

NEPTUNE BOARDS H.M.C.S. "ONTARIO"

Her Majesty's Canadian Ship "Ontario" gets ready for an honoured guest. The ship is just crossing the equator so all her company stand by to greet the man whose realm they're invading - King Neptune. Following the old custom, he's brought his full court with him for the ceremony of shaving and ducking all those who have never crossed the line before. By the side of a special tank, the "Tadpoles," (as they are called), undergo the ritual - and below King Neptune's Bears make sure the job is well and truly done.

There's no escape for any "tadpole," whatever his rank. Neptune's Royal Police bring 'em back alive to face the ordeal whether they like it or not.

The "Shellbacks" (the people who have crossed the line before) hold diplomas exempting them from the torture. But if they can't produce it at Neptune's orders - well, they all go the same way home --- downwards!