

Naval Traditions and Etiquette

Bridging the gap between warships and cruise ships

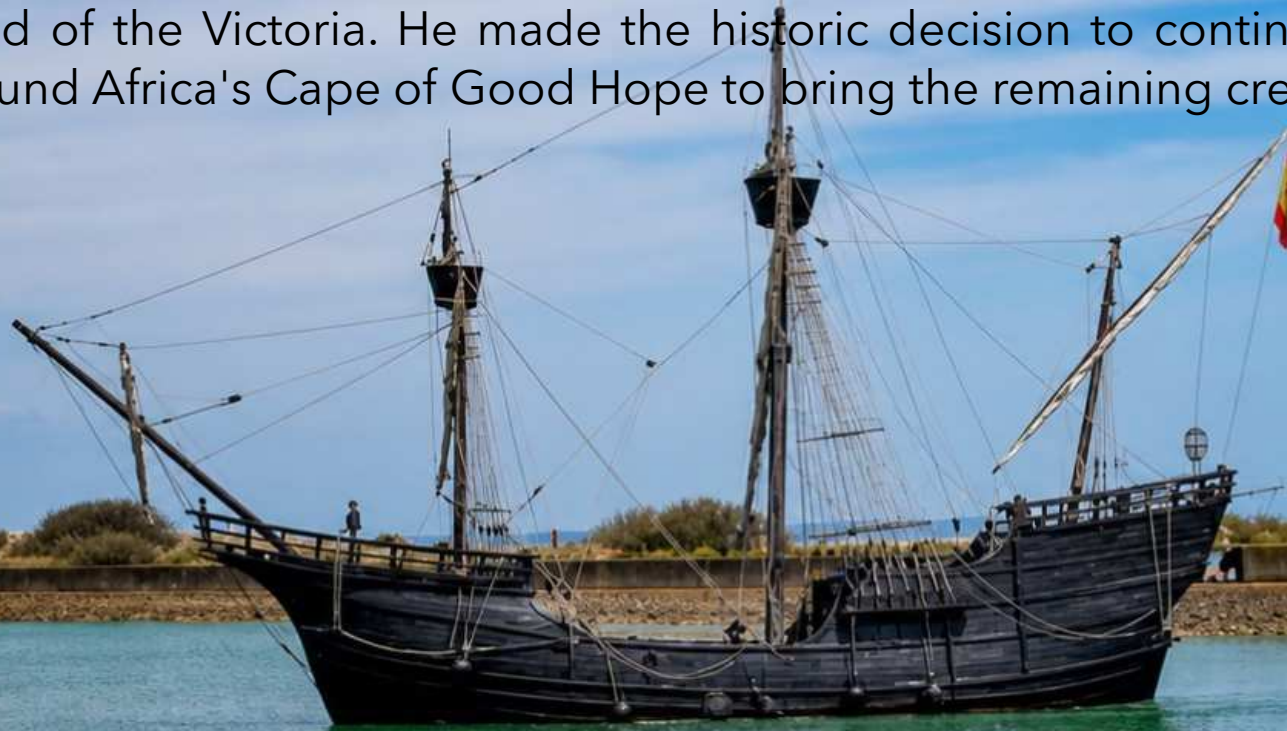
With
Rear Admiral (Retired) Simon Hardern



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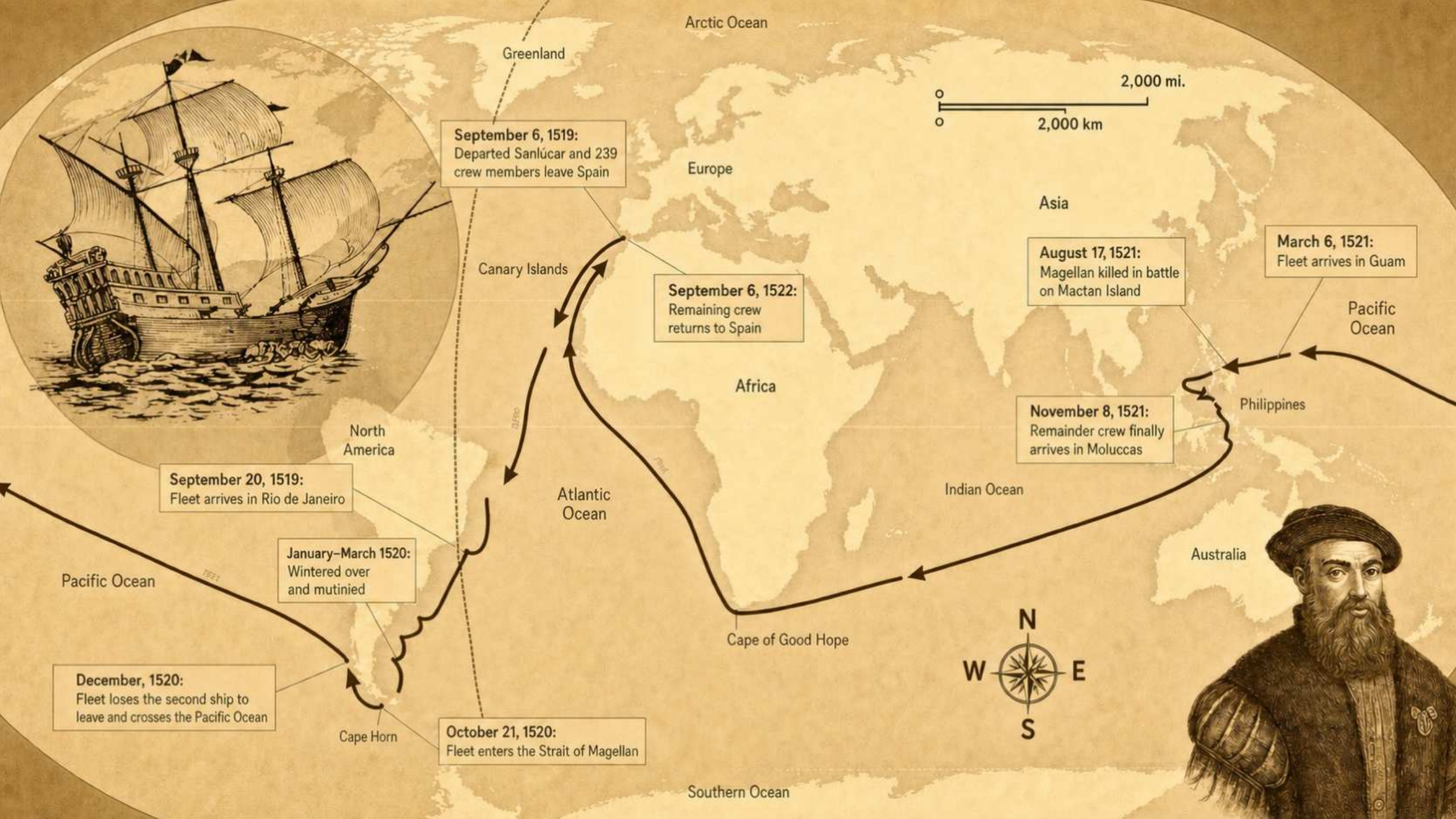
ENRICHMENT
SERIES

On **6 September 1522**, the Spanish ship **Victoria arrived back in Spain** (close to Cadiz), completing the **first recorded circumnavigation of the Earth**. The expedition was initially led by Portuguese explorer **Ferdinand Magellan**. However, after Magellan was killed in the Philippines in April 1521, Basque navigator **Juan Sebastián Elcano** took command of the Victoria. He made the historic decision to continue sailing westward across the Indian Ocean and around Africa's Cape of Good Hope to bring the remaining crew home



The Cost of the Voyage

- **270 men** originally set sail from Spain in 1519 - **only 18 survivors** returned aboard the Victoria on 6 September
- **4 out of 5 ships** were lost to mutiny, shipwrecks, or abandonment due to lack of crew





Day One in the Royal Navy

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BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
LIVERY & MILITARY TAILORS



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH
NAVAL TAILORS & OUTFITTERS



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCE OF WALES
TAILORS & OUTFITTERS

Royal Warrants held:

The late King George V 1911 to 1938

The late Prince of Wales 1922 to 1936

The late King George VI 1938 to 1955

CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE *of the* ROYAL NAVY

GIEVES & HAWKES
No. 1 SAVILE ROW
LONDON

Branches: London, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Portland, Bath,
Edinburgh, Chester, Winchester,
and other locations.



Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

A Few Life Lessons Learned!





Why We Have Them

The first duty of every member of the Naval Service is to learn and conform to (social and ceremonial) customs and traditions

Custom is an act or ceremony that stems from tradition and is enforced as unwritten law

Courtesy among naval professionals is vital to maintain discipline

Traditions - the passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation

Etiquette - the process of socialisation and learning a form of corporate culture by the British



***The only traditions of the Royal Navy
are rum, sodomy and the lash***

(Allegedly Said by) Winston Churchill





Camaraderie - The Heart of Naval Life

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Mutual Support and Friendship

Supports and bonds cemented in service at sea



Ensuring Operational Effectiveness

Unity and trust are vital to mission success



Foundation for Morale

Critical to maintaining high spirits



***A ship is more than the crew,
as the crew is more than the man***

Rudyard Kipling



He Clearly Never Sailed on a Celebrity Cruise!

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A ship is worse than a jail. In a jail, there is more air, better food, and commonly better company

Samuel Johnson

(1775 - Scholar, Writer, Lexicographer
Think modern day Social Media Influencer)





They Are Shared Traditions



The Royal Navy is often referred to as the 'Mother of Navies.' Because Britain was the world's dominant maritime power for centuries, its customs, language and etiquette became the blueprint for naval forces globally. The nations that share these traditions most closely are members of the Commonwealth (like Australia, Canada and India), though many other modern navies, like the USN as well as Japanese Maritime Defence Force, use the practices originally developed by the British



Is Celebrity Apex a Ship or Boat?

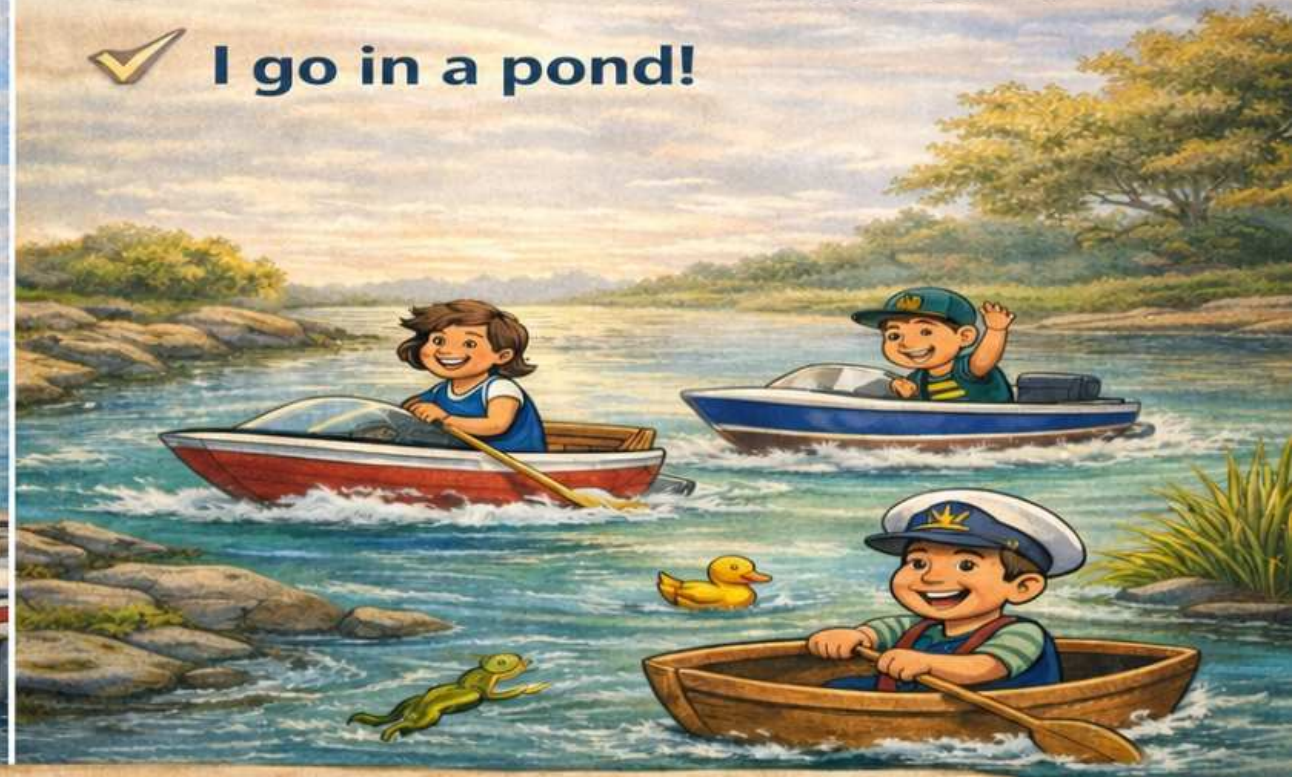
It's a ship if...

- ✓ It's big
- ✓ Has a crew
- ✓ Can carry boats!



It's a boat if...

- ✓ It's small
- ✓ You can drive it Yourself!
- ✓ I go in a pond!



A ship can carry a boat, but a boat can't carry a ship!



However ... there are Exceptions

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Submarines
are called **Boats!**



Why is a Ship a She/Her?



Linguistic Roots

The Latin word for ship is navis, which is a feminine noun.

French (la nef) and Italian (la nave) also use feminine articles. Then carried the feminine she into British naval culture



The Protective Mother

Sailors viewed the ship as a protective, motherly entity. Just as a mother carries a child, a ship carries its crew within its 'womb' (the hull) that provides life-sustaining shelter against a hostile environment



A Sailor's Devotion

A sailor was said to be married to the sea, and his ship was his first love. Naming a ship after a mother, wife, or daughter was a way to keep a piece of home with them

... and the Exceptions



The Bismarck

During WWII, Captain Ernst Lindemann of the German battleship Bismarck famously insisted that the ship be referred to as he (er), arguing that such a powerful machine was far too formidable to be feminine!



The Russian Navy

In the Russian language, the word for ship is masculine, so Russian sailors refer to their vessels as 'he'



Starboard and Port



Starboard - Before ships had rudders attached to the centre of the stern, they were steered with a large steering oar (a 'steer-board'). Since most sailors were right-handed, this oar was placed over the right side of the ship. The Old English word for steer was stéor and bord meant the side of a boat. Over time, stéorbord evolved into the modern word Starboard

Port - Because the steering oar was on the right side, sailors couldn't dock with that side against the quay without risking damage to the oar. Consequently, they always docked with the left side facing the port or wharf. Originally, the left side was called Larboard (from ladebord, meaning 'loading side'). However, 'Larboard' and 'Starboard' sounded too similar in heavy winds. In 1844, the Royal Navy officially ordered that the term Port be used to ensure clarity



Sailors Use a Whole Different Language

Sailors have a rich volume of slang ... some that you could use (or you could adopt!) on the cruise ship include ...

Far flung: A long way from home

Scran: Food

After: Pudding

Scratcher: Bed

Eating irons: Cutlery

Char: A word for tea

Do the honours: Pour the wine

Dhobey/dhobi/dhoby: Washing clothes

Cackle: Excessive and loud talk

Diddly-squat: Nothing

Dib-Dobs/Ickies: Foreign currency of any nation

Heads: Bathroom

Bumph: Description of never-ending stream of paperwork

Top banana: The best



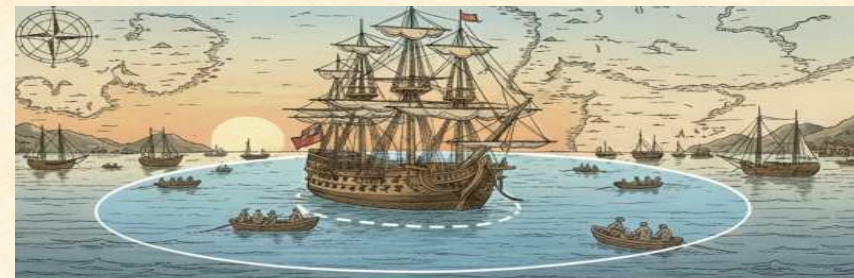
Common (English) Terminology from Days of Old

Dressing Down - the expression for a severe scolding or reprimand came into use in the 1660s. On a ship, dressing down means to dress or apply a preservative to the rigging. This unpleasant and dangerous job may have been assigned as punishment for a wayward sailor

Dummy Run - this term for a practice comes from torpedo training when runs were made with torpedoes fitted with a dummy warhead

Give them a Wide Berth - the term for avoiding someone or something comes from the practice of giving anchored ships in harbour a wide berth to avoid collision

Piping Hot - this expression had its origins in the way food was collected from the ship's galley for the mess after a 'pipe' was sounded. The sooner it was collected after the 'pipe' the hotter it was



And now ... an Audience Test!



The Answers



Over the Barrel - means a person is placed in a predicament from which there is no escape. The term comes from the practice of tying a sailor who was to be flogged over the barrel of a cannon



Let the Cat Out of the Bag - in the Royal Navy, the punishment prescribed for the most serious crimes was flogging. This was administered by the Bosun's Mate using a whip called a 'cat of nine tails.' The cat was kept in a leather bag and was considered bad news if indeed the 'cat was let out of the bag'



Square Meal - a substantial meal this expression comes from the time when sailors ate their food off square wooden plates with a raised edge called a fiddle. This design was to stop food falling off the plate and to set a limit on the amount of food taken



Apt for Any Cruise - Three Sheets to the Wind!



It's classic piece of nautical slang used to describe someone who is staggeringly drunk. Its origin is based on the physics of sailing and how a ship behaves when it loses control of its rigging. A sheet is not the sail, but the rope used to control the tension and angle of a sail. Because most small-to-medium vessels had three primary sails (the main, the jib and the mizzen) - the scale is:

One sheet in the wind - **slightly tipsy**

Two sheets in the wind - **clearly drunk and unsteady**

Three sheets to the wind - **completely out of control, staggering and unable to maintain a straight line**

Meant more for Carnival Cruise Ship Passengers

Origins - Parts of Ship Names



Wardroom

In the early 1700s, large warships had a compartment known as the Wardrobe. From 1750 onwards ships grew and so did the compartment - it was close to the Officer's sleeping quarters ... so morphed into the Wardroom



Galley

By the 1700s, as large sailing ships became the norm, the dedicated cooking area was moved below deck for safety and stability. Because the workspace was long, narrow, and cramped - much like the interior of those old oared galley ships - sailors began calling the kitchen the Galley



Heads

Sailors relieved themselves by going to the heed/bow of ship; the prevailing wind and wave action scouring action was deemed to make this the best location



And ... The Poop Deck ... is not the 'poop' deck!

From the Latin 'Puppis' meaning stern

Raised deck at the stern with Captain's Cabin below offering a clear vantage point

'Pooped' by a wave means being swamped





Forms of Address - Always Show Respect



Aye, aye, Ma'am!

Responses to Senior Officers

Yes, Sir/Ma'am

No, Sir/Ma'am

Aye, aye Sir/Ma'am

I understand and will carry out your order, Sir/Ma'am

I do not know, but I will find out, Sir/Ma'am

No excuse, Sir/Ma'am (accept responsibility, don't blame others)



Oi, Skipper!
The nets snagged!

Never call a Commanding Officer/Master a Skipper
- a warship is not a fishing vessel!

The Salute

From the Days of Chivalry

Knights raised visors to friends for identification



When in Doubt SALUTE!

Part of Everyday Life

Palm facing forward, the salute is a time-honoured expression of mutual respect!



Piping





Talking of Pipes – Imagine Being Woken by Call the Hands

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Whistling into the Wind

The Myth



You Must Never Whistle on a Vessel

You must never whistle on a vessel

The Reason



Whistling Is Said To Whistle Up a Storm

It challenges the wind

The Exception



The Ship's Cook Can Whistle

Because if he is whistling, it means he isn't eating the rations



Random Unwritten Wardroom Rules

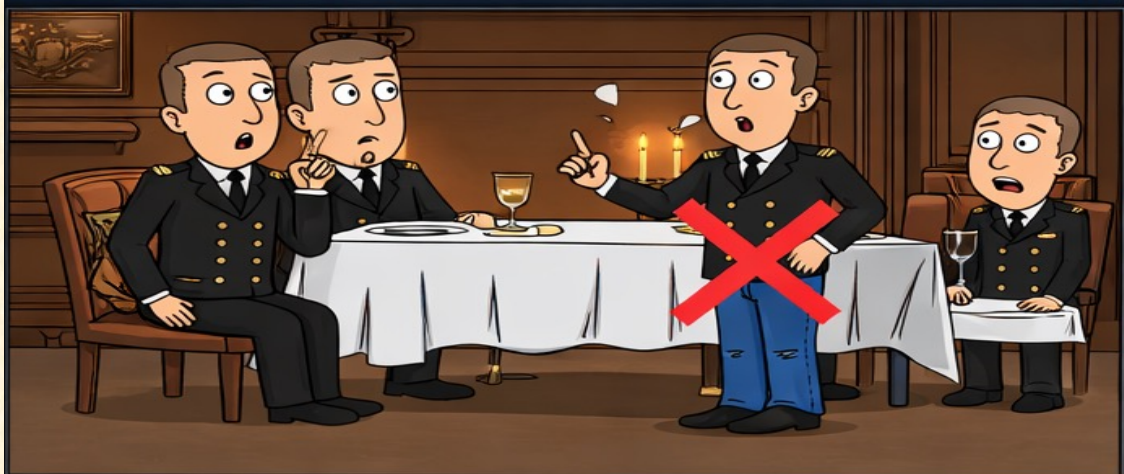
No Grey Shoes!



No Tomato Sauce!



No Jeans!



No Trendy Clothes!





Ceremonial Sunset



Royal Navy Traditional Toasts!

Monday



Our Ships at Sea - Monday's toast pays tribute to the vessels that are the backbone of naval operations. It acknowledges their global presence and crucial role in maritime defence

Tuesday



Our People - This day honours the service members, a reflection of the evolution from 'Our men' to embrace all personnel. It highlights the human strength of the fleet

Wednesday



Ourselves - A moment for self-reflection, emphasising the importance of self-reliance. The toast humorously suggests looking out for oneself, as external support can be scarce

Royal Navy Traditional Toasts!

Thursday



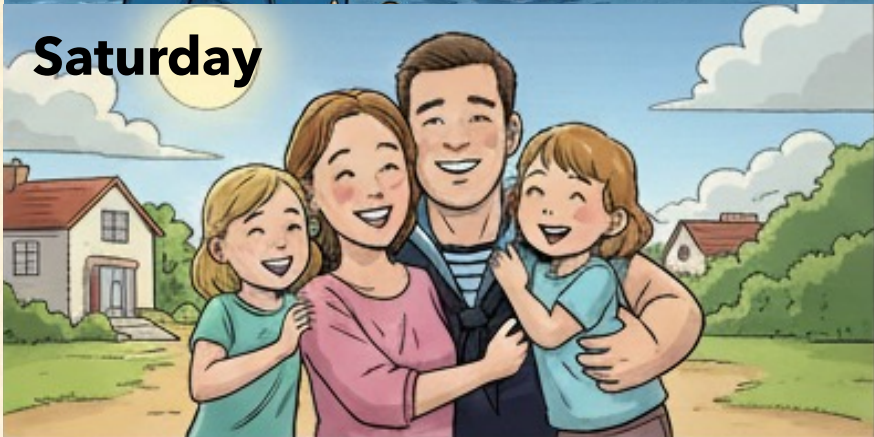
A Bloody War and Quick Promotion - This toast historically acknowledged the realities of service, where conflict or hardship could lead to career advancement. It speaks to the inherent risks and ambitions within military life

Friday



A Willing Soul and Sea Room - Celebrating the spirit of adventure and the freedom of navigation. It signifies readiness for challenges and the unhindered ability to traverse the seas

Saturday



Our Families - This toast honours the families, a shift from the historical 'Our wives and sweethearts, may they never meet!' It (now) recognises the vital support system of those serving

Royal Navy Traditional Toasts!



Absent Friends - Sunday is dedicated to remembering and cherishing absent friends, including those on distant deployments. It reinforces bonds of fellowship and shared experience across the service



The Loyal Toast



Clinking Glasses



Don't Fall Asleep in the Wardroom

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Uckers

An intense, highly competitive version of Ludo played specifically in the (Royal) Navy. It involves complex rules about 'blocking' opponents and is often played with great theatre and shouting



Sling the Monkey

A more boisterous game where one sailor (the monkey) is suspended in a rope sling. Other sailors try to strike him with knotted handkerchiefs while he tries to tag them. If he tags someone, they take his place





The History of Naval Tattoos



Origins - The history of naval tattoos is a blend of practical necessity, deep-seated superstition and the simple human desire for storytelling. While tattoos existed in various cultures for millennia, the modern Western tradition was essentially born at sea in the 18th century

The Etymology - Capt James Cook's crew in the 1760s observed the Polynesian art of tatau (meaning 'to strike' or 'mark'). They brought the word back to England, where it became tattoo

The Souvenir - Sailors, particularly those in the Royal Navy, began getting tattooed as a permanent souvenir of their travels. Because space on a warship was limited, a tattoo was the ultimate portable memento. Think physical photo!



The Language of the Sea



A Girl in Every Port - Tradition or Myth?



- One of the great enduring myths of naval life, and **it has just enough historical truth behind it to have survived for centuries**

- In the 18th and 19th centuries, a ship could spend years away from Britain. Men might repeatedly visit Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Cape Town, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Halifax or the West Indies. For an unmarried sailor, his shipmates effectively became his family and the ports he regularly visited became temporary home

- **Sailors knew the bars, clubs and dance halls. Local people knew when the Fleet was arriving.** Friendships and relationships inevitably developed

- The remarkable thing wasn't that the sailor supposedly had a girl in every port - **it was that generations of sailors maintained marriages despite spending so much of their lives somewhere beyond the horizon**



Crossing the Line (Equator)

An Ancient Maritime Custom

This long-standing (Royal) Navy tradition occurs when a ship crosses the Earth's equator

Honouring King Neptune

Ships crossing the equator traditionally pay respects to King Neptune, the Lord of the Seas

Sailors' Trials and Tribulations

The ceremony includes tests of 'handling rough seas' through initiation rituals for sailors

From Pollywog to Shellback

Sailors undergo a transformation, moving from 'Pollywog' status to becoming a 'Shellback'

Initiation Rituals Unveiled

Expect face painting, dunkings and strange snacks as part of the 'rough seas' testing





Royal Navy Style

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Dipping the Ensign

A Sailor's Salute

Like a hat-tip at sea - lower your national flag to salute a passing RN Warship

Tradition & Etiquette

Only warships of the state do not initiate - they return the salute to civilian craft

Breaches of Protocol

Failing to return the dip is a breach of naval etiquette - and won't go unnoticed by the other vessel





Burials at Sea and Scattering of Ashes!

Honouring the Deceased at Sea - Given the long ocean passage across the Atlantic, burials at sea provide a dignified way to honour the deceased in a maritime setting, respecting their final wishes

Ceremonial and Respectful Process - The process involves formal ceremonies ensuring respect and solemnity during the scattering of ashes or burial





Reminds Me of a Story

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... But All Ended Well

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Used To Be No Moustaches!



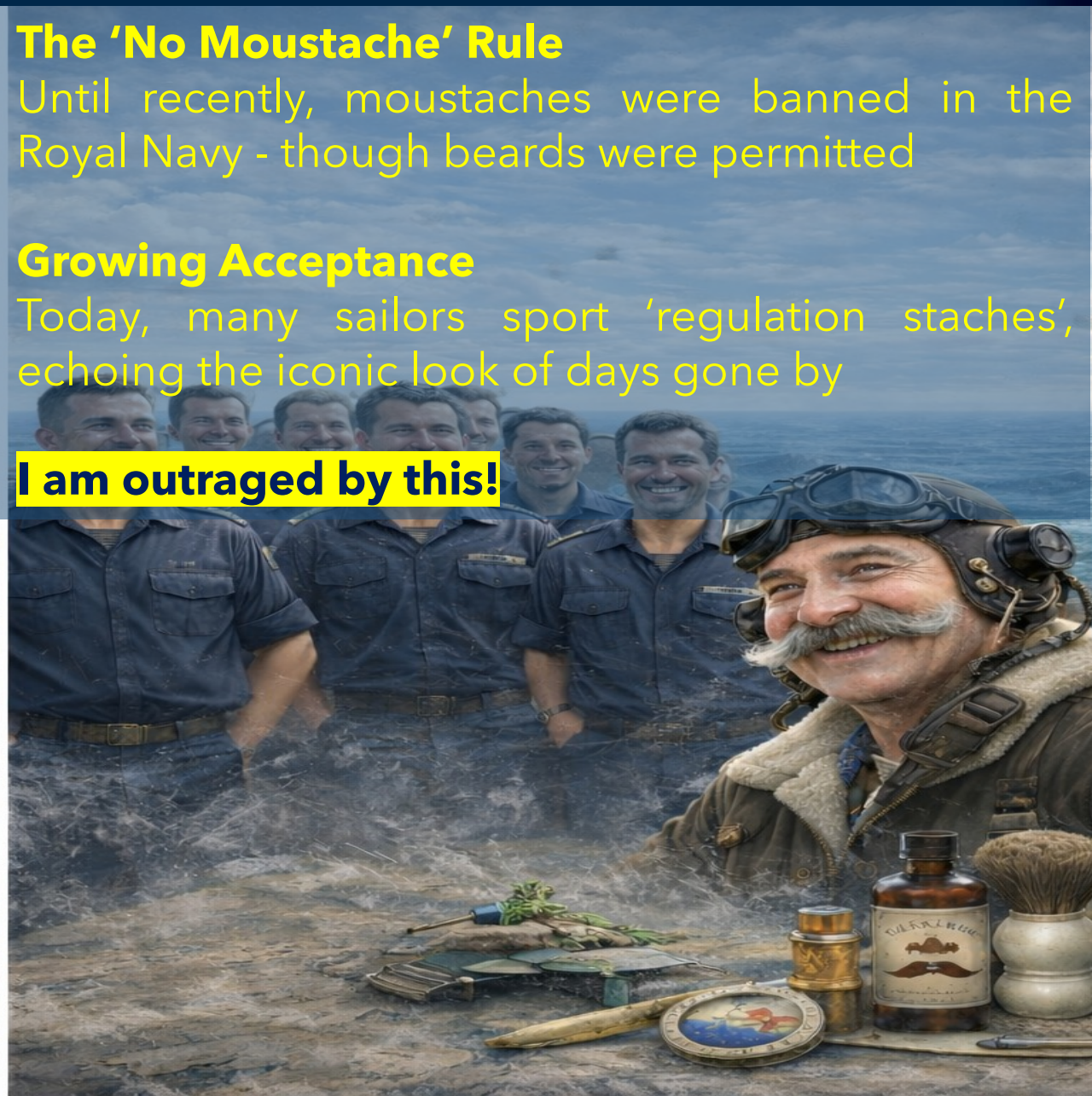
The 'No Moustache' Rule

Until recently, moustaches were banned in the Royal Navy - though beards were permitted

Growing Acceptance

Today, many sailors sport 'regulation staches', echoing the iconic look of days gone by

I am outraged by this!





Christmas Lunch

A Festive Meal at Sea

A timeless tradition where sailors gather to celebrate the holiday season together

Paper Hats & Crackers

Sailors don colourful paper crowns, pull Christmas crackers, and share laughs over silly jokes and trinkets

Feasting in the Mess

The galley serves up a full Christmas spread, complete roast turkey, stuffing, and flaming pudding

Duty One, Duty Still

Christmas spirit abounds, but the crew remains vigilant and ready even amid the merriment

Senior Ranks Serve All

Officers put on aprons and serve the crew their festive meal



Modern Policy

Modern Policy, of course, prohibits animals onboard ships except military dogs for temporary duties (explosive sniffers)

Historically However ...

Up until mid 20th century, it was commonplace to have dogs, cats and parrots at sea!



Able Seaman Simon

In 1949 received the PDSA's Dickin Medal after surviving injuries from an artillery shell, raising morale and killing off a rat infestation during his service during the HMS AMETHYST incident on the Yangtze River

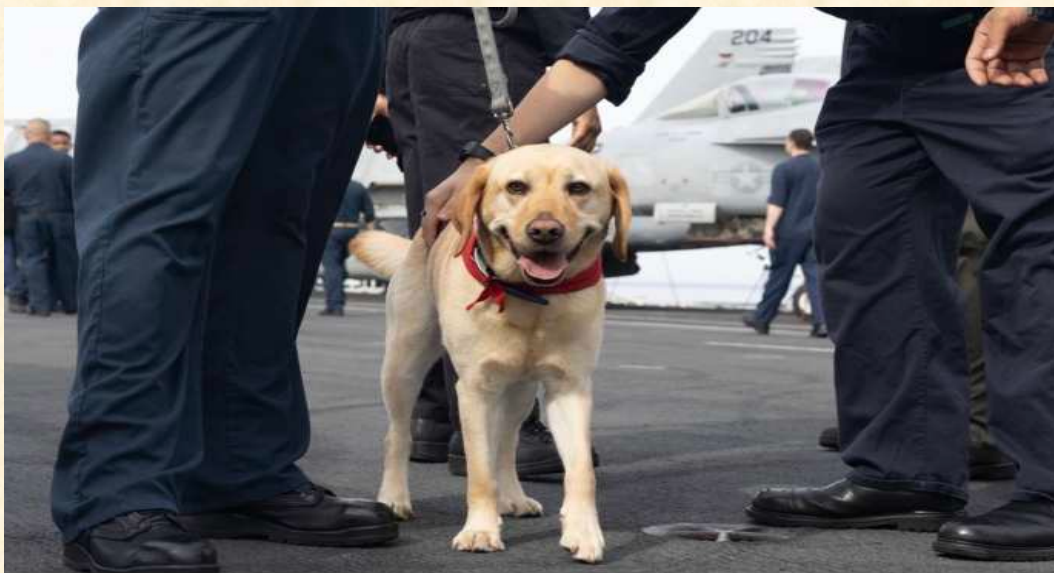


Simon



Jenny the Parrot

US Carriers



Sailors Pet Sage - the dog assigned to the USS Gerald R Ford on its 11-month deployment through the 'Mutts with a Mission' charity



Sailors Pet Fathoms - the dog assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln on its current deployment, again through the 'Mutts with a Mission' charity



HMS LANCASTER and Her Parrot

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... One Sunday Morning



Warning - This Dit Includes Swearing





Never Steer Course 232 Degrees

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S. 232. (Established—January, 1940.)
H.M. 3-43 (1940) (Revised—January, 1941.)
H.Q. 815-9-232

REPORT OF COLLISION OR GROUNDING

(King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, Articles 1167 and 1170.)

H.M.C.S. _____ Date _____ 194 _____

ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE NECESSITY FOR MAKING A FIRST REPORT BY TELEGRAM OF COLLISIONS OR SERIOUS GROUNDINGS.

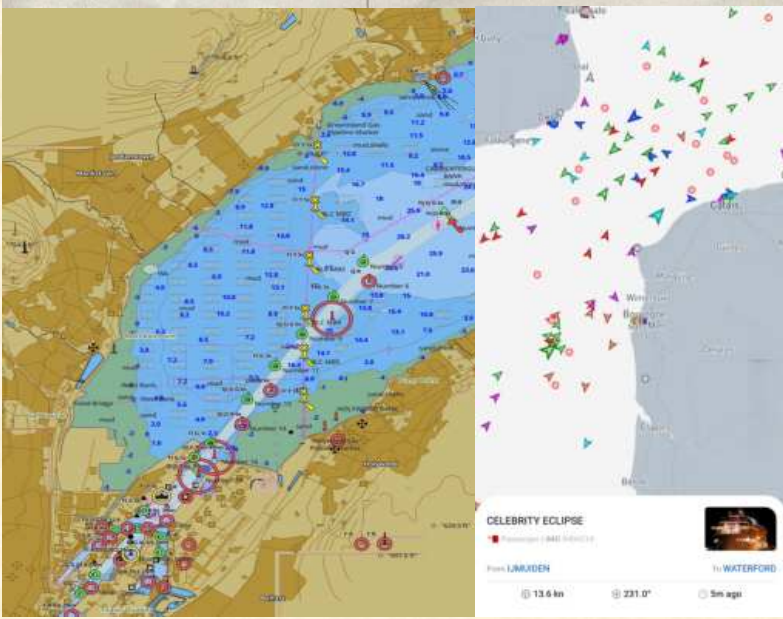
If it is desirable to answer any question at greater length than the space provided in the form permits, the answer (numbered) should be written on a separate sheet and attached hereto.

If all the particulars required hereunder cannot be furnished promptly, the report should not be delayed, any information that has been omitted being sent in as soon as possible afterwards.

(Any question not applicable to the report should be crossed out.)

SECTION I (Collision or Grounding)

1. Date, time, and place/position of collision/
grounding. _____ 194 _____ (zone _____)
(Strike out words inapplicable.) Lat _____ ° _____ ' Long _____ ° _____ ' or bearing
and distance _____
2. Direction and force of the wind _____





The Curious Case of Emergency Engine Orders

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Phase 1: The Order
(Control Room)



- Full Ahead ordered from slow speed

- Full Astern/Emergency Astern

- Crash-stop orders

Phase 2: Sudden Heavy Load
(Engine Room)



- Sudden heavy load on engines and gears

Tradition dictates the Captain rewards the Marine Engineers with a magnum of champagne if ever one of these Emergency Orders is made



Phase 3: The Reversal & Crash-stop
(Control Room)





Handing Over a Deployment

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Handing Over a Command

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Thank You

to you for coming to listen
and the Theatre Staff for their support



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