

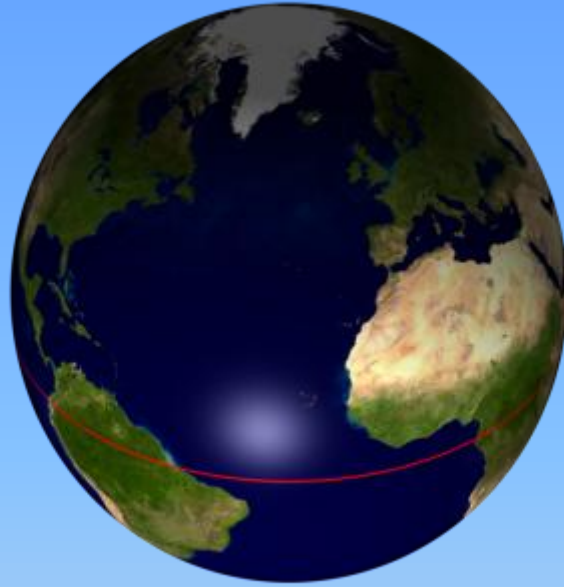
INTRODUCTION

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Courtesy of Arthur Charles.

- The ceremony of crossing the line is probably one of the oldest Maritime ceremonies changing little since the 18th Century. Ships of many countries would give some kind of offering to the sea and this tradition carries on in today's navies.
- 'Crossing the Line' ceremonies happen when a ship crosses the Equator. All members of the crew regardless of age or rank who have not 'Crossed the Line' before must take part in the initiation ritual.
- Having 'Crossed the Line' all the crew would be issued with a certificate. Sailors used to make these certificates onboard and often their quality reflects the available resources of the ship. Some certificates are incredibly intricate works of art where others were small tokens of the day.
- Other orders include:
 - Order of the **BLUENOSE** when a ship crosses the Arctic Circle.
 - Order of the **REDNOSE** when a ship crosses the Antarctic.



CROSSING THE LINE

A Proclamation

Whereas by our Royal Commission
We have this day permitted Our Trusty and Beloved
H. A. P. J. Squibb
to enter our Domain and the aforesaid has been duly initiated with all form and
ceremony into the solemn mysteries of the
Antient Order of the Deep.

We do by these presents proclaim to all whom it may concern that the aforesaid
has become one of our loyal subjects,
And should the aforesaid fall overboard, all Sharks, Dolphins, Whales, Mermaids,
and other denizens of the deep are to treat with due respect
Our Most Distinguished Subject.

And we further direct all Landlubbers and Mariners who have not crossed our
Domain, to treat the aforesaid with the respect due to One of Us.



P. J. Squibb

on the 18th December 1965

whilst serving on board

H.M.S. ARK ROYAL

did cross the line.



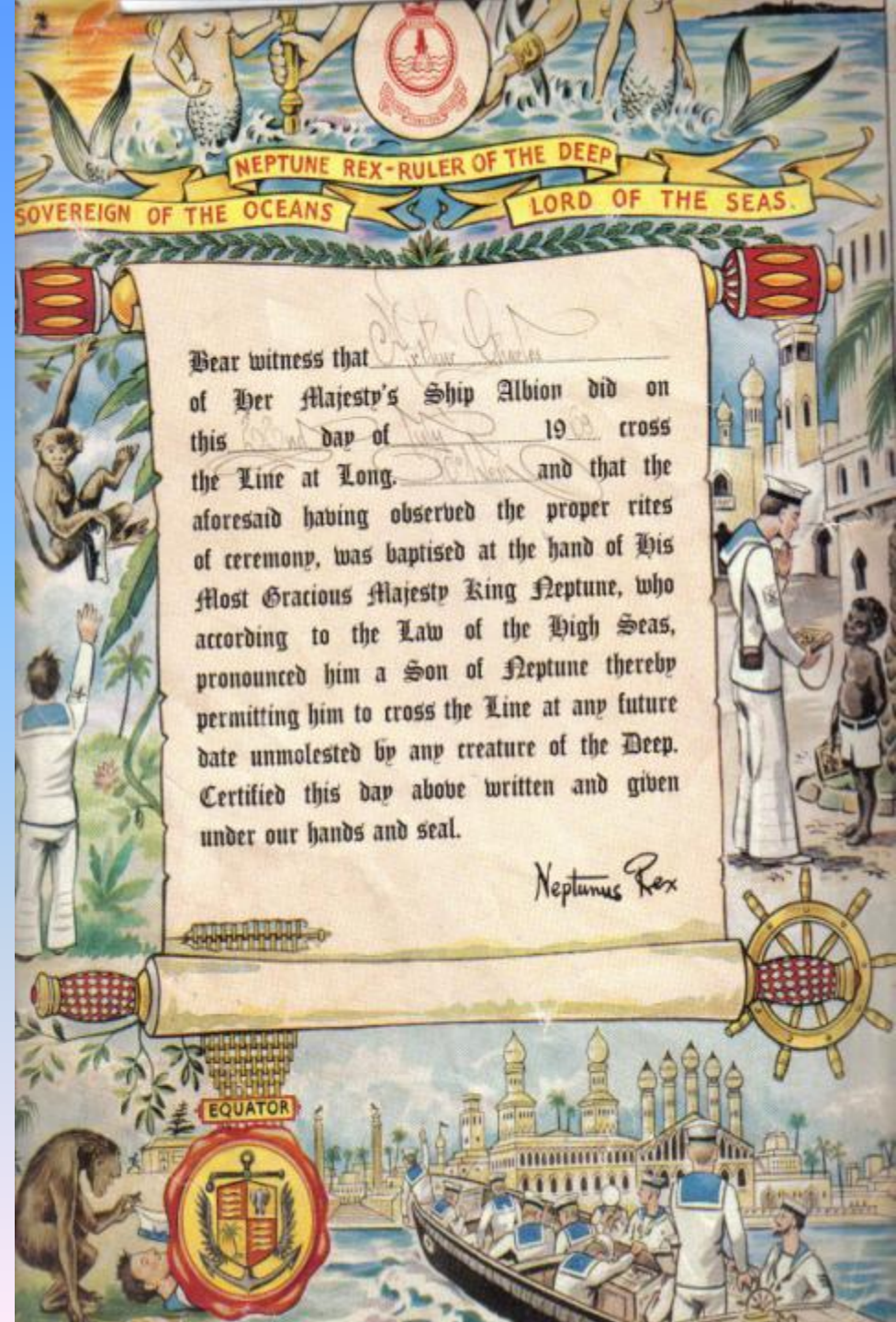
Arthur Charles

on the 22nd July 1969

whilst serving on board

H.M.S. ALBION

did cross the line.





H.M.S. Eagle

A Proclamation

GO all mariners and lubbers alike wherever they may be, be it known by this royal proclamation that his *Gracious Majesty KING NEPTUNE*, ruler of the Seven Seas and Six Oceans and all under-water terrains, did after all due consideration, admit to his realms one **Peter Squibb** who on the **Eighth** day of **June** did sail across Latitude 0° **1971**

In committing this offence the aforementioned mariner did undergo the penalties laid down, and passing the same to the satisfaction of his Majesty and his court, did then pay homage and become a humble servant to his Majesty from that time on.

Signed *Peter Squibb*
for H.M. King Neptune

Date:



Peter Squibb

on the 8th June 1971

whilst serving on board

H.M.S. EAGLE

did cross the line.



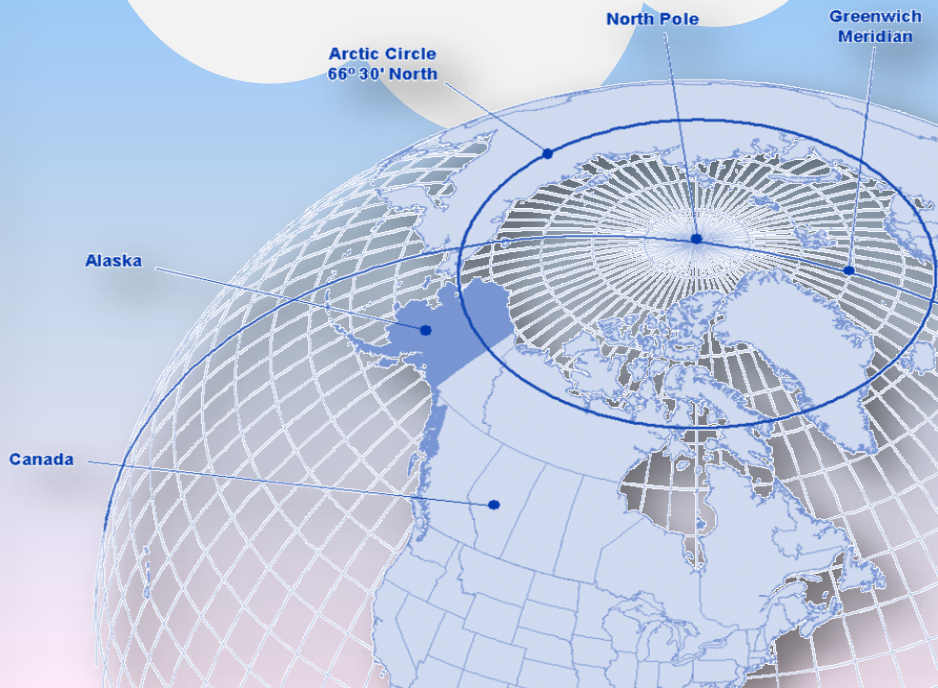
Crossing

The Arctic



A.W. Charles
on the 17th January 1970
whilst serving on board
H.M.S. HERMES
did cross the
Arctic Circle.

**Latitude 66° 33' and in
Longitude 10° 44.5' E.**



A Proclamation

Be it known to all Masters, Matles, Matloes, Marines and Mariners who Sail the Seven Seas

Know Ye that on the NINTH day of APRIL in the year 1970
H.M.S. HECLA

did cross ye **Arctic Circle**
in Latitude $66^{\circ} 33'$ and in Longitude $02^{\circ} 10' E$.
having on board

NAVAL AIRMAN P. J. SQUIBB

who shall henceforth be numbered amongst the numbed And we of this Northern Court of King Neptune do hereby declare him a lifelong member of

Our Numb Friends League (Northern Branch)

and demand that all Denizens of the Darksome Deep in these Regions do give Him Right Warm Welcome on all future visits

Signed: *Neptunus Rex*



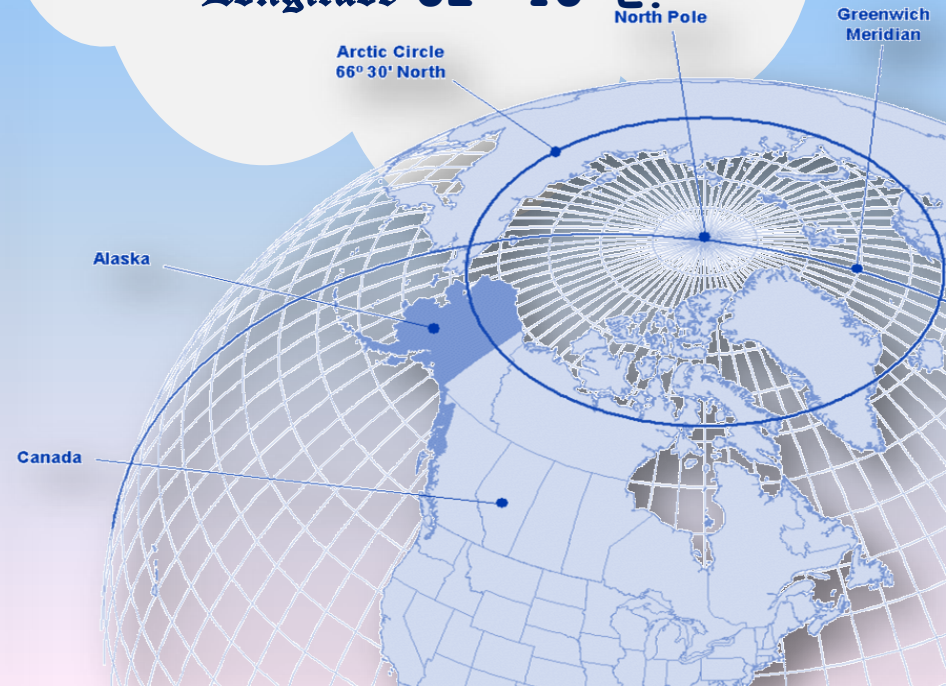
OUR NUMB FRIENDS LEAGUE

ARCTIC CIRCLE



P. J. Squibb
on the 9th April 1970
whilst serving on board
H.M.S. HECLA
did cross the
Arctic Circle.

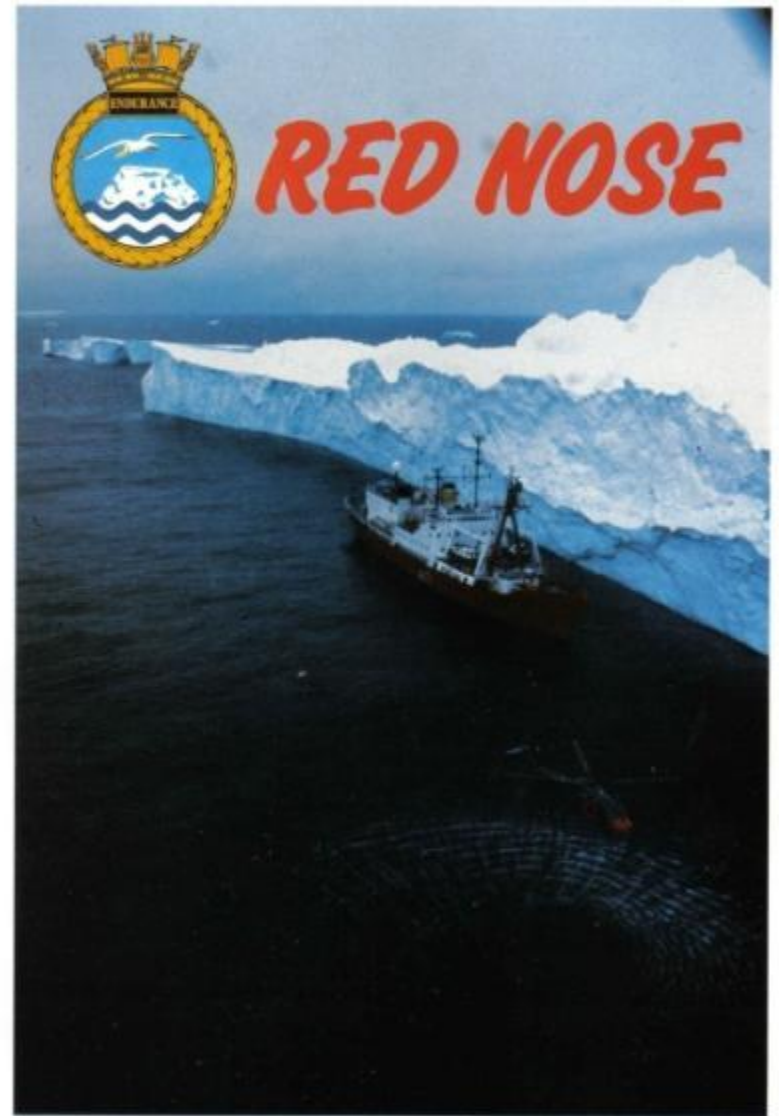
**Latitude $66^{\circ} 33'$ and in
Longitude $02^{\circ} 10' E$.**



Crossing The Antarctic



Lt Cdr Dai Roberts
on the 6th January 1988
whilst serving on board
H.M.S. Endurance
did cross the
Antarctic Circle.



Awarded to

Date

*Captain Royal Navy
Commanding Officer*

LT CDR D B ROBERTS Royal Navy 6 JAN 88

Certificates provided by A. Charles, D. Roberts and P. Squibb.

