

The Legend

of the

Lloyd

Jones

Footlocker

THE LEGEND OF FLOYD JONES LOCKER

All ye good Seafarers know of the legend of Davie Jones Locker but few of ye know the legend of his cousin - FLOYD JONES!

Unlike "Davie" who proudly sailed the British Navy, Floyd was the black sheep of the Jones clan. It was written that Floyd was "put in irons" in June of 1857 for stealing profits from the Annual "Wench and Harlots" Paper Drive! Branded a thief and banished from England - Floyd, with his Footlocker in tow, signed on aboard a fast packet for the West Indies. Floyd's arrival in the Caribbean was quickly followed by a marked increase in "petty crimes and purse snatchings". After several years of nickle dime work, Floyd "borrowed" a Windjammer he found moored in Kingston Harbor. While prowling in the "Straits of Florida", Floyd sighted what he thought was the Last Fleet of Golden Laden Spanish Galleons only to find "them" to be the First Shipment of Del Monte Banannas!

By 1863 Floyd had only a few items in his Footlocker to show for a somewhat difficult lifestyle. Having determined he was 'bout 100 years to late to be an "Upward Mobile" type pirate, Floyd with his Footlocker, shipped out of Georgetown, Grand Cayman. He sailed aboard the blockade runner Sea Fox bound for Cedar Key in the Confederate State of Florida. This relocation was facilitated by the Proclamation by the Governor General of Georgetown that a L500 bounty had been offered for this capture - DEAD OR ALIVE! It would have been easier just to slip into Habana but those Spaniards were still "touchy" about that 43,000 lbs. of banannas!

Scuttlebutt aboard the Sea Fox was that they carried a priority Cargo of "machined parts" from Belgium for General Lee's Special Tactical Navy Engineers. Floyd learned that for several months, Confederate Engineers were working on a "Proto Type Steam Powered, Mechanical Undersea Weapon of War" which would ultimately break the Union Navy's "Strangle Hold" on the Gulf Coast Ports. Sailors on the Sea Fox said that the "Juggernaut" resembled a 15' maine lobster complete with pincers cabable of biting through the Newest Steel Hulled Ships. It had a large tail for quick exits and 6' locomotive wheels for patrolling the bottom of the Gulf. With it's seaweed burning steam engine, the totally self contained unit, could "ascend to the surface or hover at midway between the waves and sea bottom".

Floyd could hardly sleep that night as he imagined the endless possibilities of modern piracy with the implementation of such a craft. He was certain that he'd found a way to fill his Footlocker with treasures once and for all.

Union Picket Ships threw a few volleys of cannon shot at the Sea Fox as she neared Cedar Key but the "wirey" Captain had run the shallows up from Tarpon Springs and had almost slipped past them before being noticed. Two Blockade Ships had been destroyed by Confederate Shore Batteries in the past month after grounding while chasing Blockade "Runners" - so the Union Captains knew to keep a safe distance. In the bright morning sun, Floyd balanced his Footlocker on his shoulder as he strolled down the bustling wharf - thinking of the day that it would be FULL and 4 men would be needed to carry it. While checking into the Cedar Arms, Floyd overheard two Officers in grey uniforms quietly discussing the afternoons possible trial run with the arrival of the last parts on the Seafox.

As Floyd pushed his way thru the crowd to survey the machine of his dreams, he did not hear the Lieutenant call for a Volunteer "Test" Captain to step forward. Awestruck by the "Mechanical Crustation", Floyd didn't notice all those "cracker boys" take the timeless "3 Step Reverse Manuever" leaving Floyd face to face with destiny. After a brief swearing in ceremony, Floyd was made the First (and Last) Confederate "Sub Aquatic Test Pilot" - he couldn't have devised a better plan to steal the "Riveted Devastator" if he's tried. The last words the crowd heard over the band playing "Dixie", was that he'd be right back but if something went wrong to send his Footlocker to his half brother (by divorce) Oliver Yagmin.

The cheers of the crowd were only matched by the loud hissing of the Steam Engine in the Iron Monster that Floyd had been bolted into. Dogs barked and horses reared as the Pride of the Confederate Fleet clamored thru town and wallowed out into the Gulf eventually submerging about half a mile offshore.

The next morning, search parties were mustered. Unfortunately their area of review was limited to that quadrant that was out of range of the Union Warships Cannon Fire. After several boats had reported seeing a series of criss crossing wheel marks, it was discovered that in their hast to get a working "proto type", someone had overlooked the installation of the most basic navigational tool - A COMPASS.

It has been chronicled that General Grant has pressed General Lee several times with questions about a "Mechanical Sea Monster" reported off Florida's Gulf Coast before accepting his surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. Lee's reponse was "that the Special Unit was listed as 'Missing in Action' along with it's Captain Floyd Jones - and all that remained was the lost soldier's Footlocker and the Jinxs that went with it".

The **Locker** it is said, brings Bad Luck to any Organization or Group who has possession of it for more than 30 days - but only if that Organization or Group has any activities in the Gulf of Mexico - so most people needn't worry. Legend goes that in 1923 the Organization of Sponge Divers, the "Tarpon Tridents" was given the **Footlocker**. Whilst in their possession - Eleven Boats Mysteriously Sunk, 3 Divers Developed the Bends and A Blight That Summer Totally Wiped Out the Sponge Industry in the Gulf of Mexico. Another aquatic based club to be hexed by the possession of this **Locker** was the very first diving club on the West Coast of Florida - "The Bayport Barnicales". Within several Weeks almost everyone in the club had a Full Ration of Wheel Bearing Failures, Blown "O" Rings, Leaking Gauges, Not To Mention That Not One Person In The Entire Club Could Locate Any Fish to Spear. Several weeks later, the members renamed their club "The Bayport Bowlers" and revised the format accordingly. Rumor has it that the **Locker** cannot be returned to those who gave it, but must be passed onto another organization. It is the responsibility of the club's President to see that this is done - because if not, he will be the First Victim to fall to the curse. He must send at least four men to carry the **Locker** and must see that the club makes a "material contribution" to the **Locker** in honor of Floyd. A wise President would see that the four did not carry Floyd Jone's **Locker** with their best bowling arm - Just as a Precaution!

The next time you're diving your favorite numbers and you notice two parallel tracks in the sand about 6' wide - just tell yourself that they were probably just made by shrimp boat doors.

