

-- Coffee --

I have just reported onboard my first merchant ship as the new 3rd mate. My first watch alone at sea off the coast of Virginia and all was going well. The 3rd mate always stands the 8-12 watch.

About 1000 the master, chief mate and the second mate came to the bridge to discuss the day's events. After a few moments the master said, "Where is the coffee Mr. Trask?" I said, "I don't know; I don't drink much coffee". He looked at me and said, "You are supposed to make the coffee as we meet here every day at this time!"

Now fast forward about 20 plus years. After two tours in Vietnam, being C.O. of a destroyer (where you are close to being a god) etc., etc., I was assigned to OP-63 in the Pentagon. About once a month you had to stand a duty Saturday (1/2 day) because the ADM of OP-65 always came to check the message traffic. He came in about 1000, started to read the messages and said, "Where is the coffee?" Small World!!! (Of course I didn't make it, because I didn't know Commanders were supposed to be making coffee

Submitted by CAPT Ace Trask, USN RET