

WE COULD wish you a Merry Christmas but we won't. It will be merry enough, believe that. Can you remember how many times you have been with your girl friend or your wife and it has been said "Let's do something different". Well, believe me brother, this year you are doing something different. Really different. In years to come you shall all look back - the names you see on the official certificates shall have become blurred memories, but nothing will ever blur your recollection over the incidentals of this Christmas, or the crossing of the line. You shall remember with glee the boatswain's mate that was tied to the fantail; the tales you tell of the resistance of the little pollywogs will grow in size as they are repeated. Le

TODAY IS THE DAY: when you are the private property of Neptunus Rex. Let Nothing you dismay. By noon you shall all be full fledged shellbacks.

THE CREW OF THE ABBOT IS WISHED A MERRY CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

SECNAV: THE THINGS FOR WHICH WE FIGHT ARE SYMBOLIZED IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON X TO ALL THOSE AT SEA X ON FOREIGN SHORE X AND IN CONTINENTAL SHORE BASES I SEND SINCERE GREETING X MY PRIDE IN YOUR VICTORIES AND THE COURAGE YOU SHOW IN BATTLE PLUS YOUR DEVOTION TO DUTY IS SHARED BY THE ONE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY MILLION AMERICANS WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AND WHOSE WORK BACKS YOU IN BATTLE X THE COMING YEAR IS CRUCIAL X THE BATTLES OF NINETEEN FORTY FOUR WILL DECIDE HOW LONG WE MUST STRUGGLE BEFORE THERE IS ONCE AGAIN PEACE ON EARTH X THE BEST HOLIDAY WISH FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IS THE HOPE THAT CHRISTMAS DAY OF ONE NINE FOUR THREE WILL BE THE LAST YOU SPEND FAR FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS X MAY THE NEW YEAR LEAD US TO VICTORY X

CINCPAC: TO FIGHTING MEN JOINED IN BATTLE AGAINST THE ENEMY IN THE PACIFIC SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS X AMERICANS AT HOME CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITHOUT FEAR OF BOMBS OR SHELLS BECAUSE YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS IN THE PAST YEAR HAVE STEADILY PUSHED THE ENEMY BACK X WE LOOK AHEAD WITH FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEXT CHRISTMAS WILL BE A HAPPIER ONE AT HOME AND AN INFINITELY MORE DISMAL ONE IN JAPAN X NIMITZ

COMDESRON 48: FOUL LOCATION IMAGINARY LINE X HAPPY DECEMBER 25 TO THIS SQUADRON OF MINE

COMDESDIV 96: (CAPTAIN C.E. CARROLL FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER ABBOT) CANNOT SUBMERGE HOLIDAY ROUTINE IS ESSENTIAL.

COMMANDING - EXECUTIVE - OTHER OFFICERS USS ABBOT:

A MIGHTY SHIP - A DAMNED GOOD CREW
WE wish A MERRY XMAS TO YOU
AND NOW GAWDAMMIT TURN TO!

PRICE LIST - REPAIRS TO POLLYWOGS - FIRST CLASS WORK DONE & RESULTS GUARANTEED
COME EARLY - AVOID THE RUSH - NO WAITING.

1. One broken leg (bad) \$20.
2. One broken leg (notsobad) 15.45
Each additional leg Refund
3. Bruises cooled and soothed on buttocks (each) .40
Nuts cracked for Xmas (No Extra charge to inspire good fellowship)
Elsewhere, each .50
4. Circumcisions, straightened, removal of selvage edge, guaranteed to leave nothing superfluous 2.00
5. Splinters Removed from ischiorectal region
Each hand picked .25
Otherwise .14
From beneath fingers or toe nails (each) .41
6. Broken noses remodeled.
Jack Benny Contour 1.00
Schnozzle Durante 2.00
W.C. FIELDS (IF YOU FURNISH YOUR OWN DRINKS) 2.00
ANY STYLE, OUR MOST EXCLUSIVE .90
7. Shellac removed from hair.
Cannot be responsible for change in color 2.15

CUTS, DEEP EACH SWITCH \$.12
EXTRA FOR EACH YELL .03
SCRATCHES .20
RENTAL OF LEECHES ON BLACK EYES OVERNIGHT .55

PATRONIZE US - LEAP IN - LIMP OUT - KILL EM OR CURE EM -
ROYAL DOG TO NEPTUNUS REX, KING OF THE DEEP!

WARNINGS TO: That Pollywog officer who gave sandwiches to members of the crew shortly before CG on 24 December. Clue; He won't be Merry long.; That pollywog officer who failed to appear before the shellbacks with the broken down confession of being needed on the bridge and then he failed to return. clue; he'll have a merry dance; to that officer who threw Roayl Property over the side AND THEN placed the blame on the shoulders of a shipmate; on those persons responsible for the "pills" in the CPO shellbacks chow; on those persons who interfered with the making of the ice cream and on the SR POLLYWOG present at that time for letting them.

THE ATTENTION OF ALL HANDS IS CALLED TO the Plan of the Day for 25 December 1943. It is in itself a rare piece for any scrapbook. Tis seldom that a ship crosses the line and has Christmas on the same day. The manner in which your Executive Officer opens the day is also considered quite irregular.

YOU HAD BETTER HURRY - You only have 30 DAYS left to get the thirty days leave that the Recruiting Officer told you about. Remember? But then, next year you get thirty more.

LEGITIMATE BEEF? Those few persons who did not get subpoenas will have them a very short while after they finish reading this article. While you are on the subject you might take off your hat to McKNIGHT - LORANGER - CURRAN, the bulwark of the ship's office. There were many hours spent in making the subpoena's a "little better" than average for those of you that will want to save them. There will be many more hours spent in making out other gadgets for you, and, with exception, without a kick. The certificates and cards will have to wait until the monthly, semi-annual, quarterly, and annual reports are out. As George said "All this and initiation too".

CAN I SEND THIS HOME? Speaking of sending home "the dope" on crossing the line. Full information will be published as soon as we get the straight dope. This will be at our first port of entry. In the meantime if you are full of the old enthusiasm and want to write it all down, it is reasonably certain that if you don't mention anything at all about the location of the ship you will be able to get a letter through. This is NOT the straight info though and if you want to play absolutely safe WAIT.

AND NOW FROM THE CREW TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER - THE OFFICERS AND TO OUR
COMMANDING OFFICER

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THAT STUFF -
OUR SKIPPERS OK HE TOOK THE GUFF
LET'S HOPE THAT THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING
TO US ON THE ABBOT - MIGHTY GOOD FISHING