UNITED STATES FLEET
BATTLESHIPS, BATTLE FORCE
Battleship Division Three

REAR ADmirAL ARTHUR P. FAIRFIELD, U.S. NAVY
Commander Battleship Division Three

Hawaiian Scene Halftones courtesy of
Advertiser Publishing Co., Ltd.
Pan-Pacific Union Magazine

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI

CAPTAIN WILLIAM R. MUNROE, U.S. NAVY
Commanding

COMMANDER HERBERT V. WILEY, U.S. NAVY
Executive Officer

By CHIEF MACHINIST VIRGIL A. COWART, U.S. NAVY

Photographs
ENSIGN A. J. LITTLE, U.S.N.
W. H. SPELL, Coxswain, U.S.N.

Cartoons
L. H. WEBB, Yeoman 2c, U.S.N.

Personnel Data
A. MAURER, Chief Yeoman, U.S.N.
Comparative Size of Hawaii
Hawaii is larger than the combined areas of Connecticut and Rhode Island with an area of 6,485 square miles and 2,22 square miles respectively.

Location
Latitude and Longitude
The geographic position of the Island of Oahu (City and County of Honolulu) centers near 21° 30' N. Latitude 158° 00' Longitude.

Distances From Honolulu To Island Ports (In Sea Miles)
To
Hilo, Hawaii 39 Kona, Hawaii 33 Kauai, Hawaii 41 Kauai, N. Shore 44

To Pacific Ports (In Sea Miles)
To
Victoria, B. C. 3,180 Oakland 6,108
Seattle 3,920 San Francisco 4,550
Los Angeles 5,520 Honolulu 4,927
Pondah 5,030 Wake Island 1,475
Narushio 4,250 Okinawa 5,500

Commanding Officers of the U.S.S. Mississippi

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph L. Jayne</td>
<td>18 December 1917 to 31 January 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Andrews</td>
<td>31 January 1918 to 6 September 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin F. Hutchison</td>
<td>6 September 1918 to 29 November 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William A. Moffett</td>
<td>10 December 1918 to 7 December 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powers Symington</td>
<td>7 December 1920 to 15 December 1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orton P. Jackson</td>
<td>15 December 1921 to 14 November 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William D. Brotherton</td>
<td>14 November 1923 to 6 June 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas C. Hart</td>
<td>6 June 1925 to 2 June 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles M. Tozer</td>
<td>2 June 1927 to 27 June 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward B. Fenner</td>
<td>27 June 1928 to 14 June 1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry L. Brinser</td>
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<tr>
<td>William D. Puleston</td>
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<td>Sam C. Loomis</td>
<td>1 July 1934 to 30 November 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William P. Gaddis</td>
<td>30 November 1935 to 7 June 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis L. Reichmuth</td>
<td>7 June 1937 to 30 April 1938</td>
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<td>Raymond A. Spruance</td>
<td>30 April 1938 to 6 January 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmund W. Burrough</td>
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| William R. Munroe       | 6 February 1940

"CROSSING THE LINE"
FOREWORD

A story of the voyage of the U.S.S. Mississippi across the Equator, in the South Seas, and a description of the Initiation Ceremonies by which 1038 officers and men of the Mississippi were converted from Pollywogs to Shellbacks.

ORIGIN OF THE CEREMONIES

The origin of the ceremonies connected with crossing the line is lost in antiquity. At a very early date when Neptune was believed to be the God of the Sea, sailors on entering his domain were only too glad to gain his good will and protection by acts of propitiation. We know that the Vikings had a ceremony of some kind in crossing certain parallels, and it is probable that they passed on the custom to the Anglo-Saxon and other sea-going nations. Sailors finally gave up their belief in Neptune, God of the Mysterious Deep, but they kept up the 'propitiation' and turned it into something like a cross between a lodge initiation and a Blitzkrieg. Today the ceremony is simply an initiation of men who have not crossed the line by men who have. Thus the "Pollywog" becomes the "Shellback." This Brotherhood of the Sea is said to be the only organization in the world which men are compelled to join. Every "Shellback" is a zealous member. In fact he is a go-getter, going into every conceivable hiding place on the ship to get the trembling "Pollywog." Lest our readers who are not familiar with naval customs condemn this ceremony as brutal, it should be said that the initiation is not brutal, but may be boisterous. The worst a man gets out of it is a good ducking, a treatment by the Royal Barbers and Royal Doctors, and a well-placed paddling by the gang. Captain B. Hall, of the Royal Navy, writing more than a century ago, said: "Its evil is transient, if any evil there be; while it certainly affords Jack a topic for a month beforehand and a fortnight afterwards."
Honolulu...Diamond Head as seen from Ala Moana Park

Honolulu Harbor and Business District

Old Hawaiian putting pig in "imu" for roasting

"CROSSING THE LINE"
On July 19, 1940, the U.S.S. Mississippi, accompanied by other units of the United States Fleet left the Fleet Base in Hawaiian waters for routine maneuvers through the South Pacific Ocean, south of the Hawaiian Islands, approaching the islands of the South Seas falling in the general classification of American Polynesia.

These islands had for many years lived a lazy existence, with very few people living on them, and some of them entirely uninhabited. They were known to us only through the romantic novels of the South Seas, wherein such names as Palmyra, Jarvis, Christmas, Fanning and Kingman served to identify points at which shipwrecked mariners spent long days, weeks and months hoping to see a passing craft being borne through the tropics by the trade winds.

For many years they were considered of such small value that even their ownership was a matter of no great concern. They were nominally under Great Britain, but were used freely by any one who travelled through them. They were seldom visited by any craft other than fishing vessels from Hawaii.

In 1935 the scene quickly changed. The giant clippers of the Pan-American Airways conquered the Pacific Ocean, and the following year the route to the Orient became a beaten path for the huge silver planes. The United States government was quick to see the potential value of the islands in connection with aviation service to the Antipodes. By negotiation with Great Britain, they were placed beneath the American flag, and even as our voyage started, the first regularly scheduled clipper flight to Australia was in progress above these islands.

Upon leaving the Fleet Base, word went through the ship that during the next few days the maneuvers would carry the fleet across the Equator. The first thought at this news was that at last the ship would for the first time since 1925 come within the domain of Neptunus Rex, the Ruler of the Raging Main.

**PREPARATIONS**

The subpoenas blanks were prepared by Shellback J. L. Nuzzo, Chief Printer, U.S.N., with his Pollywog assistants. Pollywog assistants of all the Shellbacks cooperated in caring for the many details connected with the party, and thanks are hereby given for the help given by these men, requiring overtime work by them in many cases.

After leaving the base, a message containing the following information was received from Commander Battle Force:

"THIS FORCE WILL CROSS EQUATOR WEDNESDAY MORNING X COMMANDER BATTLE FORCE WILL MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO ROYAL DOMAIN OF HIS MAJESTY NEPTUNUS REX."

Immediately following receipt of this message, a note was found in the Daily Work Sheet to the following effect:

"THE FOLLOWING MIXED SHIPMENT OF STORES CONSIGNED TO DAVEY JONES, U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI, WAS RECEIVED FRIDAY FROM THE SUPPLY OFFICER FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT. STOREKEEPER CONCERNED PLEASE DRAW SAME FROM D-60. TODAY: DIGITALIS PURPUREA, STRYCHNINE SULPHUROUS, NUX VOMICA, CAUSICUMA FRUCTUS, PHYTOSTIGMA VENENOSUM IN CAPSULES, TEN GALLONS MUCILAGE, 20 GALLONS
COAL OIL, 6 QUARTS HOT PEPPER SAUCE, 10 QUARTS CASTOR OIL, 2 BARRELS STICKY BLACK TAR, 20 POUNDS AXLE GREASE, FOUR HIGH PRESSURE GREASE GUNS, FIFTY BASEBALL HATS, SIX PAIRS HORSE CLIPPERS, FIFTY PAIRS CRUTCHES, ONE GALLON SHELLBACK OIL, 4 CORK LEGS, 3 CASES ADHESIVE TAPE, 6 BLOOD STOPPERS.

Publication of this note brought great consternation to the lowly Pollywogs among the crew. They began to realize the mighty power of the Ruler of the Raging Main, and knew that all of the above material was for the purpose of conducting a proper initiation into the Silent Mysteries of the Deep.

Amusing cartoons, reproduced herein, began to appear around the ship. These cartoons aroused great interest in the party. Several small groups of Pollywogs attempted to form an organization to combat the Shellbacks, but these uprisings were quickly brought to the attention of the Royal Representative on board, and prompt action squelched the rebels.

On the Daily Work Sheet for Saturday there appeared the following message, which had been received via the Starboard Main Inclination:

"From: Long John Silver
To: Secret Agent—Bull

KNOW YE, THAT VAGUE RUMORS HAVE REACHED OUR EARS, THROUGH CHANNELS OF OUR LAWFUL EMISSARIES ON TERRA FIRMA THAT THE U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI, IN PURSUIT OF HER LAWFUL DUTIES, WILL ASK PERMISSION TO ENTER OUR DOMAIN; WHEREFORE, WE MIND ALL OUR TRUSTY SUBJECTS PREPARE THE MANY POLLYWOGS WITH WHICH THE SHIP IS BURDENED TO DO US HOMAGE AND TO INSTILL IN THEM A PROPER REVERENCE AND HUMILITY SUCH THAT THEY MAY BE WORTHY TO COME BEFORE OUR AUGUST PRESENCE, BY HIS EXALTED MAJESTY, NEPTUNUS REX."

The Shellbacks continued their work with more vigor after receiving this word from their beloved King. The subpoena committee worked quietly, compiling a list of the many sins of the Pollywogs in order that His Majesty would have a clear and complete story of the misdeeds of the culprits when they approached His throne.

The Daily Work Sheet for Sunday contained another bombshell for the Pollywogs:

"From: Davey Jones
To: Royal Representative on Board U.S.S. Mississippi

YOUR REPORT OF THE ACTIONS OF POLLYWOGS HAS BEEN RELAYED TO HIS EXALTED MAJESTY NEPTUNUS REX. THE PART PLAYED BY POLLYWOGS SHERMAN, SCULL, HOWE, INNES, FAIRFAX AND LEADER IN INCITING THE POLLYWOGS TO REVOLT HAS BEEN DUTY RECORDED. THEY ARE HEREBY DECLARED TO BE THE LEADERS OF THE PIRATES. HIS MAJESTY DECLARES THAT AS ADDITIONAL PUNISHMENT AND THAT THEY MAY BE PRODUCED IN HIS PRESENCE WITH THE PROPER REVERENCE AND HUMILITY, THEY SHALL BE HOISTED TO THE YARD TWO HOURS PRIOR TO ENTERING THE ROYAL DOMAIN AS SPECIAL LOOKOUTS. THEY SHALL BE LOWERED AND GIVEN AN EGG SHAMPOO FOLLOWED BY A BILGE WATER WASH AT HALF HOUR INTERVALS."

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI

"CROSSING THE LINE"
Shandonay,
Shannon,
Shore,
Shimek, F.
Shannon,
Sledge,
Slagle, J.
Sinclair,
Simning,
Smith, D.
Sledge, L. P.,
Smith, E.
Smith, R.
Smuck, J.
Fields,
Field
Graham,
Jones,
Smith, John E.

26
ergeant  
E., F1c
Sergeant  
W.
G.8.,
V.,
C.
M. L.,
Robert
M.
C.
Drummond
E., Sealc
Sealc
Sealc
Sealc
Sealc

Spaven,
Spracklin, L. D.,
St.
Sumner,
Stenger,
Stansfield,
Steele,
Sullivan,
Stuart,
Struve,
Silarter,
Taylor,
Templeton,
Teach, A.
Thompson,
Baker, Robert
Brown, Robert L.
Hancock,
Goebel, John
Jaramillo,
Higginbotham, Robert L.
McCarty,
Hill,
Cyr,
W.
C.
A.,
L..A.,
W.
R.
C.
D.,
E.

Shellbqcks

Shellbqcks

Enron, D. E., Sealc
Seals, R. E.
Seyla, G. B., Sealc
Seylcy, W. B., Sealc
Smith, G. F., Sealc
Seymour, W. P., CBM (FA)
Shandonay,
Shannon, D. A., Sealc
Shannon, A. D., Sealc
Shannon,
Shannon, W. W., Sealc
Shaw, Y., Sealc
Shepard, D. R., Sealc
Shepherd, U. J., AS
Shiner, K. P., Sealc
Shirley, H. F., Sealc
Shore, H. A., Sealc
Sievert, K. C., FC	
Singmond, J. K., Sealc
Simmons, M. "V.," MMtc
Simms, A. L., Sealc
Sinning, W. O., Flc
Sinclair, A. W., Flc
Slagle, J. D., FC	
Shansky, P. J., MMtc
Sledge, L. P., FC	
Sledge, M. C., FC	
Slon, S. Sealc
Smillwood, P. R., Sealc
Smith, C. D., Sealc
Smith, D. Sealc
Smith, E., Sealc
Smith, E. C., Sealc
Smith, E. M., Sealc
Smith, F. Sealc
Smith, G. H., Sealc
Smith, H. Sealc
Smith, J. O., MAStc
Smith, L. W., Flc
Smith, M. L., CWT (AA)
Smith, N. B., GMtc
Smith, R. D., MMtc
Smith, R. N., MMtc
Smith, L. W., Sealc
Snedgrass, W. M., Sealc
Sommer, H. K., Sealc

First Sergeant
Evans, James
Gumney Sergeant
Davis, Henry "Lc."
Sergeant
Anson, Raymond L.
Fields, James B.
Johnson, William C.
Williams, Nathaniel
Corporal
Alexander, Drummond
Banks, David W.
Brumfield, W. L.
Graham, Marshall D.
Lomax, George
Sills, Steve T., Jr.
Smith, John M.
Smith, Robert N.
Field Cook
Jones, Robert P., Jr.
MISUNDERSTOOD POLLYWOLLS

"We Ain't Done Nothing!"

At about 4:00 p.m., the evolutions being completed, the word was passed for the Pollywogg Sea Watch to be posted on the double. Soon the entire crew was amazed to see the Pollywogg Sea Watch, made up as follows, take their stations.

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI

Commanding Officer:

W. R. MUNROE
Captain, U.S. Navy

To:

All Pollywogg Watch.

From: Commodore

Subject: Modification of Combinations and Watch Establishment.

All ships' Command Made Preparations for the Reception of His Imperial Majesty Neptunus Rex X All Ships Immediately Establish an Adequate Lookout to Watch for Davey Jones X The Time Should Be Allotted to the Instruction of All Novices Otherwise Known as Pollywollls Who Are Approaching the Dreadful Mysteries in Order That Their Minds and Souls May Be Steeled To the Ordeal That Awaits Them.

In accordance with (a), the following Pollywogg sea watch has been established. The watch will be set immediately after completion of afternoon exercises. The watch will be maintained on the double immediately after the word is passed.

1. The Junior Officer of the Deck shall be sent to the forecastle to receive the Royal Scribe and conduct him to the bridge, then to me on the quarterdeck. The Pollywogg Sea Watch will then be ordered.

2. When Davey Jones has reached the boat deck, on his way to the bridge, assembly will be sounded, and hands will be marched aft by divisions for Mustard Formation.

3. Davey Jones will present to all Officers and Chief Petty Officers the subpoenas ordering them to appear before the Court, and subpoenas for all others will be delivered to the Division Parades where they will be solemnly delivered for their safe delivery.

4. After presenting the subpoenas, Davey Jones will return to the Sea where he came.

5. His Imperial Majesty Neptunus Rex, Emperor of the Deep, will board this vessel at or about 0645 tomorrow. This watch will be made up according to watch furnished by Davey Jones when he comes aboard this evening.

6. Breakfast will be served to all hands at 0030, and quarters will be sounded. All Divisions will be at Mustard Formation at 0045.

7. The ship's boat will be hoisted aboard by His Majesty and Court. They will come aboard via the hawsepipes.

8. The Junior Officer of the Deck shall meet His Majesty on the Bow, and escort Him and His Court to the Quarterdeck, coming on to the Quarterdeck on the Starboard side.

9. As the Royal Court reaches the Quarterdeck, Full and Royal Honors will be rendered by the Marine Guard and Band. Ten Side Boys will be used.

10. His Majesty will then assume charge of this vessel and all persons herein shall strictly execute his commands under pain of his displeasure. The Royal Stand will be a broken chair. The Royal Court will proceed to the forecastle and take their stations. A signal for all hands to report to the forecastle will be sounded by a Royal Blaster from the Royal Whistle of the Royal Chief of Police.

11. All hands will be quartered for the uniform of the day, and the officers will wear side arms. The uniform for inspection will be optional. All hands are cautioned not to have watches or valuables in their pockets.

12. The inspection line will form on the boat deck and all hands will surrender their subpoenas to the Royal Junior Officer. This will then be followed by the subpoena until after the ceremony is finished, at which time they will be returned to their owners.

13. Officers and Crew are to be followed by the Chief Petty Officers, then by the crew.

4. Tomorrow is hereby declared a holiday.

8. U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI
THE ROYAL COURT OF NEPTUNUS REX, U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI

NEPTUNUS REX

Chief boatswain G. R. Marsimmon
The Queen J. R. Beamum, G'Mc
The Prince J. T. Foutz, G'Mc
The Princess C. Boyd, G'Mc
The Royal Baby R. H. Faulkner, B'Mc
The Gentleman-at-Arms O. C. Thomas, G'Mc
Royal Guest of Honor Captain W. R. Moffett
Royal Officer of the Deck Lieutenant R. Anderson
Royal Navigator Lieutenant S. W. Wiggins
Long John Silver Admiral J. P. Richardson
Royal Protecting Attorney Chief Machinist V. A. Cowan
Royal Judge Chief Radioman E. R. Trapper; W. C. Mature
Royal Doctor Comde E. Richiron, (MC); H. H. Capers
Royal Dentist E. F. W. W.ough, PhMlc
Royal Attorney J. A. Norton, CWT
Royal Admiral Comde L. L. Maye
Royal Chaplain E. A. Kennedy, CSld; F. Bouser, SCld
Royal Distiller T. P. Moomhoorn, SFlc
Royal Barbers W. P. Sharity, WT2c; W. W. Wamer, C'Mld
J. S. Fleshier, MMlc; E. E. Vankan, EM2c; E. E. Larrpert, W7lc; E. J. Organe, C'Mld; B. V. Kichinsky, Vcld
Royal Rugger A. Agguello, Music; R. Melizar, Music
Pay Log T. W. Baker, SMlc
Royal Scriber A. Moirer, Cyld; L. C. Zouzid, Cyld; D. J. White, C'Mld; E. Augis, CSld; J. L. Yeax, CPR
Royal Attendants for Neptune Rex S. Boyd, Mattie; C. Hall, Mattie
Royal Nurse L. J. Grubli, C'Mld
Royal Baby Nurse W. L. Wendell, CRM
Royal Maid L. E. Fugose; L. E. A. Austin; R. E. Lewis, B'Mlc; Z. T. Stuart, SMlc

Officers Converted from Landlubbers to Shellbacks

Commander H. V. Wilks
Captain P. D. Sherman, USNC
Lieutenant G. W. Legwon, Jr.
Lieutenant G. Scal
Lieutenant (jg) R. S. Thompson, Jr.
Lieutenant SC2c H. W. Howle
Lieutenant SC2c L. W. Gross
Ensign K. F. Tones, USNR
Ensign V. W. Liley, SMlc
Ensign (SC) C. F. Palmer
Ensign E. L. Kien, USNR
Ensign H. E. Robinson, USNR
Ensign J. H. Rotten Jr., USNR
Ensign F. W. Vanoy
Ensign C. G. Mendihiarl, Jr.
Ensign W. R. Bollou
Ensign E. G. Fairas
Ensign N. W. James III
Ensign G. L. Reed, USNR
Ensign E. S. Goldber, Jr.
Ensign A. S. Goodfellow, Jr.
Ensign L. H. Kratou
Ensign A. S. Gillette, Jr.

Albury, G. E., Sealc
Abcans, A. O., Sealc
Adrian, J. G., MMlc
Alexander, G. W., G'Mlc
Allen, P. E., Sealc
Allen, W. H., Enite
Allen, W. L., Seale
Allison, L. E., Seale
Allbrook, E. W., Seale
Anderson, E. G., CSk (PA)
Anderson, E., Seale
Anderson, J. C., Mote
Anderson, L. C., Seale
Anderson, P. R., Seale
Anderson, W. M., Seale
Andrews, E. M., Seale
Augs, L. G., Seale
Austead, J., MMlc
Ayopil, H., Seale
Aykroyd, C., B'Mlc
Arey, C., GM2c
Ashby, W. W., Seale
Ashworth, A. H., Seale
Auberch, O. C., Seale
Ayres, M. P., Seale
Barbo, C., Seale
Baldino, J. A., Seale
Bain, J. B., Seale
Baird, C. E., Seale
Baker, G. D., Seale
Baldon, C. A., Seale
Ballard, J. E., Seale
Baltor, D. G., Seale
Basta, J. F., Ytce
Banks, J. A., Seale
Banks, K. C., Fie
Barbara, G. D., Seale
Barberis, E. B., Seale
Barnew, B. L., Seale
Barrett, T. S., RMlc
Barry, D. B., Seale
Barwick, S., EMlc
Bauer, R. B., Fie
Beaman, V. R., Fie
Boomer, S. H., Seale
Boyer, G. D., Fie
Boyless, T. J., MA3rd
Brauch, C. H., Seale
Brame, D. W., Seale
Braud, J. J., Seale
Breseele, K. C., Seale
Bromy, W. J., Seale
Bryson, G. D., Seale
Beguin, S. E., MMlc
Berry, R. W., Seale
Berry, R. K., Seale

Enlisted Men Converted from Landlubbers to Shellbacks

Barrett, M. S., GM2c
Best, J. H., GM2c
Bessey, E. B., Seale
Bierman, W. H., Seale
Biggins„ W. C., Bcse
Blauf, P. F., Seale
Black, C. G., MMlc
Black, R., Seale
Blackmore, F. M., Seale
Bletter, S., B'Mlc
Boswell, C. H., GM2c
Bowles, J. H., Seale
Broderick, G. D., Fie
Bozarth, A. N., Seale
Boo, C. C., Seale
Booth, L. F., Seale
Bottoms, R. K., Seale


"CROSSING THE LINE"
launched on January 25, 1917, and was commissioned on December 18, 1917, under the command of Captain Joseph Lee Jayne, U.S. Navy.

She served in the World War with the Atlantic Fleet, and after the War, was assigned to duty in the newly formed Pacific Fleet, which arrived on the West Coast in August, 1919. She has served continuously in the Pacific Fleet, later renamed the Battle Force, except for the period from 1931 to 1934 when she, along with her sister ships, the Idaho and New Mexico, were modernized on the East Coast. The three ships rejoined the Battle Force in the Atlantic Ocean in the spring of 1934.

The Mississippi has always been known as a happy ship, and a successful ship. She has stood high in Gunnery, Engineering and Communications Competition, and has an outstanding record in Athletics. The Iron Man, the Fleet Trophy for General Excellence in Athletics, has been won more times by this ship than by any other ship, and for many years was almost a permanent fixture on the Mississippi.

One of the Mississippi's former Commanding Officers later became one of the most famous officers in the Navy, as he had become one of the most popular during his time in the ship. This officer, Captain William A. Moffett, U.S. Navy, went from command of this ship in 1920 to duty in the office of Naval Operations, in charge of Aeronautics. When the Bureau of Aeronautics was formed, Captain Moffett became the first Chief of that Bureau. He held this position until his untimely death in the loss of the dirigible Akron off the New Jersey Coast in April 1933.

The Mississippi has been in the Southern Hemisphere three times, entering on January 24, 1924, en route to Valparaiso, Chile; again on July 6, 1925, en route to Australia. In 1936 she was approaching the Equator in company with the United States Fleet, and when within less than a day's run from the line had a machinery derangement which prevented her accompanying the Fleet. The crew of the ship thus became known far and wide as "Rain-check Shellbacks," and duly paid for it, when they crossed the line on other vessels.

The present Mississippi is the third vessel so named. The first Mississippi was a paddle-wheel steamer of 1,692 tons, with 10 guns, launched May 5, 1841, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, participated in the Mexican War and the Civil War. She was destroyed by fire in battle off Port Hudson, Louisiana, March 14-15, 1863. The second Mississippi was battleship number 23, of 13,000 tons displacement, built by William Cramp and Sons at Philadelphia. She was launched on September 30, 1902, and was commissioned April 1, 1908. She, in company with the U. S. S. Idaho, battleship number 24, a sister ship, was sold by this country to Greece, on July 30, 1914.

ARRIVAL OF DAVEY JONES

At 6:30, while the crew were watching the performance of duty by the Pollywog Sea Watch, and wondering just when they would have a chance to see Davey Jones, a hail was heard across the bow of the ship:

"SHIP AHAY, SHIP AHAY, WHAT SHIP IS THIS?"

Davey Jones had arrived, and everyone crowed forward to see him. The Bridge answered: "U.S.S. Mississippi, Captain W. R. Munroe, U. S. Navy, Commanding."

D'ARTY JONES: "WHENCE CAME YOU AND WHERE ARE YOU BOUND?"

BRIDGE: "WE ARE TOO MANY DAYS OUT OF LONG BEACH AND BOUND FOR AMERICAN POLYNESIA."

D'ARTY JONES: "I HAVE IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS FOR YOU. HEAVE TO THAT I MAY BOARD YOU."

The ship was slowed, and Davey Jones, accompanied by two Royal Scribes and two Royal Chiefs of Police, came aboard across the bow. The Officer-of-the-Deck sent the Junior Officer-of-the-Deck to the forecastle to greet the distinguished visitors, and he escorted them toward the bridge. Just as they passed abreast of No. 1 Turret, the Ship's Band and the Marine Guard rendered Full Honors, four ruffles and fourshakes, and "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here." The distinguished visitors stood at salute during the rendering of the honors.

As the boarding party left the forecastle headed for the Bridge, Assembly was sounded, in order that all hands might be aft when the party arrived on the quarter deck to be greeted by the Captain. The party proceeded to the Bridge, where they were warmly greeted by the Navigator, Lieutenant Commander Anderson, a Shellback of long standing. Davey Jones then turned to the Officer-of-the-Deck, Lieutenant Richardson, and greeted him as a Shellback, and told him and the Navigator that it was very gratifying to find such a splendid ship in the hands of loyal subjects of His Majesty.

After the greeting on the Bridge, word was passed to the Captain on the Quarter Deck that Davey Jones was aboard, and the Captain directed that the party be escorted to him on the Quarter-deck. Upon arrival on the Quarter-deck, the Captain greeted Davey Jones, and welcomed him to the ship. Davey Jones thanked the Captain for his welcome, and told him that he was glad to see him in the Royal Domain again, in command of such a fine ship, and congratulated him on his promotion to the grade of Captain since his last visit in 1936.

The Captain inquired about the health of His Majesty Neptunus Rex and the Queen, and was told they both were in the best of health, and looking forward to seeing the Captain again, but that His Majesty was grieved that such a splendid ship as the Mississippi had so many Pollywogs aboard.

Commanding Officer; Davey Jones; Royal Scribes and Royal Chief of Police

Polaris, Bertucci, Meier, notorious Pollywogs under arrest

"CROSSING THE LINE"
Davey Jones then introduced the Royal Scribes and the Royal Chiefs of Police to the Captain, and asked permission to publish certain orders, and to deliver official mail. This permission being granted, Davey Jones read a letter from His Majesty to the Captain. This letter was written on the Royal Stationery of the Domain of the Deep, and read as follows:

ROYAL DOMAIN OF NEPTUNUS REX
From: NEPTUNUS REX, Ruler of the Raging Main, King of the Dead Men of the Deep.
To: Captain William R. Murane, United States Navy, Commanding U.S.S. Mississippi.
Subject: Welcome to the Royal Realm.

1. Greetings.
2. A Royal and Heartly welcome is extended to you and the faithful Shellbacks of your command. I wish to commend you for the meritorious deed of assembling such a large and healthy collection of Landlubbers, Pollywogs and Beachcombers on board the Mississippi, and assure you that the modern tortures devised for their initiation into the Ancient Order of the Deep will prove to be both interesting and amusing.
3. Upon entering my Royal Domain tomorrow you are directed to have the Mississippi and her crew in readiness for a very rigid inspection by Myself and the Royal Court.
4. Subpoenas will be delivered this date by my Royal Representative Davey Jones, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and all Landlubbers, Pollywogs and Beachcombers are directed to spend the night in repentence of their past misdeeds and are also directed to prepare their defense to be submitted before the Royal Court tomorrow morning.

5. I have further directed My Royal Chief of Police to place under arrest and personally deliver subpoenas to certain notorious offenders. Your cooperation is expected as hostesses.
6. I desire that certain offenders be placed on watch at 0645 tomorrow morning, as per list which is in possession of my Ambassador Davey Jones. This Pollywog watch list is required in the public interests.
7. I have received a copy of your Very Special Order, File Extraordinary, and further wish to commend you for your foresight. It is directed that your Executive Officer, Commander Herbet V. Wiley, U.S. Navy, specially note that paragraph which declares tomorrow to be a holiday. Reports reaching me early this month indicate that he required treaty Shellbacks to work on one of your National Holidays, July 4th. This has been made the subject of a charge against Commander Wiley. You are further directed to invite particular attention of all hands to Paragraph 6 of your very special order.

NEPTUNUS REX, Ruler of the Raging Main.

After publishing the above letter, Davey Jones began delivery of subpoenas to the Pollywogs. He first called the Executive Officer, Commander Herbet V. Wiley, U.S. Navy, and read the charges preferred against him. There was much merriment at the reading of the charges against Commander Wiley and the other Officer and Chief Petty Officer Pollywogs. During the reading of the subpoenas, Davey Jones suddenly stopped the proceedings, and read a letter, reproduced below, directing the arrest and restraint of certain notorious Pollywogs:

ROYAL DOMAIN OF NEPTUNUS REX
From: His Royal Majesty, Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main.
To: The Royal Chiefs of Police.
Subject: Arrest and Confinement of Certain Landlubbers.

1. Upon boarding the U.S.S. Mississippi this date, you will place under restraint the following Landlubbers who have been landrous and discourteous toward His Royal Majesty and the Royal Court:

H. F. Master, Bandmaster, U.S. Navy.
J. C. Pharris, T.C., U.S. Navy.
M. S. Bertucci, G.M., U.S. Navy.

Neptunus Rex.
Davey Jones,
By Direction.

While the Royal Chiefs of Police were carrying about carrying out the orders to arrest these landlubbers, the Captain's steward appeared on deck with refreshments and smokes for the distinguished visitors. The three culprits were brought before Davey Jones, and placed in chains to await reading of their subpoenas. They looked so forlorn standing in the presence of the party that the Captain and Davey Jones took pity on them and had them share in the refreshments.

The refreshments having been served, and the culprits in chains, Davey Jones completed his work of delivering the subpoenas. Those for the crew were turned over to the Division Officers for distribution. Then Davey Jones made a speech to the assembly, in which he said:

"Captain, Officers and Men of the Mississippi. This ship has been called the mightiest ship afloat, but it matters not how mighty the nation or how mighty the ship. You will meet tomorrow one who rules all, His Royal Majesty, Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main, who conquers for a day. Pollywogs, you are warned to make your last will and testament and to go before the doctors and be examined for this ordeal. Last but not least you are warned not to flirt with Her Majesty the Queen, nor the Royal Princesses. You are also warned not to tease the Royal Baby, as this baby is not to be irritated."

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI
was as black and dirty as any of the men being initiated.

The Royal Undertaker kept his coffin ready, and from time to time a hapless Pollywog was placed in the coffin and the top screwed down.

At about 10:30 A.M., the watch on duty was relieved, and brought before the Court. This enabled the Royal Scribes to report that the initiation was coming along well, and that all men were making their appearance.

Every Officer Pollywog, from the Executive Officer down, took his initiation with the best of grace, thus setting a fine example for the crew. All hands enjoyed the experience of going through the one great leveler of Naval men, an appearance before Neptunus Rex, the Ruler of the Seas.

One of the Royal Judges, accompanied by a Royal Scribe, went to the Sick Bay, to attend to the men who were unable to come to the topside for the ceremony.

Several of the more notorious Pollywogs, such as Mike Bertucci, in addition to getting the works on the platform, were required to take through the tank as a companion, the familiar dummy, "Oscar," used in life boat drills. Going through the tank alone was a harrowing experience, but with "Oscar" in one's arms, it was terrible.

At about 11:30 A.M., it was found that all of the Pollywogs had made their appearance before the Royal Court, and had become true Shellbacks. This word being given to Neptunus Rex, he announced that the Ceremony was at an end, pronounced all of the Officers and Crew Shellbacks, thanked the original Shellbacks for their part in the ceremony, and the Royal Court returned to the Deep, from whence they came, as the Royal Standard was lowered.

All hands had gone through a thrilling experience, one which will live in their memories for years, and which will serve as a topic of conversation for the rest of their lives. It was made possible only by hard work on the part of the Shellbacks, by cooperation of all hands, and a desire that in this, as in all things, the Mississippi comes first.

Davey Jones then expressed his pleasure at again meeting all the Shellbacks aboard, and bade goodbye to all hands. He then requested permission to return to the Deep from whence he came. This permission being granted, he and his party left the ship, and the division officers made busy delivering the subpoenas to the men of their divisions.

All hands made busy reading their subpoenas, learning the horrible crimes for which they would have to answer the next day. A sample subpoena is reproduced below:

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**The Royal Court of The Realm of Neptune**

In and for the District of Equatorius

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**The People of the Realm of the Deep**

vs.

All Landlubbers of the U.S.S. Mississippi

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**To:**

It having been brought to the attention of his Royal Highness, NEPTUNUS REX, Supreme Ruler of the Deep, through his trusty intelligence service, that a fine ship, long shorn from these waters and manned by a crew consisting mainly of Pollywogs who have not acknowledged the sovereignty of the Ruler of the Deep, has transgressed on his domain and thereby incurred the Royal displeasure.

**Be it known:** To ye all that His Most Royal Highness, NEPTUNUS REX, Supreme Ruler of all mermaids, sharks, squids, crabs, pollywogs, timorogs, and other denizens of the deep, will, with his Secretary and Royal Court, meet in Full Session on board the offending ship Mississippi, upon her arrival at the Equator, to examine into your fitness to be taken into the citizenship of the Deep and to hear your defense on the following:

**Charge 1:** In that you have hitherto willfully and maliciously failed to enter my domain, and are thereby a vile Landlubber and Pollywog.

**Charge 2:**

---

It is therefore ordered and decreed that the above named man present himself before the Royal Court at the time and place above mentioned, under penalty of eternal pickling.

By order of the Court:

For His Majesty.

(Signature)

Given under my hand and seal, during the month of July, 1940, Anno Domini 1940.

DAVEY JONES, Clerk.

PEG LEG, Deputy.

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"CROSSING THE LINE"
Some of the many charges preferred against the Pollywogs are listed to show the wide range of crimes which are distasteful to His Majesty Neptune Rex.

**Commander H. V. Wiley, U.S. Navy:**
Willfully, knowingly and without justifiable cause, failing to visit the Royal Domain during 29 years Naval Service; Causing Shellbacks to work over the side on July 4th, and failing to grant liberty on a National Holiday; Failure to know difference between "Turn Two" and "Turn To."

**Captain P. D. Silverman, U.S. Marine Corp:**
Failure to know the difference between the 180th meridian and the Equator; Marine Insomnia, inability to sleep between breakfast and quarters; Attempting to get night-blooming cactus to bloom in the day time; Showing contempt for Neptune Rex by failure to eat meals on the High Sea; Being a sea lawyer; Scullery boy, entering an overweight box in an interdivisional boxing meet.

**Lieutenant Gifford Scull, U.S. Navy:**
Depriving Shellbacks of water in order to run his bully; Chief King Leader of the Pollywogs, inciting them to mutiny; Un warranted assumption of authority, assuming the duties of Officer-in-Charge of the Barber Shop; Gross disrespect to Shellbacks; Editing subversive literature in the attempt to malign the character of Shellbacks; Accusing Shellbacks of being spies; Being an expert (one of those people from out of towns).

**Lieutenant (jg) F. W. Cross (MC), U.S. Navy:**
Running a clip joint within the Royal Domain without authority; Gross neglect, failure to preserve the health of the Assistant Patrol Officer on duty at La Haina.

**Ensign G. C. Mendenhall, U.S. Navy:**
Subversive activity, disclosing information about fellow Pollywogs to Shellback investigating committee, with intent to appease displeasure of King Neptune.

**Lieutenant (jg) H. W. Howe (MC), U.S. Navy:**
Spreading false rumors about ships movements in spite of a direct line of communication with the Head Man; Working on Sundays.

**Ensign K. F. Innes, U.S. Naval Reserve:**
Inciting Pollywogs to mutiny; Exacting at unauthorized times (comm.) Needless burdening Shellback mailman with additional work by writing too many letters; Having the temerity to compare the Great Lakes with the Mighty Domain of Neptune Rex; High pressure salesmanship, selling overcoats to Honolulu, and selling coal bags before the cows are born; Gross disrespect to Nickel Deck Shellbacks; Refusal to drink Wardroom Coffee because it keeps him awake during working hours; Weakening the ship's structure by placing too much weight on the decks; Creating additional work for the Chaplain who already has enough sinners to look after; Interfering with Shellbacks in the execution of the duties of their office; Weakening the standing of the vessel in the Engineering Competition by having too much surface to wash, thus using additional fresh water; Causing additional load on the ship's generators by constant use of the telephone and "E" Call System; Threatening Shellbacks.

**Chief Pay Clerk H. G. Cocke, U.S. Navy:**
Aggravated disturbance of Shellbacks in attempting to cast doubt on the value of the $96 dollar; Suing almost 29 years in court, receiving ships, etc., completely ignoring the deep blue sea; Failing to assist Shellback Chief Gunner C. H. Anderson, U.S.N., in breaking up rocks for his new home; Sprinkling water on Shellback in 1930, while said Shellback was on a friendly visit; Failure to identify himself as either a Shellback or a Pollywog until called before the Shellback Investigating Committee, at which time he stated that he had nothing to say.

**Pay Clerk H. G. Cocke, U.S. Navy:**
Attempts to bribe a Shellback with candy; Being seen shaking hands with a sour-puss observer who was making life miserable for Shellbacks; Monopoly, dupey and highway gawkery.

**Gunner R. T. Leader, U.S. Navy:**
Spending so much time in the cage fields that he has earned the nickname "Mongoose"; Aggravated disrespect to loyal Shellbacks in Warrant Officers Mess; Gimminy.

**Bertucci, M. S., GMc:**
Organizing and attending meetings of mutinous scurry Pollywogs; Ringmaster of Mutineers; Calling the Royal Judge a rear end of a horse; Saying the Royal Court members were a bunch of eight balls; Attempting to galloge King Neptune's Mover; Passing subversive pictures of the Royal Court.

**Taylor, R. E., CQM:**
Entracing a Shellback into the hands of mutinous Pollywogs; Deliberate neglect of assisting in safe navigation of this vessel into the waters of Neptune Rex.

**Miles, K. F., CPC:**
Lies; Claiming he crossed the equator on a freight train; Repairing watches so they run backwards; Making round trips on ferry boats then argues with officials for moving the city; Insisting the Royal Baby looks like Bertuci.

**Mason, H. F., Basty:**
Trying to impersonate Jack Benny with his violin; Creating a disturbance with his Pollywog band.

**Holander, C. C., CTC:**
In that you were a leader of the fifth column; Trying to bribe a Shellback; Attempted assault and battery on the Royal Baby; Making known a desire to become a Pollywog recruiting officer.

**McGowan, R., CMM:**
Said the Royal Family was a myth and out of date at John Paul Jones' time and is sickening.

**Gervino, G. C., CSR:**
For keeping late hours while on permanent shore patrol.

**Reynolds, V. V., CEM:**
Blue print réviser and fouling the watch list; Chronic clingy.

**Smith, M. L., CWT:**
Wearing a trooper; Fatalizing his age; Making the bilges his cleaning station.

**Henson, A. A., CMM:**
Silent contempt; Turning steam on the hand rails in the pump room.

**Smyth, W. P., CBM:**
Disrespect; Rattling King Neptune's spirit chest; Too familiar with Shellbacks; Delaying his visit to the Domain too long.
brought before the Court, some of them going to the Doctor, then the Dentist, and to the Royal Barbers, where they were given a liberal application of Thousand Fathom Shaving Cream, a mixture of lampblack and linseed oil, then unceremoniously dumped backward with a flip of the barber chair, into the tank, where they were repeatedly dunked by the Royal Bears. Climbing out of the tank, they were belabored with paddles and clubs, on that part of the anatomy especially favorable for such application. Reaching the deck beyond the tank, they then had to run a gauntlet of some twenty Royal Bears armed with sturdy billy-clubs. At the end of this gauntlet they found themselves tried and true Shellbacks, and many of them slipped back into the tank and into the gauntlet line to assist in initiating their shipmates coming through later.

Some of the outstanding Pollywogs, having special charges against them, were given special treatment. They were either placed in one of the two cages, and liberally doused with a fire hose, or were placed in stocks to await further punishment. There were head stocks, and leg-and-arm stocks; and these were at all times full of Pollywogs. Gunner Leader was required to eat a special sandwich prepared by his messmates. This sandwich, prepared the day before, was made of a slice of bread, stale cabbage leaves, a strip of raw bacon, garlic, then another slice of bread, lots of black pepper, toothpicks, more stale cabbage leaves, more raw bacon, sliced tomato, mustard, finally topped off with another slice of bread. He was having considerable difficulty eating the sandwich, until one of his Shellback shipmates poured some salt water over it, making it more palatable.

The Royal Baby was roaming back and forth on the platform, demanding kisses from the Pollywogs, and at the end of the ceremony the Baby

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After receipt of the subpoenas, weird tales began to circulate through the ship that the Pollywogs, even though they were to be sacrificed in the morning, had decided to have one final fling. Hastily calling the members of their organization by secret pass-words, they established Court on the starboard side of the Quarter-deck, and meted out quick punishment to such Shellbacks as could be found. The Court, presided over by Judge Mike Bertucci, sentenced Chief Machinist Cowart, Carpenter Lead and Electrician Clemens to dance “Ring-around-a-Rosy” on the Quarter-deck; Briggs, BM1c, Fulk, SF2c and Adams, Coxswain, were lashed to the rail and wet down; Forbregg, BM2c, was required to dance, sing and tell sea stories to the Pollywogs; Smith, Gunners Mate 1c, had to run through a paddle-wheel gauntlet, and then dumped into the Royal Initiation Pool; Letoreau, CGM, Francis, CGM, and Olvex, GM1c, were lashed to the deck in the cases of Rice, PhM1c, W. C. Smith, Seate, and Romero, OS2c, were lashed in stretchers and hoisted clear of the deck; Kuchinski, Yeo3c, was given an egg shaver; Hobbs and Boyd, Mess Attendants 1c, were required to give an exhibition of trucking; Kieffer, CEM, and Owens, EM1c, were required to dance and Faulkner, BM2c, was ordered to sing and dance. Ensign Mendenhall, charged with giving information about Pollywogs to Shellbacks was required to furnish sandwiches to the Court. The Pollywog uprising soon subsided, however, after an hour’s fun for all, given and taken in good spirit. Quiet descended upon the ship as all hands except the watch turned in and prepared for a busy day on the morrow.

THE BIG DAY

Promptly at 6:45 the next morning, the Pollywog Sea Watch as listed below took their stations. They had all been called at 6:00 A.M., and given their assignments, and had only a few minutes to get their uniforms together and get on top side.

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI 11/Th District of Equatorius
From: Commanding Officer.
To: All Pollywog Watch.
Subject: Pollywog Sea Watch—Establishment of.
Reference: (a) Combat Ships Despatch.
“CROSSING THE LINE”

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following watch will be set at 0645:

ENSIGN C. F. PALMER (SC), U.S. NAVY:
Take station on port side of forecastle announcing every 10 minutes “I will gladly pay Shellbacks Special Money.” Uniform, white shirt, black bow tie, cocked hat, sneaks, no trousers, Binoculars.

LIEUT. (jg) R. S. THOMPSON, U.S. NAVY:
Take station on starboard side of forecastle announcing every 10 minutes “I repent my disrespect to Shellbacks.” Uniform, same as Ensign Palmer.

GUNNER R. T. LEARD, U.S. NAVY:
Take station in eyes of ship; every 5 minutes call out “I want a sandwich.” Uniform, braces plate, diving underwear, watch cap, web belt, content.

2. The following men have volunteered to assist as flag bearers:

Rice, PhM1c
Hobbs, BM2c
Briggs, BM1c

3. The following men have volunteered to assist as chief hooters:

Smith, Seate
Kuchinski, Yeo3c

4. The following men have volunteered to assist as members of the assistance squad:

Letoreau, CGM
Faulkner, BM2c

PAY CLERK H. G. COCKE, U.S. Navy:
Take station in eyes of ship, keeping record of the
Quarter's requests. Uniform, baker's cap, bath robe,
skivvies, medals, no shoes.

ENLIST G. C. MUNDENSHALL, U.S. Navy:
Take station at incinerator. Report every 10 min-
utes "No smoke." Uniform, full dress baker, white
shoes.

LIEUT, G. W. LOWNEN, U.S. Navy:
Sitting down atop No. 1 Turret, announcing every
10 minutes "No signal on 500.0." Uniform, white
trousers, no shoes, white shirt, blanket, head set over
ears.

R. E. TAYLOR, CQM, U.S. Navy:
Take station in starboard bow. Take and report
readings every 10 minutes, reporting "No bottom
at three." Uniform, white trousers, dungaree shirt, flat
hat, neckerchief.

W. K. TRUETT, Yc., U.S. Navy:
Take station on top of waist. Uniform, white
shirt, skivvies, no shoes. Wear sign marked "Mahatma
Gandhi" and carry battle marked "Goat Milk."

J. B. MIMA, Fc., U.S. Navy:
Walk around forecastle, announcing every 5 min-
utes "The Shellbacks ran my shoes off." Uniform,
dress blues, flat hat, no shoes. Carry lashed hummock.

L. H. BERRY, Yc., U.S. Navy:
Take station in initiation platform. Announce every
5 minutes that "The Captain's Office doesn't need a
blower. Uniform, dungaree shirt, skivvies, one wash-
deck bucket on each foot. Iron not to be removed from
the buckets.

C. V. TAYLOR, BM2c, U.S. Navy:
Take station at the tank. Sound tank every 5 min-
utes, reporting soundings to O.O.D. Uniform, dress
blues, flat hat.

C. C. HULSLANDER, CTC, U.S. Navy:
Take station at tank. Take the temperature every 5
minutes, reporting to O.O.D. Uniform, rain hat,
rain coat, with skivvies, no shoes. Carry file board to
record temperatures.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST:
LIEUT (jg) H. W. HOWE (CIC), U.S. Navy:
Take station on top side. Uniform, clerical gur,
comprising of black cassock, white neckcloth, carrying
a rosary made of brass chain. Recite the following prayer
at each of the stations listed on this watch bill:
"Oh, King Neptune, as we slowly Pollywog the
guard, you will have mercy on our poor bodies and our weak minds. Please, Oh King, forgive us our many transgressions against Shellbacks as we forgive Shellbacks who transgress against us. Guide us through the tortures of this day. Help us to stand
affiant while in the tank, help our stomachs to withstand
the Royal Medicine. Please, Oh King, forgive us our landlubberly sins and we will follow you and be your
loyal subjects.

ALL ABOVE REPORTS TO BE MADE IN A
LOUD CLEAR VOICE.
2. This watch will continue until assembly is sounded.
W. R. MUNROE,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI

All hands were soon on the top side watching the
Sea Watch perform their duties, and considerable
enjoyment was had by all but the watch standers, and even
they could see the humorous side of it. Of all the Pollywog Watch standers, probably the outstanding performance of duty
was rendered by Doctor Gross, who carried his bed
pan and duck, and reported every five minutes
that all bottoms were dry.

At 7:45 quarters were sounded for the crew
to assemble afist, and preparations were made to
receive His Majesty. Shortly after 8:00, the
Equator was crossed, and immediately the
ship was stopped to allow boarding by His Maj-
esty and His Court. They came aboard ship over
the bow, and came down the port side of the
forecastle, then through the casemates, and to
the Quarter-deck via the starboard side. As His
Majesty reached the Quarter-deck, he was given
Most Full, High and Royal Honors. Ten side-
boys, a full guard and band, and with the Marine
Guard prostrating themselves on deck as in a
Queen Anne Salute, the Royal Party passed them.
The King received 4 ruffles and flourishes, fol-
lowed by "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old
Town Tonight."

The Royal Chiefs of Police led the way, with
His Majesty walking alone. He was followed by
the Royal Admiral escorting the Queen, the Roy-
al Aide escorting the Princess, the Royal Baby
with two nurses, the Royal Attendants, the Royal
Maids, the Royal Judges and Prosecuting At-
norneys, the Royal Navigator, the Royal Astrolo-
gist, the Royal Chief, the Royal Archivist, Long
John Silver, and the remainder of the party.

Upon reaching the Quarter-deck, the Captain
welcomed His Majesty and His Court to the
ship. The King thanked the Captain for his wel-
come, and expressed his pleasure at seeing
the Captain and his trusty Shellbacks again.
The Captain then turned command of the ship over
to His Majesty, who turned to the Royal Ad-
miral and told him to take charge of the ship
to keep her on her present course and speed, and
to take no orders not coming from the throne.
The Royal Standard, a white skull and cross
bones on a black field, was then raised for the
main, and His Majesty ordered the Royal Court
to repair to the forecastle, to receive the Land-
lubbers and Pollywogs.

The Royal Admiral directed the Royal Navi-
gator to take a sight and verify the ship's posi-
tion. Hanging a brass sun on the rail, the Navi-
gator lifted his heavy sextant for a shot at the
sun. Setting the sextant to his liking, he pulled
the trigger of a signal gun attached to the seis-
tant, and the sun was shot, right into the water.

The Royal Party established their Court on
the starboard side of the forecastle, with the Royal
family, attended by the Royal Admiral, Royal
Aide, Royal Attendants and Royal Nurses on the
boat deck, just above the Royal Judges and Pro-
secuting Attorneys. Chaplain Howe was the first
culprit to be brought before the Court, and he
took his procession from the Bench to the
Royal Doctors, where he received a dose of Deep
Sea Specific, a vile concoction, the taste of which
was equaled only by its odor; then to the Royal
Dentist, where he was given a dose of Royal

MOUTH WASH, the only thing in the world tast-
and smelling vile than the Deep Sea Specific.
The Chaplain, being an extra special offender,
was placed in the stocks to meditate his sins for
a few minutes. Other offenders were then

"CROSSING THE LINE"
Crossing the Line

A Story of the Ceremonies Attending the Crossing of the Equator

The United States Ship Mississippi
En Route American Polynesia
July 19-29, 1940