

NEPTUNE BAPTISM - LINE - CROSSING CEREMONY



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NEPTUNE BAPTISM - LINE-CROSSING CEREMONY¹

U.S. Sailors and Marines participate in a line-crossing ceremony aboard *USS Blue Ridge* as the ship passes the Equator May 16, 2008. It has been a long naval tradition to initiate pollywogs, sailors who have never crossed the Equator, into the Kingdom of Neptune upon their first crossing of the Equator.

The ceremony of **Crossing the Line** is an **initiation rite** in the British Merchant Navy, Dutch merchant navy, **Royal Navy**, **U.S. Navy**, **U.S. Coast Guard**, **U.S. Marine Corps**, Royal Australian Navy, **Russian Navy**, and other navies that commemorate a sailor's first crossing of the **Equator**.^[1] The tradition may have originated with ceremonies when passing headlands, and become a "folly" sanctioned as a boost to morale,^[2] or have been created as a test for seasoned sailors to ensure their new shipmates were capable of handling long rough times at sea. Sailors who have already crossed the Equator are nicknamed (Trusty/Honorable) **Shellbacks**, often referred to as **Sons of Neptune**; those who have not are nicknamed (Slimy) **Pollywogs** (in 1832 the nickname **griffins** was noted ^[3]).

Equator-crossing ceremonies, typically featuring King Neptune, are also sometimes carried out for passengers' entertainment on civilian ocean liners and cruise ships. They are also performed in the **merchant navy** and aboard sail training ships.

The two-day event (evening and day) is a ritual in which previously inducted crew members (Trusty Shellbacks) are organized into a "**Court of Neptune**" to induct the Slimy Pollywogs into "the mysteries of the Deep".

Physical hardship, in keeping with the spirit of the initiation, is tolerated, and each Pollywog is expected to endure a standard initiation rite in order to become a Shellback.

Depending on the Ocean or Fleet AOR, there can be variations in the rite. Some rites have discussed a role reversal as follows, but this is not always a normal feature, and may be dependent on whether a small number of Shellbacks exist to conduct the initiation.

The transition flows from established order to the controlled "chaos" of the Pollywog Revolt, the beginnings of re-order in the initiation rite as the fewer but experienced enlisted crew converts the Wogs through physical tests, then back to, and thereby affirming, the pre-established order of officers and enlisted.

The eve of the equatorial crossing is called Wog Day and, as with many other night-before rituals, is a mild type of reversal of the day to come.

Wogs—all of the uninitiated—are allowed to capture and interrogate any shellbacks they can find (e.g., tying them up, cracking eggs or pouring aftershave lotion on their heads).

The wogs are made very aware of the fact that it will be much harder on them if they do anything like this.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line-crossing_ceremony

After crossing the line, Pollywogs receive subpoenas ^[4] to appear before **King Neptune and his court** (usually including his first assistant **Davy Jones** and her **Highness Amphitrite**² and often various dignitaries, who are all represented by the highest ranking seamen), who officiate at the ceremony, which is often preceded by a **beauty contest of men dressing up as women**, each department of the ship being required to introduce one contestant in **swimsuit drag**.

Afterwards, some wogs may be "interrogated" by King Neptune and his entourage, and the use of "truth serum" (hot sauce + after shave) and whole uncooked eggs put in the mouth. During the ceremony, the Pollywogs undergo a number of increasingly embarrassing ordeals (wearing clothing inside out and backwards; crawling on hands and knees on nonskid-coated decks; being swatted with short lengths of firehose; being locked in stocks and pillories and pelted with mushy fruit; being locked in a water coffin of salt-water and bright green sea dye (fluorescent sodium salt); crawling through chutes or large tubs of rotting garbage; kissing the Royal Baby's belly coated with axle grease, hair chopping, etc.), largely for the entertainment of the Shellbacks.

Neptune and his entourage during a Polish line-crossing ceremony (*Chrzest równikowy*)

Once the ceremony is complete, a Pollywog receives a certificate ^[5] declaring his new status. Another rare status is the **Golden Shellback**, a person who has crossed the **Equator** at the **180th meridian** (**International Date Line**). The rarest Shellback status is that of the **Emerald Shellback** (USA), or **Royal Diamond Shellback** (Commonwealth), which is received after crossing the Equator at the **prime meridian**.^[6] When a ship must cross the Equator reasonably close to one of these meridians, the ship's captain will typically plot a course across the **Golden X** so that the ship's crew can be initiated as Golden or Emerald/Royal Diamond Shellbacks.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIONS

Captain **Robert FitzRoy** of **HMS Beagle** suggested the practice had developed from earlier ceremonies in Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian vessels passing notable **headlands**. He thought it was beneficial to morale: "The disagreeable practice alluded to has been permitted in most ships, because sanctioned by time; and though many condemn it as an absurd and dangerous piece of folly, it has also many advocates.

Perhaps it is one of those amusements, of which the omission might be regretted. Its effects on the minds of those engaged in preparing for its mummeries, who enjoy it at the time, and talk of it long afterwards, cannot easily be judged of without being an eye-witness.

"Deep was the bath, to wash away all ill;
Notched was the razor—of bitter taste the pill.
Most ruffianly the barber looked—his comb was trebly nailed—
And water, dashed from every side, the neophyte assailed."

FitzRoy quoted **Otto von Kotzebue**'s description:^[2]

² She is a sea-goddess and wife of **Poseidon**

On the 11th of October [1823] we crossed the Equator at twenty-five degrees W. longitude, reckoning from Greenwich. Having saluted the Southern hemisphere by the firing of guns, our crew proceeded to enact the usual ceremonies. A sailor, who took pride in having frequently passed the Line, directed the performance with much solemnity and decorum. He appeared as Neptune, attired in a manner that was meant to be terribly imposing, accompanied by his consort, seated on a gun-carriage instead of a shell, drawn by negroes, as substitutes for Tritons. In the evening, the sailors represented, amidst general applause, a comedy of their own composition.

These sports, while they serve to keep up the spirits of the men, and make them forget the difficulties they have to go through, produce also the most beneficial influence upon their health; a cheerful man being much more capable of resisting a fit of sickness than a melancholy one. It is the duty of commanders to use every innocent means of maintaining this temper in their crews; for in long voyages, when they are several months together wandering on an element not destined by nature for the residence of man, without enjoying even occasionally the recreations of the land, the mind naturally tends to melancholy, which of itself lays the foundation of many diseases, and sometimes even of insanity. Diversion is often the best medicine, and, used as a preservative, seldom fails of its effect." [Otto von Kotzebue](#).^[7]

There is a detailed account of the ceremony on board [HMS Blossom](#) in 1825 by Petty Officer John Bechervaise in his private publication *Thirty-Six Years of a Sea Faring Life* (1839), available from Kessinger in facsimile. *Blossom* was just starting a three-year voyage of exploration around the Horn to the Arctic.

There were on board the ship a great number of officers and seamen, who had never yet gone South of the Tropics, consequently **were to be initiated into the mysteries of crossing the Equinoctial line, and entering the dominions of Neptune**; great preparations had been making since our leaving Woolwich, for an event which promised to some part of the crew great amusement, to the other great fear; many a poor girl at Woolwich, and at Spithead had been deprived of some part of her wardrobe, to adorn Amphitrite; from one a night cap and gown had been stolen, from another some other part of dress, and although I had no hand in it, I was as bad as the rest, for I was consenting thereto.

An immense grey horse hair wig, sufficiently long to reach well down the back of Neptune, had been purchased in England by subscription, accompanied by a venerable grey beard to sweep his aged breast; a tin crown and a trident completed the regalia.

On a review of all those who previously had crossed the line, I was selected as Neptune; in vain I endeavoured to defend myself from being deified, it was useless, I must be Neptune, all remonstrance was vain; I took it, resolved to use the trident with mildness.

Now reader fancy to yourself the writer of these lines with his legs and arms well blacked, his cheeks, vermillion, short and very loose trowsers, a double frilled shirt, from whose ample folds the salt water dripped plentifully, two swabs for epaulets, a long grey horse hair wig, a venerable beard of the same colour, a tin crown, a trident, and to complete the whole, a hoarse church yard cough; fancy all this I say, and Neptune, or your humble servant in his shape stands before you.

The evening before we expected to cross the line, the lookout man reported at 8, P.M., a light a head; presently a hoarse voice hailed "ship ahoy" which being answered by the Captain, Neptune intimated his intention to visit the ship early next morning.

Accordingly early in the morning the ship was made snug, the top-sails were close reefed, courses hauled up, top gallant sails furled, a new sail was secured to the gunwale of the barge on the booms, the other edge to the hammock netting, leaving a hollow of eight feet, capable of containing an immense quantity of water; into this sail the very men who were to be dipped in it, were employed in pumping and bailing water, little thinking, poor creatures, they were making a rod for themselves.

A gun had been dismantled on the forecastle, the carriage made into a car, on which were to sit Neptune and Amphitrite, and between them the Triton; in order to keep all secret, a sail was run across the forecastle to screen Neptune and his gang from observation.

Just before the appointed time, all who were likely to undergo the dreadful operation of shaving were ordered below, the gratings put on, and a constable stationed to prevent the ascent of more than one at a time; a wise regulation, for our numbers were nearly equal, and had they shown fight, might have conquered; a rope was rove through a block on the main yard arm, to one end of which was secured a handspike, astride of which sat a man with his hands fastened to the rope over his head.

The first of the ship's company that were shaved, who was brought up blindfolded by the whole posse of constables was the armourer, a weather-beaten honest old Hibernian, who had been a farrier in the Peninsular Army for many years.

At the reduction, he had found his way as armourer of some small craft, and thence to our ship; on his entering for our ship, so anxious was he to be within the given age, which was thirty, that on being asked his age he gave it as eight and twenty, although fifty six was written in legible characters on his old cribbage face, which throughout the ship's company had gained him the cognomen of old eight and twenty.

On this man then the barber had to perform his first functions; a bucket was filled with all the cleanings of the hen coops, pig-stys, &c. and with it a due proportion of tar had been mixed; with a large paint brush dipped in this villanous compound, and his razor, close to him the barber stood waiting the signal.

My first question was "what is your name my man?" "John S---, your honour," at the instant of his opening his mouth the brush went across it, when the face the poor creature made it is impossible to describe, "phoo what do you call that?" "what do you call that?"

I again asked the old man how old he was, "eight and twenty your honour, and so I am; oh I will spake no more, I will spake no more." As a last effort to make him open his mouth, I said if you mean to put him overboard, mind have a good rope round him for perhaps he cannot swim. Terrified at the idea of being thrown overboard the poor fellow said

"I cannot swim, oh, I cannot swim;" but as the brush again crossed his mouth, he uttered with his teeth closed, "I will spake no more, by J---s I will spake no more if you drown me."

Amid a roar of laughter two men tripped the handspike on which he sat and sent him backward into the sail where the bear was waiting to receive him; it was soon over, he escaped and stood by to see his shipmates share his fate.

At the time of his being shaved he was not aware who Neptune was, when he found it out I could not get him to speak to me for some time; at length Irish good temper conquered, and we were friends again.

— John Bechervaise, *Thirty-six Years of Seafaring Life* p.146-150^[8]

A similar ceremony took place during the [second survey voyage of HMS Beagle](#). As they approached the equator on the evening of 16 February 1832, a pseudo-Neptune hailed the ship.

Those credulous enough to run forward to see Neptune "were received with the watery honours which it is customary to bestow".^[2] The officer on watch reported a boat ahead, and Captain FitzRoy ordered "hands up, shorten sail". Using a speaking trumpet he questioned Neptune, who would visit them the next morning.

About 9am the next day, the novices or **griffins** were assembled in the darkness and heat of the lower deck, then one at a time were blindfolded and led up on deck by "four of Neptunes constables", as "buckets of water were thundered all around".

The first "griffin" was [Charles Darwin](#), who noted in his diary how he "was then placed on a plank, which could be easily tilted up into a large bath of water.

They then lathered my face & mouth with pitch and paint, & scraped some of it off with a piece of roughened iron hoop. —a signal being given I was tilted head over heels into the water, where two men received me & ducked me. —at last, glad enough, I escaped.

Most of the others were treated much worse, dirty mixtures being put in their mouths & rubbed on their faces. — The whole ship was a shower bath: & water was flying about in every direction: of course not one person, even the Captain, got clear of being wet through." The ship's artist, [Augustus Earle](#), made a sketch of the scene.^[3]

CONTROVERSY

In the 19th century and earlier, the line-crossing ceremony was quite a brutal event, often involving beating pollywogs with boards and wet ropes and sometimes throwing the victims over the side of the ship, dragging the pollywog in the surf from the stern.

In more than one instance, sailors were reported to have been killed while participating in a line-crossing ceremony.

As late as World War II, the line-crossing ceremony was still rather rough and involved activities such as the "Devil's Tongue", which was an electrified piece of metal poked into the sides of those deemed pollywogs. Beatings were often still common, usually with wet firehoses, and several World War II Navy deck logs speak of sailors visiting [sick bay](#) after crossing the line.

Efforts to curtail the line-crossing ceremony did not begin until the 1980s, when several reports of blatant [hazing](#) began to circulate regarding the line-crossing ceremony, and at least one death was attributed to abuse while crossing the line.

[California Maritime Academy](#) observed the line-crossing ceremony until 1989, after which the ceremony was deemed to be hazing and was forbidden.

The 1989 crossing was fairly typical, as it was not realized to be the last one.

Pollywogs participated voluntarily, though women [midshipmen](#) observed that they were under social pressure to do the ceremony but were targets of harder abuse. Pollywogs (midshipmen and anyone else who had not crossed) ascended a ladder from the Forecastle to the superstructure deck of the ship.

There, they crawled down a gauntlet of shellbacks on both sides of a long, heavy canvas runner, about 10–12 meters. The shellbacks had prepared 3-foot, or 1-meter, lengths of canvas/rubber firehose, which they swung hard at the posterior of each wog. The wogs then ascended a ladder to the boatdeck to slide down a makeshift chute into the baptism of messdeck leavings in sea water in an inflated liferaft back on the superstructure deck. Wogs then returned to the [forecastle](#), where they were hosed off by firehose and then allowed to kiss, in turn, the belly of the sea-baby, the foot of the sea-hag, and the ring of [King Neptune](#), each personified by shellbacks.

In 1995, a notorious line-crossing ceremony took place on an Australian submarine, [HMAS Onslow](#). Sailors undergoing the ceremony were physically and verbally abused before being subjected to an act called "sump on the rump", where a dark liquid was daubed over each sailor's [anus](#) and [genitalia](#).

One sailor was then [sexually assaulted](#) with a long stick before all sailors undergoing the ceremony were forced to jump overboard until permitted to climb back aboard the submarine. A videotape of the ceremony was obtained by the [Nine Network](#) and aired on Australian television. The television coverage provoked widespread criticism, especially when the videotape showed some of the submarine's officers watching the entire proceedings from the conning tower.^{[9][10]}

Most navies have since then instituted regulations that prohibit physical attacks on sailors undergoing the line-crossing ceremony. In modern times, rather than a dreaded rite of initiation, the line crossing ceremony has become a popular tradition in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. In the [PBS](#) documentary *Carrier* filmed in 2005 (Episode 7, "Rites of Passage"), a crossing-the-line ceremony on the [USS Nimitz](#) was extensively documented.

The ceremony is carefully orchestrated by the ship's officers, with some enthusiastic sailors chafing at the degree to which harassment was disallowed.

Line-crossing ceremonies are also carried out on many [merchant ships](#). However, without the oversight of military justice, they can often get out of hand and lead to the abuse and assault that occurred in line-crossing ceremonies of the past.

EQUATORIAL BAPTISM

Baptism on the line, also called **equatorial baptism**, is an initiation ritual sometimes performed as a ship crosses the Equator, involving water **baptism** of passengers or crew who have never crossed the Equator before.^[11] The ceremony is sometimes explained as being an initiation into the court of **King Neptune**.

A popular patch has also been created for shellbacks that depicts **Neptune** battling a **sea serpent** with his **trident**.

This is the text from a certificate issued on a Royal Navy ship during the Second World War:

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas by our Royal Consension, Our Trusty, Well Beloved _____ has this day entered Our Domain. We do hereby declare to all whom it may concern that it is Our Royal Will and Pleasure to confer upon him the Freedom of the Seas without undue ceremony.

Should he fall overboard, We do command that all Sharks, Dolphins, Whales, Mermaids and other dwellers in the Deep are to abstain from maltreating his person. And we further direct all Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and others who have not crossed Our Royal Domain, to treat him with the respect due to One of Us.

Given under Our Hand at Our Court on board H.M.S. _____ on the Equator in Longitude _____° on this _____ day of _____ in the year _____

_____ (Signed)

Cancer — High Clerk

Neptune — Rex

This is the text from a certificate issued to United States Ships during World War II

Imperium Neptuni Regis

To all Shellbacks Greetings:

This is to Certify, that _____

USS _____

was duly initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the

Ancient Order of the Deep

And made a worthy Shellback in our Royal Dominion at Latitude 0000.

_____ 194-

Neptunus Rex

Ruler of the Raging Main

Official:

_____ (Signed)

Commanding Officer, USS _____

The certificate dipped in a bucket of ocean water and presented to the new trusty shellback.

This is the text from a certificate issued on a United States Navy ship during the 1960s:

*Know ye, that _____ on the _____ day of _____, aboard _____ appeared at the equator at Latitude _____° , Longitude _____° entering into Our Royal Domain, and having been inspected and found worthy by My Royal Staff and was **initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep**. I command my subjects to Honor and Respect him as one of our Trusty Shellbacks.*

_____ (Signed)

Davey Jones — His Royal Scribe

Neptunus Rex — Ruler of the Raging Main

Submariners often become "Top Secret Shellbacks" having crossed the equator at a classified degree of longitude.

Similar "fraternities" in the navy include:

- The **Order of the Blue Nose** for maritime personnel who have crossed the [Arctic Circle](#).
- The **Order of the Red Nose** for maritime personnel who have crossed the [Antarctic Circle](#).
- The **Imperial Order of the Golden Dragon** for maritime personnel who have crossed the [International Date Line](#).
- The **Sacred Order Of The Golden Dragon** for maritime personnel who have crossed at the same time Lat. 00-000°, Long. 180.00°
- The **Order of the Ditch** for maritime personnel who have passed through the [Panama Canal](#).
- The **Magellan's Strait Jacket Club** for all maritime personnel who transited the Straits of Magellan.
- The **Order of the Rock** for maritime personnel who have transited the [Strait of Gibraltar](#).
- The **Safari to Suez** for maritime personnel who have passed through the [Suez Canal](#).
- The **Golden Shellback** for maritime personnel who have crossed the point where the [Equator](#) crosses the International Date Line.
- The **Order of the Sand Squid** for maritime personnel who have been attached to army units or stationed in the Middle East.
- The **Emerald Shellback** or **Royal Diamond Shellback** for maritime personnel who cross at 0 degrees off West Africa (where the [Equator](#) crosses the [prime meridian](#))
- The **Realm of the Czars** for maritime personnel who crossed into the Black Sea.
- The **Order of Magellan** for maritime personnel who [circumnavigated](#) the Earth.

- The **Order of the Lakes** for maritime personnel who have sailed on all five [Great Lakes](#).
- The **Order of the Spanish Main** for maritime personnel who have sailed in the Caribbean
- The **Order of the Sparrow** for maritime personnel who sailed on all 7 seas. (North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific, South Pacific, Indian, Arctic, Antarctic Oceans)
- The **Order of the Ebony Shellback** for maritime personnel who have crossed the Equator on [Lake Victoria](#).

The **Royal Order of Purple Porpoises** for maritime personnel who crossed the junction of the [Equator](#) and the [International Date Line](#) at the Sacred Hour of the [Vernal Equinox](#).

[Crossing the line: sex, power, justice, and the U.S. Navy at the equator](#)



The ceremony of Crossing the Line – an old seafaring tradition

According to old tradition, all those crossing the equator for the first time, must be baptized and thus made an able-bodied seaman. After the ceremony, the newly baptized will be awarded a Crossing the Line Certificate stating his or her name and the date of the "baptismal ceremony". The Master makes his confirmation by signing the certificate.



Organized Line Baptism dates as far back as the 1520's and, apart from local varieties, you can find the ceremony described in a number of navy and merchant fleets world-wide. Originally, the equatorial baptism was a kind of consecration of the Seamen's profession, and could at times be rather wild. Gradually it has evolved into a merry joke for everyone on board, whether one is a sailor or a passenger.

The baptismal ceremony itself can be kept very simple, but many choose to put an effort in costumes and accessories to create a festive frame around the event. No matter how it is being arranged, there are some rules that apply:

- The crossing ceremony should be fun for all those involved and is not to harm anyone. Respect that some may not wish to be in the game.
- Do not overdo the "treatment" of those who are being baptized.
- Do not use force against candidates who try to avoid participation.

Note that among baptize candidates there can be shipmates who have good reasons not to be baptized - for example physical infirmities and strong shyness. Do not press these, but try to get them to participate in other ways - such as extra helpers for the barber or the doctor.

To achieve a successful event it is necessary to observe the following:

- The ceremony must be planned well in advance, and no details must be forgotten.
- All the roles must be duly assigned and rehearsed, and all necessary props should be in place.
- The list of the candidates must be prepared. Ensure that they are not wearing clothes that can be damaged during the ceremony.
- Good food, entertainment and competitions may contribute to an extra enjoyable party afterwards.



Characters

In accordance with tradition, the ceremony must be performed by at least 6 people in party: King Neptune, astronomer, bishop, doctor and barber and at least 2 guards. All these should be initiated persons, ie previously baptized and accepted by King Neptune. No such ceremony would have the intended effect without costumes. The simplest remedies can be used. For hair and beard you can use untwined rope yarn or cotton waste. Wood and cardboard are fine materials for swords, knives and other necessary equipment. Use your imagination.

1. **King Neptun.** Wearing a seven tagged, gilt cardboard crown. Long, white hair and beard made of frayed cable nets. He has legs and arms sticking out from a suitable robe painted with marine shapes. Legs and arms can be painted like fish shells, and on his feet, he could wear fins. He uses a solemn language, and always say "we" - not "I". **Prop: Long shafted Neptune fork.**
2. **Queen Neptunia.** (King Neptune's consort, also called Queen Amphitrite). She arrives in the skirt of bast or frayed cable nets, bra, and with a small cardboard crown. She appears with naked legs, and with different "jewelry" (marine craft for the occasion). Her cheeks are hectic red, her eyebrows are black, and her mouth boldly painted red. She has hair as the best cable yarn or solid wood wool - like green colored as seagrasses.
Props: Evening bags, hand mirror, steel brush for her hair and decorated fan.
3. **The Astronomer** is the next in the King's entourage, and also the next of rank. He has a tall pointed wizard hat painted with old and new celestial bodies - black, ankle-length robe painted with astronomical figures, moons and stars, and on the (loose) nose, he has glasses.
Props: A large sextant of three, an old sea chart or a flat globe painted on cardboard. Plate with chalk, or a large sheet of paper and crayons to the calculation of the correct position. Telescope/binoculars made of two clear bottles, with a red stripe over the bottle bottom so the newly baptized can see "the line"!
4. **The Doctor** is included in the King Neptune's entourage. He appears in a white robe painted with "fresh" blood stains. Gauze before nose and mouth, glasses upon the port wine nose, rolled up arms and well-worn work gloves. He usually has a white hat. The doctor may have assistants to carry props.
Props: Oversize thermometer and stethoscope, "medicine bottles" with indeterminate content, "pill box" with small balls of dough filled with strong spices - or licorice pastilles or the like, an injection cylinder containing coloured water for vaccination.
5. **Bishop.** As the venerable old sea water prelate he is, he comes dressed in a tall mitre of coloured red cardboard with painting of the Neptune fork in front, and with a bishop cope vestment reaching down to the feet, made of canvas bag decorated with glitter and colour.
Props: Crosier and Certificates of Crossing.
6. **Barber** is a fellow of doubtful appearance with large becket moustache and sideburns, long black wispy hair and a not-entirely-sober nose. Barber may often need an apprentice as an assistant.
Props: Large wood or cardboard scissors, large razor of ditto material (1 m long!), a large paintbrush and a bucket with mild foaming soap water.
7. **Guards** (guards, police, soldiers). To support King Neptune and his entourage there should be at least two or more guards, so that as many as possible can be involved in the game. They should calm down and bring forward any unwilling baptismal candidate, and ensure that no one can escape. Guards should be substantial guys. One of them should be appointed as the head, general or chief of police.
Props: They should have sufficient impressive masks and costumes in a warlike style. Vikings armed with spears, shields and swords, or the force with epaulets on the shoulders, whistles and sticks of coiled newspapers.
8. **Herald** - of unbaptized often called "the messenger" - is the first of King Neptune's court who leave the wet element for entering the ship, and the last one to disembark. He is equipped with three-cornered hat (Napoleon hat) in black cardboard decorated with a pirate skull or Neptune fork. He has black patch over one eye, big beard and bristling hair - and is also equipped as a colourful happy pirate captain of the good old days. He has a flashy uniform jacket with enormous epaulets and wide gold cords, and large sea-boots. **Props: Something to make trouble with, trumpet, pan lid, drums or something else that rumbles.**

Otherwise, the court might be expanded by **princess'**, **musicians** (like an entire orchestra), **assistants** (to the doctor and the barber) - and several **guards**...



The Ceremony

Introduction

The day before the actual baptism things start to happen to emphasize the importance of the forthcoming crossing ceremony and to create a little mystery and excitement surrounding the event. At a time when as many people as possible hear it, ask one of the initiated if the master has "remembered to send the papers". There is little fuss, and a man is sent out to get the "big envelope".

Until the "envelope" appears somebody talks mysterious about King Neptune and his strict requirements for all those who have not previously crossed the Equator. They must undergo a cleansing process before the ship is eventually allowed to pass.

When the master has the "papers", he gives orders to three long bursts of whistle to call the Sea Peoples attention. On leeward side he takes out the contents in the envelope and explains the "people of the ocean" that the documents are the ship's registration certificate, crew lists, etc., as well as a list of those to be baptized before crossing the equator. The papers are put back in the envelope and thrown into the sea, accompanied by some well-chosen and solemn words to "His Majesty". (Some old iron scrap is also placed in the envelope so it sinks immediately).

Later in the evening, a colourful and fanciful telegram turns up on the bulletin board, or otherwise announced. The telegram is a message from King Neptune which declares that he and his accompany will inspect the ship and its crew the following day.

The Arrangement

When the time is approaching for King Neptune's arrival, an alert "visit on board" is given. A few minutes before King Neptune arrives the Herald enters with noise and commotion. He salutes the ship and its crew and brings the solemn message (read from the deep-sea bulletin), that King Neptune is in the waters and is expected on board at any time. The King will check if there are unbaptized crew members on board!

Rumble and noise! King Neptune and his entourage are coming. Procession is welcomed with three bursts of ships whistle. King Neptune and his queen are heading towards the ceremony area. Followed by the "orchestra", which blows fanfare or otherwise loudly attract attention! Then the others arrive (singing the same or another song) in this order: bishop, astronomer, any princesses, the doctor and the barber with any assistants (aides), and finally the suburbs.

When entering the ceremony, King Neptune and consort take place on the throne. The bishop and the astronomer stand on each side of the "royals". The other officials and their aides, as well as guards, break down the flanks. The orchestra is behind the king and his consort.

When all the deep water people and their king are in place and facing the audience, the master asks for silence and gives a welcome speech. The orchestra greets with loud cheers from their instruments. King Neptune rises. In his hand he has a big, wet envelope (imagine it was thrown overboard the night before). He thanks for the welcome words and gives the order to the astronomer to measure declination of sun's meridian and calculate the distance from the Equator. ("We do not trust modern navigation methods!")

The Astronomer measure and count and declare that the position is good. King Neptune raises his hands to silence and continue his speech. He explains that the ship is not allowed to cross the "Line" before the gentiles has undergone a thorough spiritual and physical "ablution" through baptism and renaming. He emphasizes that those who set themselves against the ablution and baptism by flight or resistance will be catch up by his guards and brought to the ocean floor – otherwise the ship must turn. (At this point, the orchestra and the entourage can play their instruments and sing to emphasize the gravity of the King's words.)

The bishop is now taking over and tells the poor novice seamen that they only count as freshwater sailors and landlubbers since they only have splashed around in the sea north of the Equator, but hereafter will be considered as able-bodied salt-and deep-water sailors, baptized in the real sea water from Equator's 3000 meters depth. The country road dust from the Northern Hemisphere should be washed off. It is a harsh cure that requires strong medication, thorough washing and heavy scraping before the baptised can receive "His Majesty" certificate which gives free passage to sail in all seas and cross the Equator again without further treatment. And then he calls out: "Doctor and barber - do your duty according to the old ritual!"

The name of the first baptismal candidate is called out, whom promptly is taken care of by the guard and brought before King Neptune and his court - and placed in the doctor's chair (or on a bench)!

Baptisms

The baptismal candidate is examined carefully by the doctor, who is listening in his stethoscope, measuring the temperature and handing out "pills" and "medicine". Any aftertaste is to be washed down with lots of ice water. He is then "vaccinated" with three coloured stripes on the arm, and handed to the barber.

Barber cuts with his scissors, soaps in with his broom and shaves with his great razor. If the baptismal candidate complaints, he gets an extra round with soapy water! After this treatment, the barber gentle push the candidate into the water basin - or make sure he is showered with several buckets of water. He must ensure that the newly baptized is thoroughly washed.

The newly baptized are entitled to look through the "astronomical telescope/binoculars" and see the red Equator line (ie that are painted on the bottle bottom). Rub to the bottle with sooty cork, so that the candidate gets apparent "rings" around the eyes after seeing in the binoculars.

People, who for various reasons can not or don't want to go through the crossing ceremony, can negotiate with King Neptune to be spared - for a suitable "replacement" like a gift to the ship club or a significant contribution to the evening celebration.

Crossing the Line Certificates will be presented by the bishop along with some well-chosen words. Each of the baptised should be given a suitable maritime nickname - eg. fish names, with the addition of "characteristic" features and notes that describes why the candidate has been given this nickname.

Removal

When all are baptized, it is time for parting with King Neptune and his entourage. The King thanks and says that the journey back to "The big deep of Equator" will take place through the anchor cross. He notes that baptism is approved, but he is in greatly doubt since the treatment of the candidates actually were significantly milder than tradition dictates.

Baptism celebration

In the evening, there can be a baptism party with entertainment, singing, stories, contests, dining etc.



Crossing the Line Certificate

The certificates, a token rich in tradition, can be supplied on request by e-mail or downloaded from our web-site. The certificates are available in English and Norwegian.

We recommend that you seal them and add a twine or ribbon to make them extra elaborate.



PRAYER OF RENUNCIATION - NEPTUNE BAPTISM: LINE -CROSSING CEREMONY

Father, I want to thank You that the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) reconciles us back unto You (Colossians 1:20). I want to thank You that the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) cleanses us from all sin. In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth, I declare that I am born out of God, and that no evil spirit has any hold over me. I belong to You Lord, spirit, soul and body

I submit myself to You, Lord, and I resist the devil in the powerful Name of Yeshua (Jesus) Christ, and therefore he MUST flee (James 4:7)

Father, I thank You that because of my faith in Yeshua (Jesus) and His finished work on the Cross I belong to the Kingdom of Your Son Yeshua (Jesus) and I have turned my back to the kingdom of darkness forever. I declare that I willingly and totally renounce the kingdom of darkness - Satan's kingdom, his throne and his complete authority over my family and myself.

Father, today I come to You in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) and on behalf of my forefathers and myself I confess the sins and iniquities of my forefathers and myself done because of lack of knowledge - not knowing what we were letting ourselves into - Your Word says that because of lack of knowledge, we perish. (Hosea 4:14)

Father, I repent of my lack of knowledge and for doing things which are not honouring You and which made me a captive in Satan's kingdom.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent, renounce and ask Your forgiveness, for taking part in the Equator crossing ceremonies and having myself baptised into the kingdom of Neptune, the mysteries of the deep and hereby becoming a son/adopted child of Neptune, a Shellback.

Father I renounce any membership I or my ancestors received because of having passed the Equator - the membership of top secret Shellbacks, of any fraternity which is not mentioned here. Please remove my name from their registers and cut me free with the Sword of Your Spirit from all the members of these secret societies, body soul and spirit. You have done nothing in secret or in darkness - so I call all things done in secret or in darkness to now be revealed by Your LIGHT, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus)!

I repent, renounce the names Wog / Pollywog³, Shellback and in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I declare that I am a child of God, created in Your image and I have received the Spirit of adoption whereby I can cry 'Abba, Father' (Galatians 4:6). Father, I ask You to cleanse my identity of these names and all it stands for, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) and I pray that You will restore me completely.

³ The image associated with **shellbacks** is that of a **turtle**, while the meaning of **pollywog** is that of an infant frog, before metamorphosis.

Father in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent of the rituals done on Wog Day, the day preceding the initiation rituals:

Father, I repent of capturing and interrogating the Shellbacks (tying them up, cracking eggs or pouring aftershave lotion on their heads), and thus humiliating them.

In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I cut myself free – body, soul and spirit - from the animal spirit of the turtle and an infant frog – (tadpole). I cast off the shell of the turtle and declare that I will not act spiritually like a turtle or be caught in any spiritual stage of the metamorphosis of an infant frog. I renounce both waterspirits in the Almighty Name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent and renounce the ritual of the beauty contest on Wog Day, where the men had to dress up as women. I repent of dressing as a woman and of behaving myself in an embarrassing manner.

I repent of stealing woman's clothes to dress myself as Amphitrite⁴, for this ritual. Father, I pray that You cleanse me from this sin and that You cleanse my identity with the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus). Break the curse of being a cross-dresser, a transvestite, gender neutral, a homosexual and everything related to the confusion of gender identity that has attached itself to my DNA through this ritual. Father, send Your Fire and burn all these attachments from my DNA, in Yeshua (Jesus)'s Name.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I repent of receiving and accepting a subpoena (a writ to summon witnesses or evidence before a court) to appear before King Neptune and his court. I ask You, Father to destroy this subpoena in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Father, I repent, renounce and cancel the ritual of the "Court of Neptune", where I had to appear before King Neptune (great god of the sea, Greek name Poseidon, brother of Zeus), Amphitrite (the goddess of the sea, wife of Neptune) and Triton (son of Neptune and Amphitrite), the Royal Baby and other dignitaries.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I petition that You destroy this court of Neptune – nullify the authority of this demonic court over my family and myself - that You fire Neptune and Amphitrite and Triton and any other deity that was appointed as witnesses present at this court. I petition that You cut me free - body, soul and spirit - from these sea gods (Neptune, Amphitrite and Triton) as well as the people who were acting in this role, with the Sword of Your Spirit.

⁴ In ancient Greek mythology, **Amphitrite** was a sea-goddess and wife of Poseidon. Under the influence of the Olympian pantheon, she became merely the consort of Poseidon, and was further diminished by poets to a symbolic representation of the sea.

Father, I ask You to stand between me and these three sea gods (Babylonian trinity of the water kingdom) and that all spirit and soul ties be declared severed and sealed with the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) – between me, the sea gods as well as any human spirits involved at this ritual.

Father, break the power of all sentencing/ judgments/verdicts that were pronounced by this courtroom – I cut myself free from the power of the gavel (a small ceremonial mallet) – from the bar – from the jury – and all that was involved in this courtcase, standing against my family and myself in the spirit. I declare that I am no longer subject to the authority of this courtroom and all it represents, in the Almighty Name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Father, I pray that You deliver me from the spirit of Neptune, the spirit of Amphitrite and the spirit of Triton, the seagods in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus). Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I ask You to deliver me from Neptune's trident and all it stands for – I ask You to pull out this trident from any part of my being – body, soul and spirit - and I ask You to destroy the power source of this trident.

I now repent for my ancestors and myself who desired the powers of the trident – I ask forgiveness in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) and I renounce all the magical powers assigned to the trident as well as the power-source behind the trident. I renounce the power to command the seas – to make tidal waves or whirlpools or even columns to stand on – Father, I ask You to break all demonic cycles of spiritual tidal waves, whirlpools, and columns of water working against our family through the generations.

I renounce the power to control the weather and I ask You to stop all demonic spiritual rain / storms / blasts of lightning raging against our family for generations.

I renounce the power to transform living creatures into other forms, and also the power to make things disappear – Father, we ask You to break all the resulting curses on our family because of these powers, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus). We choose now to reject and renounce all the magical powers of the trident and to obey the Godly physical laws over the four elements that You put in place since the beginning of time. Restore Godly order to our family Father, we pray!

Father, where my ancestors accepted King Neptune as a spiritual father, I ask forgiveness in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus). I now renounce him as a father, I renounce Amphitrite as a mother, I renounce the false messiah Triton, and I renounce the Royal Baby, in the Almighty Name of Yeshua (Jesus). I pray that You destroy the adoption papers of King Neptune and the Babylonian Trinity with Your Holy Fire – remove my family name from the books of loyalty and membership to this water kingdom.

Father in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I renounce any name I received at the baptism (mention the name....) Father I pray that You will remove this name out of the kingdom of Neptune and please cleanse me from everything which is clinging to me because of this name - spirit soul and body.

Prayer about the mermaids and the mermen:

Father in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent and renounce every oath, initiation which brought me into the Marine kingdom, the kingdom of the mermaids / mermen. Father I ask You to forgive me and to cleanse me from my sin of turning to the Marine Kingdom instead of Your Kingdom. Forgive me for not taking this seriously, thinking it is a joke. Father, You say that Your people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge, I did not know what I was doing, and I ask You to forgive me and to rescue me from this Kingdom and from every evil influence, every evil spirit and power of the mermaids and the mermen.

I petition Father, that You will take me out of the Kingdom of Neptune, out of the mysteries of the deep, and to bring me into Your Kingdom. I ask You to wash me and cleanse me with the Blood of Yeshua, (Jesus).

In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I ask You Father to destroy the wig of Neptune, his beard, his crown and his trident with Your Holy Fire.

I repent and renounce preparing the ship for these rituals of baptism into Neptune. I pray Father, that with Your Sword of the Spirit, You cut me loose - body, soul and spirit - from all the pollywogs and all the members of the crew of the ship, where the ritual took place, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Father I pray, that You cleanse me from all the "truth serum", and I declare that Your Son Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is the Only Truth that I will follow and live by.

Father, cleanse me from the mixture (tar, hencoops, pig-stys, etc.) used for the shaving ritual - wash me with the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus). Please, will You destroy the razor and the paintbrush in the spirit.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I ask You to remove and destroy the blindfold put on me before being thrown into the water. I ask You to break the curse of spiritual blindness that this ritual has placed upon my family and myself - the curse of being a slave and to be led like someone to the slaughter.

Father, forgive us for allowing this bondage to come upon our family causing spiritual sleep and blindness to Your Spirit and Your Word. I now symbolically remove the blindfold and declare that we will see and we will hear when You speak to us through Your Word and by Your Spirit.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent of and renounce kissing the Royal Baby's belly, kneeling before the "Royal Baby" and kissing/licking his belly button - Father, forgive me for being engrafted and sealed into the spiritual umbilical cord of the "Royal Baby" by this action - and therefore taking on the "bloodline" of this "Royal Baby". With the Sword of the Spirit we cut ourselves free from this spiritual umbilical cord and break all ties - body, soul and spirit - with this "Royal Baby".

We renounce the ritual of being grabbed by the Baby to be smeared with the grease, which was on the belly. Father, send a Heavenly grease-solvent to remove all traces of this grease and whatever it symbolises in the spirit.

I declare that I only want to kneel down before You and that I will have no other god but YOU. I renounce all worship given to this "Royal Baby" and cancel it now in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus).

Father, I repent and renounce the baptism into the water - the sea, into the domain of the deep, of Neptune. I declare that I only want Your Baptism for repentance and cleansing of my sins and the baptism with Your Holy Fire to be filled with Your Holy Spirit.

Father in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I renounce the baptism into the sea and the drinking of the seawater, which was meant to make me one with the sea: "the sea in me and I in the sea". I renounce the sea and ask You to please take me out of the sea and to remove the sea out of me.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I repent of being locked in a water coffin of salt water and green dye. Father, I ask You to deliver me from this water coffin - break the curse of death over my family and myself and to bring me back to life in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus). I get up and climb out of this water coffin and I declare now that the curse to die in a water grave through drowning or any water grave is now broken, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus)!

I fire every evil spirit assigned over my family and myself that were appointed to make sure that this curse be carried out, and I tear the mantle of the officiating spirit assigned to this family altar, in Yeshua (Jesus)'s Name. I declare that I have died and have been raised up with Christ and that my life is now hidden with Messiah in God (Colossians 3:1-3) I ask You, Father, to fill me with Your Life, love and Light, and to deliver me from the spirit of death, in Yeshua (Jesus)'s Name.

I ask You Father, to take away the fear and the shock of these rituals and to fill me with Your Shalom.

Father I repent of and renounce the ritual "sump on the rump" where my anus and genitalia were daubed with a dark liquid and where I was sexually assaulted. Father, you have intended our genitalia to be kept set-apart and holy for our marriage partners only - and now this has brought a curse of exploitation and mockery - rape and molestation - and opened the door to all sorts of sexual abuse in our family line. Father, cleanse us - body, soul and spirit - from this ritual - place us under a Heavenly shower and wash away the dark liquid that marked us in the spirit for the demonic world to hurt us in so many ways.

Father, I ask You to sever me, spirit soul and body from the person(s) who assaulted me, in the Name of Yeshua, (Jesus). Lift off of our family all shame and legal claims that satan has had over our sexuality. We now dedicate our sexual parts back to You and we declare that our sexuality is under Your authority of purity and will be used for covenant purposes only – for a marriage covenant only. We dedicate our genitalia to You and declare that they will be used for the original purpose that You created them to do since the beginning of time. We declare that they are redeemed back to the original design by the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus)!

Father, I repent of watching my shipmates, being a witness, and laughing at them / mocking them when they had to undergo this ritual. Please forgive this act of shaming and participating in this ritual – I ask You to lift off of my family and myself the law of sowing and reaping – where we have been sexually shamed and mocked by others.

Father, I repent and renounce in taking part in the baptising of others into Neptune. I repent of assaulting, humiliating, and abusing others.

I repent of serving Satan's kingdom by baptising others into Neptune. I repent of misleading others and making them slaves of Satan/Neptune by leading them into the kingdom of darkness. Please forgive me and break the curse of demonic leadership over my family and myself. I ask You Father, to set every family free that we as a family have led in to darkness – send Your angels to minister Your LIFE to them wherever they are in this world, in Yeshua (Jesus)'s Name.

Father, I bring before You every ritual where I or my ancestors ever took on the role of the deities – Neptune, Amphitrite, Triton or the Royal Baby – I repent of this and I renounce any power endued upon us because of this ritual. I break all loyalty and spirit-soul ties with each one of these principalities – I again declare they have NO authority over my family and myself – I strip off all the garments and regalia belonging to them and identifying me with them in every single way.

Destroy all those garments and regalia with Your Fire, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus)! I renounce any imprints made of the ceremony – photographs, sketches and/or images in the spirit testifying against my family and myself – I ask You Father, to destroy all evidence speaking against me and my family because of partaking in this ritual ceremony.

I declare that I am not a deity; I am a human being, saved by grace, which is a gift from God. I am not delivered by my own actions; therefore I cannot boast (Ephesians 2:8,9)

I declare that “in Him – Yeshua (Jesus) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in union with Him we have been made complete, and He is the Head over all rule and authority”! (Colossians 2:9-10)

Father, I petition You to sever me from any of these roles and to deliver me and my family from Neptune and his kingdom. Please, cleanse me Father, with the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) and restore my identity, my humanity and Your calling over my life. In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I give all the attributes belonging to any one of these deities, to You, declaring that I don't want anything from the kingdom of darkness and I ask You to destroy all these attributes with Your Holy Fire.

Father, I repent for every incident where people died because of the rituals, the abuse, and the cruelty done to them. Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I ask You to cleanse me from all sins of murder and sacrifice, and to wash me in the Blood of the Lamb. I petition that the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) will silence all the blood testifying against me in the spirit. In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I ask You to cut me free from the spirits of murder, sacrifice and death. I ask You to destroy every altar on my bloodline where blood is crying out for vengeance - I tear the mantle of the officiating spirit assigned to service this altar and I petition You Father, to now destroy the altar with Your Fire. I ask You Father, to stop all bloodshed on my bloodline because of this altar - and cancel the law of sowing and reaping because the Blood of Yeshua (Jesus) has the final Word over my life.

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I petition, that You smash Satan's time-clocks at the time of the baptism with the Hammer of Your Word and I pray that You take me out of this time and space - everything recorded in the heavenlies - every time-clock, every sundial, every astronomical reading at the time of the rituals - as well as every crossing space on the equator in the seas - everything that is recorded against me and my family -

Thank You that You cut me free from every ungodly time-clock as well as any ungodly space on the equator speaking against me and my family - in the Name of Yeshua Ha Mashiah (Jesus Christ of Nazareth).

Thank You Yeshua (Jesus), that by Your Blood You redeem me and my family from all demonic patterns and cycles that have been speaking over us throughout the generations.

Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption [that is, our deliverance and salvation] through His Blood, [which paid the penalty for our sin and resulted in] the forgiveness and complete pardon of our sin, in accordance with the riches of His grace."

Father, in the Name of Yeshua (Jesus), I ask You to destroy the certificate testifying against me, of my baptism into Neptune - into the mysteries of the sea. I ask You Father, to burn it with Your Holy Fire, and I thank You that Yeshua (Jesus) died in my place.

Thank You Father, that *"the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; He (Yeshua, Jesus) has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross"*. (Colossians 2:14)

In the Name of Yeshua (Jesus) I declare that: *"I have been buried with Him (Yeshua, Jesus) in baptism and I also have been raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. When we were dead in our transgressions and the uncircumcision of our flesh, He made us alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgression"*. (Colossians 2:12 -13)

AMEN!

A letter by someone who received this baptism:

We were on our way to Dutch India. After having been in Sabang (Northern Sumatra) we went to Batavia. During this journey we crossed the Equator, and Neptune (the god of all the seas) came on board to baptise most of us who had never crossed the Equator.

It was a nice celebration and I even received a certificate. In the letter to my parents, dated 6 December 1947, I wrote a comprehensive report about it:

"We just had the Neptune celebration. At 9 o'clock he came on board, he was dressed up ludicrously and he was accompanied by a music band and about eleven other men. One man was dressed like a mermaid and the ten other guests were all painted black. One person carried a basin with red paint and another person carried a basin with white paint. Two men had a big paintbrush and one man a piece of wood, which served as a razor blade. Then there was a man who was the clerk, who had to read the names of the ones who were going to be baptised.

And there we went: when a name was read, the person had to come forward. First he was given a glass of salty water which he had to drink. After that he was being grabbed and put on the deck of the ship and he was painted from head to toe with red and white paint. Then four men took him and he was thrown in a huge basin filled with seawater. In this way eighty men were baptised, amongst them were about six officers, a few non-commissioned officers and soldiers. The priest and the reverend and three nurses who were on board also received the baptism.

Finally Neptune himself with all his followers went into the basin with the sea water, followed by Santa Claus and Black Peter, who had come to have a look.

In the meantime a few fire hoses had been connected so that all the ones who had not received the baptism were made soaking wet.

Yes we had a very good laugh".

More information about the Trident:

There are two Tridents associated with Neptune, god of the seas and the Atlanteans.

The Trident is a magical weapon that grants its wielder great power and the **divine right to rule the sea**. The original Trident of Neptune was forged by the cyclopes out of adamantine and Neptune's own essence. **It can manipulate and conjure water**, as well as disperse energy in the **form of bolts and force-fields**. The Trident of Neptune may be used by his chosen champions, and was most recently wielded by [Aquaman](#).

The Trident beholds a vast number of **magical powers** such as the power to **command the sea** (making tidal waves or whirlpools or even making columns of water to stand on), **control the weather** (summoning rain or storms or creating rainbows), **unleash blasts of lightning**, **transform living creatures** into other forms, and it can also **make things disappear**.

The trident is a part of a set of [The Seven Treasures of Atlantis](#). Seven mystical relics crafted and used by the former king of the seven seas [Atlan](#). This Trident has no supernatural powers or mystical properties other than being a symbol of Atlantean royalty, giving the user **unrestricted right and lordship over the various oceans** of the world. Its edge is sharp enough to rend the hide of [Darkseid](#) as well as shatter mystical obstructions fabricated by [Graves](#)'s apparitions.

Imperium Neptuni Regis



CROSSING THE

LINE CERTIFICATE

*We, Neptunus Rex
the Monarch of all the
oceans hereby declare that*

*according to a timehonoured
custom, has been duly
inspected and baptixed on
board the good ship*

*and is thereby accorded the
right to free passage on the
Seven Seas and unobstructed
crossing of the Line, under
Our high protection.*


The Equator, on _____
By the servant of the Monarch:

Captain

GIVEN UNDER
OUR HAND
AND THE SEAL
OF THE REALM


Neptunus Rex





Van Nievelt, Goudriaan & Co's Stoomvaart Maatschappij, N.V.

Rotterdam Zuid-Amerika Lijn



Oorkonde

Wij, Neptunus, God der Zeeën, zoowel ten Noorden als ten Zuiden der Linie, zich uitstreckende van Afrika tot Amerika, allen die deze zullen zien of hooren lezen, Saluut!! Doen te weten dat op den

15 Oktober 1838

door ons eigenhandig is gedoopt

Jan ~~_____~~

die voor de 1ste maal de Linie van Noord naar Zuid overschreed.

Bij den doop heeft ^{bij} ~~zij~~ vrijwillig den naam van

Inkvisch

aangenomen.

Gecontrasigneerd door mij,
Gezagvoerder van het

