



CPO SHELLBACK TIMES



VOL. I NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 20, 1944

PAGE 1

NEPTUNE - TO REIGN SUPREME

THE EQUATOR, SEPT. 29 - - In a communique from shellback supreme headquarters today it was announced that his Highness King Neptune, Royal Monarch of the Deep, would make an appearance aboard the Rocky Mount to initiate lowly pollywogs into the mysteries of the sea and to offer them the opportunity of becoming loyal subjects of his realm.

King Neptune, it was announced, would be accompanied by the Royal Retinue, which would include the Queen, Lord Privey Sea, Keeper of the Keys to Davy Jone's Locker, The Prince Dolphin, Heir Apparent, and Ol' Man River, King Neptune's Chief Surveyor.

The announcement from shellback headquarters did not indicate whether the Royal Party would include customary bevy of mermaids. However, it was learned from a neutral observer of unimpeachable integrity, who had been informed by a usually reliable source, that sailors of the submarine command plying these waters had taken most of the mermaids aboard, much to the delight of the Royal Ladies-in-Wading, and detained indefinitely for undisclosed purposes.

A spokesman for the shellbacks aboard the Rocky Mount voice no resentment at the good fortune his comrades in the submarine service, but simply summed up the activities in prospect when Neptune arrived, with the prophetic statement, "Those poor, F-----G pollywogs."

--oOo--

MUTINY or COMPETITION?

In the passageways leading to the crew's and Army enlisted men's messhalls there has appeared on the bulletin boards the following proclamation:

"ATTENTION ALL ARMY ENLISTED MEN: We are approaching the Equator so it now becomes the duty of every man to uphold the honor, tradition and dignity of all the soldiers who have gone before us. As of now be it made public by us all that, as in the past, all soldiers who cross the Equator AUTOMATICALLY become members of the ORDER OF THE HONORABLE AND MOST HIGH Y-A-N-K-B-A-C-K-S!

"It is the equivalent Army organization which takes the place of the long respected SHELLBACKS. Be it made known here, however, that it is not permissible for a sailor to become a member of the YANKBACKS. In like manner, any soldier who becomes, or attempts to become a SHELLBACK will be considered dis-owned and will suffer the wrath of the E.R.M.K.K.

"For the information of outsiders of the clan: YANKBACKS is the name of the honorable Army groups who have crossed the Equator and wish to be 'yanked back across to where they came from as soon as possible.'

"By the members of E.R.M.K.K."

Now the question arises: just who the hell are the E.R.M.K.Ks, and what do the initials stand for?

(continued on page two)

(continued) Also, is it possible that some great hoax is in the making, that the trusty Shellbacks are about to be deprived of several score pollywog dogfaces; or has competition really come at last to King Neptune and His Royal Court?

--oOo--

WAR'S PROGRESS

By POLLYWOG Hall, (ex-sea scout with merit badges in swimming (dog paddle) and bath-tub navigation).

The progress of the war, thus far, leaves much to be desired. In the first place, it is felt that there was absolutely no excuse for the sinking of the Maine. Obviously this destruction of one of our front line battlewagons was brought about through negligence on the part of Washington officials. Though the attack on the battleship Maine was sneaking and "would live in infamy", as President McKinnely described the incident, members of the State Department had been forewarned of impending conflict with Cuba when it was learned that rum, imported to the United States was being diluted with pineapple juice.

A few hours after the ship had been sunk, Douglas MacArthur was interviewed in his nursery and responded to a reporter's query of what he thought of the disaster with the abrupt statement, "We will be back."

While his statement at that time was a bit premature, it seems to have fit very neatly into the pattern of events which are now taking place, and the war would be pursuing a speedy and effective direction if only there was a little more unadulterated Cuban rum available for all hands, particularly for the delectation of all shellbacks.

Since there is such a scarcity of this stimulant, it is the opinion of the writer that the war will not materially improve for us until the condition is corrected. "As Maine goes so goes the nation", so let it be here stated that, like the Maine, we're sunk unless "a round of grog for all hands" again becomes a part of the Navy custom, and every sack is fur trimmed with a Wac or a Wave.

(Editors Note: -- The last stated improvement to better the lot of Shellbacks aboard was the suggestion of a taxidermist who has spent many of his years stuffing fur-bearing fauna.)

--oOo--

NOTICE!

NOTICE!

NOTICE!

It has been the intention of the two stinky editors of this alleged newspaper to write stories of Shellbacks aboard the Rocky Mow. In our haste to make the deadline, and due to additional demands made on us by roving shellbacks we have been somewhat hampered in this undertaking. Tomorrow's issue will carry full details of their activities

