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THE BATTLE OF BAY RUM

by

EDWARD F. GALLAGHER

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"THE BATTLE OF BAY RUM."

A one act dramatic composition by

EDWARD F. GALLAGHER

Scene: On board the battle ship "Sandy Hook".

Time: Sunrise.

Place: Vanilla Bay.

Characters: Admiral Dock, Commander of the Battleship Sandy Hook.
Shaky Schultz, a sort of a sea dog.
Captain Cod, an old salt.
Marines, jackies, gibbies, etc.

"The Attack" "The Mutiny" "Burial at Sea".

Slow curtain to lively music with nautical atmosphere. When curtain is full up, enter Admiral Dock followed by Shaky Schultz, apparently in an argument.

Dock- Shut up, I thought I told you to throw out the anchor.

Schultz- I did throw out the anchor.

D- Well, how is it we are still drifting.

S- There was no rope on it.

D- Where's the quarter-master Riley.

S- Riley's in bed.

D- In bed, well who's got his watch.

S- I don't know, I got his chain.

D- How did you get it.

S- Somebody opened a pot with two kings, I had a couple of aces,-

D- Silence, (Business of birds whistling off stage).

S- What's that Admiral.

D- Nothing, we are just passing the Canary Islands.

(All lights out)

D- What was that, Schultz.

S- We are now going through a tunnel. (Lights up)

D- Look at the compass and see if you can find Aurora Borealis.

S- The first mate left it in the last night.

D- Well, we must have a search-light. Try and locate Haley's comet.

S- He fell overboard.

D- Who fell overboard.

S- Haley did.

D- Haley did?

S- Yes, the hale he did.

D- And he was drowned?

S- Yes, sir.

D- Why didn't you tell me this before.

S- He never was drowned before.

D- Then my intentions are to sail into Bay Rum and capture those rocks.

S- I know the feller that owns the rocks.

D- Who owns the rocks?

S- Rockefeller. (Business, lightning effect)

D- My God, Schultz, was that lightning.

S- Either that or the trolley was off.

D- This is no trolley car, this is a water wagon.

S- Gee, how did I get on it.

D- How did anybody get on it.

S- Why do you fool with that old clock.

D- Shut up, that's no clock. That's a compass. Where that goes the vessel goes. Without that the ship would be running at random. Rudderless, so to speak. Gee, you're a fine sea dog.

S- I'm a ocean bloodhound.

D- Look, it says now we are running into the rocks. To the Helm, To the Helm, To the Helm.

S- To the Helm with who.

D- To the Helm with you.

S- To the Helm with you too.

D- I want you to go to the Helm and move the ship.

S- Wouldn't it be easier to move the compass.

D- Never mind, I'll move the rocks.

S- Those rocks, where the water is wet?

D- Did you ever see water when it was dry.

S- Sure.

D- Where.

S- Under a dry dock. (Business, Dock knocks hat off).

D- Get off your foot. Look at the compass. See we are going--Hello-o-o-o

S- What is it, the enemies is?

D- Get away from me. Don't you know the Naval Code of signals yet?

S- Sure.

D- Well, what does that signal mean, right there, the three stars.

S- Hennessey's Brandy. (Business, Dock knocks off hat)

D- Three stars means the Admiral is on board. You can see the admiral from here if you look good, but you don't look good.

S- And I don't feel good.

D- Do you see that blue light yonder?

S- Yep.

D- Well, what's the meaning of the blue light.

S- Bronx Express.

D- How long have you been in the Navy.

S- Dirty five years.

D- You've been what.

S- Dirty five years.

D- He's been dirty five years. Show me your hashmarks. (Business, Dock counting) Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty years in the Navy. You told me a lie. Do you know the penalty of lying to your superior officer - nine hours down in the kitchen.

S- Smiles.

D- Nine hours down in the kitchen with your hands and mouth locked. Now, how long have you been in the Navy.

S- dirty five years.

D- Then where's the other stripe.

S- The tailor had no more goods.

D- What a lame excuse. Couldn't you find someone on the ship with a red shirt.

S- I don't go mit dem kind of fellers.

D- Why a red shirt is a sign of hard work.

S- That's why I don't go with them.

D- Then you have really been in the Navy thirty five years.

S- Yes, sir.

D- How old are you.

S- Twenty nine.

D- Here, here, here, you tell that to the captain in the morning.

B- I don't speak mit the captain.

D- Just like that, hey. What's the trouble with you and the skipper.

S- He woke me up with a pail of water.

D- The captain threw a pail of water over you.

S- Not over me, on me.

D- I'll bet he wet you to the skin.

S- I don't care, I was going to wash my face anyway.

D- Well, I'll forgiveyou this time and I am going to try and explain for your special benefit, the meaning of that blue light. That blue light tells us that all is well. Fancy all being well in a fleet consisting of three hundred battle-ships. Imagine it! Four hundred torpedo boats. Imagine it! Five hundred sub marine boats. Imagine it! And I don't know how many cruisers.

S- Imagine it.

D- Imagine it!! And here the blue light tells us all is well. There was a Dutchman found dead this morning on one of our ships. But that don't count. The Blue light still hangs prominently on the giboon telling every mother's son of us that all is well. Now, what's the meaning of the blue light.

S- Dead dutchman.(Business, Dock knocks cap off)

D- Is that all you remembered of that beautiful lesson.

S- That's enough, ain't it.

D- Its too much. Do you see that green light.

S- Yes,sir.

D- What's the meaning of the green light.

S- Dead Irishman. (Business, Dock knocks cap off.)

D- Never mind the Irish. That green light tells us of the arrival of another battleship. One that we all expected. That is I expected it. In fact every officer expected it. Every sailor expected it. The entire fleet expected it. But you didn't even know it was coming.

S- I didn't expect it.

D- Come here, mutt. (localize) I'm going to call to your attention one of the features of the flagship. It is best you learn this before too late, so give me your ear. I'm going to carry your mind and your eye to a certain part of that vessel.

S- Do you want my foot, too.

D- No, sir, what do I want with your foot.

S- Well, you've got my ear, my mind and my eye,

D- Yes, and with all of it, I have nothing.

S- Well, when you get my foot you get something.

D- Is that so. I want you to follow my imaginery itinary. As a starting point, I'm going to give you the main yard arm of that fighting monster yonder. Are you there-about.

S- Yep.

D- Tis well. I want you to follow your nose along the deck of that ship. When you get to the third turret, I want you to turn starboard to the main gunnell of the bull-works. Finding yourself safely there, I want you to start on a course northeast of southwest by a margin, from a nautical standpoint of 91 latitude plus 74 longitude. Do you follow me.

S- I'm ahead of you.

D- How did you get in the lead.

S- You must have got behind me.

D- And I disqualified myself.

S- That's it.

D- Now, we understand each other.

S- You understand each other. I don't.

D- Well that's close enough for business reasons.

S- So,

D- I had you diagnally opposite the horizon. Right over the

main giboon. Drop suddenly and you are at the bottom of the bow sprit. Are you there.

S- Yep.

D- Good, You're there all right.

S- Yep.

D- Where are you now (Business of pointing) I say, where are you.

S- I'm out there some place.

D- Out there some place, and I could have sworn I had you right on the spot.

S- I was there a minute ago.

D- Well, are you there now.

S- CAn't you see me?

D- Do you see you.

S- Sure, I see I.

D- Well, I don't see you.

S- Maybe, I am covered with seaweed.

D- Do you see the old cabin there.

S- Yes,sir.

D- What do you suppose is inside of that cabin.

S- Uncle Tom(Business Dock knocks cap off)

D- What's Uncle Tom doing on a ship.

S- What am I doing on a ship.

D- That's what I'd like to know/ You ought to be in a soap box.

S- Then I could wash myself ashore.

D- Why that cabin contains a marine glass. Very gigantic in its dimensions. Very, very, very, very powerful. Has many, many, many, many lenzes. It is known to the Naval Fraternity as the Knapascapascope. If I remember rightly, the

knapascapascope was invented by the Kapascapians on the far distant island of Knapascap and sold to our government by Mr. Knap and his wife-

S- Scap.

D- Are you acquainted with Nappy.

S- I used to know Scappy.

D- Then I don't mind telling you that the knapascapascope is so powerful that you can see clear into the Seventieth Century. Hundreds and thousands of years from now. Why I don't believe you will be alive then.

S- You can't tell.

D- What- what. Well, if you are, it will be your second or third time on earth. Then you may come back in the shape of something else. You may be a sailor. You may be a monkey wrench. You might be a milk wagon- or a cuspidor.

S- Maybe, I might be a cigar butt.

D- Yes, you're strong enough. Would you believe it when I tell you that the mechanicism of the knapascapascope is so complicated and intricate that its practibility is almost impossible to explain. But I can explain it.

S- There's nothing you can't explain.

D- And there's nothing you can understand.

S- That's why I can explain it.

D- O, ho, I must compliment you on your repartee. I must say that I am more than surprised at your brilliant abundance of boneheadedness.

S- I'M glad the operation was successful.

D- I'll have the same. Fancy yourself standing in the bow of your ship and with the aid of the knapascapascope you can look forward and see if the hind end is on straight.

S- You can look this way and see that way.

D- Exactly.

S- Ah, I use one of them.

D- You use the knapascapascope to look forward and see behind you.

S- Sure,

D- What do you use it for.

S- To shave my neck (Business Dock knocks cap off.)

D- Go back to bed. (Thunder and lightning effect.) Schultz we got to tear through that storm.

S- Ain't you afraid of the thunder.(Baby cry in orchestra)

D- My God, there's a squall coming up.

S- Ouch, I'm so sea sick, I'm so sea sick.

D- Wait, I'll tell you what to do.

S- I'll do it without you telling me.

D- Don't give up, Schultz, Don't give up.

S- I got to give it up.

D- It's only natural for you to feel blue. Look at our uniforms, blue, even the sky blue, even the ocean blue.(Wind whistle)

S- Even the wind blew.

D- Even the wind blew.

S- Look, look, the ship is running into the Five and Ten Cent store.

D- What will I do.

S- Get my horse.

D- I'll get his goat first. I have it, I'll get a magazine and blow up the ship and force every sailor on the vessel to---My God! You look like Scott's Emulsion. Don't go, Schultz, don't go. (pistol shot) (Business Dock falls in Schultz's arms. They waltze about four bars.) Here comes a bullet, duck.(pistol shot) another one, (pistol shot) another one (pistol shot)

S- Did you see that last one.

D- Yes.

S- It had English on it.

D- From which side are they coming the most.

S- From the Middle.

D- Are you brave like I am

S- Sure.

D- Then get in the middle,

S- No, Admiral.

D- Yes.

S- Can I take my vacation now.

D- You, you stayhere and I'll make something out of you.

S- You'll make a target out of me.(Pistol shot)Dock falls in Schult'z arms.

D- It's all over now. I,I,-take your hat off when I'm dying. Schultz, I hear the cannon's booming.

S- That why you lay down.(Business of bass drum beating march temple and D. & S. looking from right to left about 4 times)

D- What is this, a parade?

S- May be, it's the Salvation Army.

D- Good-bye, Good-bye, old sea serpent. You will let me die in peace, won't you.

S- In two pieces. (Business, Dock pushes Schultz face away. Dock imitating a dog barking. Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof.

S- He dies like a dog. Admiral if you are dead, speak up and say so.(Double pistol shot) Schultz raising up, grabbing his trouser legs, I got that some place and I'll betcher they'll never find the bullet. I think I got shot in the knapascapascope.(Business of S sitting down besides Dock)

S- Move over (Bus. Dock moves over.)

D- Schultz, I am dying, I am dying.

S- I thought you was dead.

D- No, but I'm going fast, I'm going fast.

S- What's your hurry.

D- I am at the Gates of heaven and they won't let me in. Where will I go,

S- Come along with me. (Dock and Schultz stiffen out. Orchestra plays dead march. Enter first sailor, carrying an American flag, Halts when he gets center stage)

D- Do you see anything.

S- I see our finish(Enter second and third sailor carrying stretch, halt when they get alongside of Dock and Schultz. They put down stretcher and place Dock on it. Then take off their hats, sailor No. II placing his hat on Dock's feet, sailor No. 3 placing his hat on Dock's chest.)

S- I might as well chuck my hat in the ring too(Schultz places hat on Dock's stomach. Sailor No. 2 and 3 pick up stretcher. Sailor No. 1 exits with flag, sailors No. 2 and 3 following off stage.

S- (Raising up to standing position) There they go. (Enter sailor No. 4 with pick and shovel over his shoulders. He marches in a half circle in front of Schultz and exits off stage.

S- Going to dig his grave in the ocean. (Enter sailor No. I with wheel barrow containing empty beer keg, follows sailor No. 4 and exits likewise. Schultz smiles at this.

S- I thought it was a funeral but as long as its a picnic, I'll join in. Schultz follows sailor No. 1 and beer keg off stage showing as he exits a beer mallet in one hand and a beer spiggot in the other. Fast curtain to lively music.)

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