

A
NAVAL LAMENT

by

Philip E Worthington, MBE Lt.Cdr Royal Navy

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*I've sailed the seven seas, and many more beside,
I've sailed so many oceans, now there's nowhere else to hide!
On mighty ships and cruisers, on destroyers and on shore,
I served my Queen and Country, for thirty years or more*

*The North Sea it was very cold, as was the South Atlantic,
With icebergs, Northern Lights and Whales, the sights were quite fantastic!
Days of nights and nights of days, with seldom sight of sun,
The seas were rough, the winds were sharp, it wasn't too much fun!*

*I've sailed the storms, the tempests too, where others feared to go,
I've hunted "growlers" in the dark, brought penguins home to show;
I've looked down funnels, been lost from sight, when seas have been so high,
Where others foundered, ran on rocks, I've managed to stay dry!*

*The Caribbean, the Red and Yellow, and East China, too,
The seas were hot and sunny and the winds they seldom blew.
The Islands, swaying palms, and hot and sandy beaches,
A pleasure to spend time on, with all their holiday features.*

*Where Neptune lurks, across the line, with henchmen and the Barber:
I've been across so many times, I'm no longer in a lather!
Arctic Circle, Tropics too, the lines don't show at sea;
I've crossed them all with a gentle bump - and paid the usual fee!*

*Magellan and Bass, and Singapore too, Shimonoseki and Gib,
The Straits of the world that I've passed through, and that's not telling a
fib!*

*The Panama and Suez Canals were so good that I had to return;
East and west I traversed them both, always willing to learn.*

*Cape Horn, North Cape and the Cape of Good Hope; many have passed
them around.*

*The "Ends of the World" where east meet west, all are world renown.
Of six continents, I've trod five, with countries too many to mention,
Three continents I've sailed around - it gives a different dimension!*

*Islands and countries, cities and towns, so many it's hard to remember,
From the temperate climes with sun shining down, where pavements burnt like
an ember.*

*To the icy wastes where I shared the ice with penguin, seal and the bear,
They all gave a welcome, a kindness and thought, all willing to give their
share.*

*It came to an end - after years of toil, when the bones became quite weary,
I relinquished my berth, stored my sextant and sword, wiped my eyes which
came quite bleary.*

*I settled ashore, within sight of the sea, set my sights on a long, lazy
retirement.*