Piper come onto the Quarterdeck.

HERALD

"Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Make way for His Glorious Majesty Neptunus Rex, Ruler of all who sail upon the sea on their lawful occasions, Hear Ye! Hear Ye!"

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

HERALD

"All hail King Neptune."

BEARS & POLICE

"All hail King Neptune."

The Court now proceeds to take up their positions on the stage.

HERALD

"Captain! Call your crew to attention for the Oceanic Anthem."

CAPTAIN

"YUKON'S, Attention!"

Led by the Herald, the complete ensemble of Shellbacks sing in delirious tones the Oceanic Anthem.

(Sung to the 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

"YUKON'S stand at ease!

In humblest duty sire,
I bring to you our Oceanic King
That all here onboard YUKON may submit,
To what in ancient laws is writ."

NEPTUNE

"Good morning YUKON. You've come a long way,
I've waited months for this glorious day.
You know full well what I've come to do,
For I hear there are TadPoles among your crew."

HERALD

"My Barbers are good, and widely renowned-

(Barbers step forward gesturing sadistically)

Their razors are sharper than has ever been ground,
My Doctors are butchers, and as for their Pills,
They're better than Ex-lax for curing your ills."

CAPTAIN

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

NEPTUNE

"From my courtly Herald I've heard it told,
That there's some in your crew so brave and bold,
As to warrant my favor...There may be some missed,
So worthy Herald, bring forth my Honour list."

SCRIBE

"I call upon the PO TEL; boss-man of all dots and dashes."

HERALD

"Though soot and smoke fills all our lungs,
And first hand smoke, the worst,
T'is second-handed smoke he hates,
And late night smokers he's cursed.

No longer will he have to wheeze,
Because his mess-mates care,
All meetings will be smokeless now,
With good clean air to share."

NEPTUNE

"Rise Sir Steven - keeper of The Clean Air."

SCRIBE

"I first call upon our Shellback SPY - MS O'Quinn."

HERALD

"In days gone by, there's been many a spy
Where wars are won and lost.
Remember Matta Hari,
And all the grief she caused.

In every war there's been a spy,
Down throughout the years.
No flashy name like "Deep Throat", no...
We call our man "The Ears"."

NEPTUNE

"Rise Sir Zero - Keeper of The Big Ears."

SCRIBE

"I call upon the Ancient Mariner - Petty Officer Mitchell."

HERALD

"Now it's brought to our attention, Mitch,
That with all this clean air, no-one can bitch.
Of course there's no other to which we can compare,
But it would seem your Honker sucks up more than it's fair
share.

So today I'll quarter your nose,
Which will make it small,
And then there will be Plenty,
Of fresh air to breath, for all."

NEPTUNE

"Rise Sir Mitchell - Keeper of The Small Nose."

DEFAULTERS

HERALD

"Hear Yea! Hear Yea! Hear Yea! The Circuit Shellback Court of His Majesty, Neptuneus Rex, is now in session. Judge Samuel Seaweed Presiding."

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 only you will Persevere,
To keep the freedom of the Seas,
As recognized by our degrees.
Here are the Bears, suds and 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

"Bears...into the Brine."

JUDGE

(Rapping gavel) "First case"

HERALD

"Call for the highest of lowly ones here
Bears fetch him for me now if you Please
The numero uno the Yukon's big cheese
CDR Nason."

JUDGE

"You are the boss tadPole a Jock strapper too.
We'll cleanse you today but you must Pay your dues.
Neptuneus Rex has commanded me here
That you buy all us shellbacks one ration of beer... What say
you?"

(Captain gets dunked regardless of answer)

SCRIBE

"I call upon the sticker of Pins and stitcher of wounds, our almost faithful sickbay tiffy, P1 MacGuire."

HERALD

"This mans proffessed "I've crossed the line."

Yes indeed but t'was not mine.

The arctic circle cuts no ice, though his bonus Proof looks very nice."

JUDGE

"As Neptune's realm runs North and South,

Its not as wide as this man mouth.

Should he return to the fair East Coast,

He'll have a card with which to boast.

4 dunks"

SCRIBE

"Come forth and take it like a man Chief Petty Officer Stuart."

HERALD

"This next defaulter I dare not miss,

He too is from the land of cod fish.

He tried to fool us you and I

By his lowly attempt of a card to buy."(Boooooo)

JUDGE

"I dare say does this rumor have truth?

I'm sure it has, for I've been told

By many a shellback that you are uncouth,

By lieing you swine, you're fat, you're old

Though you are our chief storesman and a good one at that.

But a sin is a sin and you've committed the act.

When cleansed you will join the saintly as monks,

But your Punishment stands at a fair four dunks."

SCRIBE

"Come forward Able Seaman Lampron."

HERALD

"This tad is the worst I have seen
 He truly reeks and is unclean
 The crew calls him Lumpy
 For he truly is Dumpy
 Did kill a Cod
 This fish killing clod
 Across the line he tried to skate
 But we will give him his just fate."

JUDGE

"A cod you did kill
 By your own free will
 This is a crime of the highest degree
 And by the King's hand, you will not go free
 So four dunks in the brine, and a taste of the Pill."

SCRIBE

"The next defaulter Prides himself in sowing seeds of
 dissention.
 I've news for him the scalliwag, he may
 not live to see his Pension."
 Bring me Leading Seaman Scallion."

HERALD

"This tadpole to say the least is surely fleet.
 He opens his mouth to change his feet.
 Indeed as far back as early June,
 He incited others to rack and ruin.
 By calling names and shouting defame
 Upon this Court and Regal terrain."

JUDGE

"For this and crimes too numerous to mention,
 Rinse his mouth and cleanse his soul.
 Don't spare the horses.
 Give him your full attention."

SCRIBE

"Chief of Police bring forth that lowly
writer of Pay,
The one they call Leading Seaman Rea."

HERALD

"Before you stands, on this judgement day,
The slime who tried to withhold our Pay,
You can't do that,
You dirty rat,
Your other crimes I won't bother to say."

JUDGE

"For this dastardly deed you dirty crook,
Of snipping us in our pocket book,
It distresses me and further more,
I command three dunks...No! make it four."

The Royal Barbers, Doctors, Bears and Police carry on initiating
the remaining tadpoles, missing not a single uncleansed soul. The
Scribe will check them off.