

LAND HO



“Land Ho” is another one of those Navy terms which means, “I think I see land”. For anyone traveling at sea and anticipating landfall, this word is a God-sent.

In the movie (or book), *Mutiny on the Bounty*, this word “Land Ho” has added meaning. The ship’s captain, “Bligh”, is the ‘worst of his lot; why, he’s down-right cruel and blistering as a high-noon Sun, he is.’ Ok, I’ll dispense with the old-English, but I am merely expressing the sentiment of his crew. Anyway, the captain is a bad dude with extreme and unethical forms of authority – that could be appreciated by seeing the movie

or reading the book. But before two bells, I will try to navigate you through at least some points of the voyage.

Disembarking from England, the small vessel sets-out for Tahiti – a small isle in the South Pacific populated by a unique plant called a bread plant. The mission of the voyage is to collect as many plants as possible, and return to England over what is estimated to be a two year period. Aboard the ship are the Captain of course, several seasoned and junior officers, and a rowdy crew varying from old salts to criminals pressed into service by the Crown.

A senior officer, “Fletcher Christian”, takes issue with the Captain in these matters of cruelty in hope that he can ease the tension among the crew; but frequent confrontations between the two only seem to raise the tension and derision aboard the ship. Sailors are given inadequate supply of water and food, medical problems are overlooked, and punishment is brutal to the point that an insubordinate sailor is whipped beyond death and another drowns from a keel-haul. With the ship’s mission in peril, something must change!

After managing to reach Tahiti, the ship completes the collection of plants and begins the return home; but again, the issues surface: the Captain insisted on as many plants as possible with the knowledge that water supply for the crew would insufficient; the extreme forms of punishment and discipline continue and so on. Reaching a breaking point, Fletcher takes command along with a divided crew; the staff refusing to mutiny are placed on a dingy while he and the rest of the lot sail back to Tahiti. I charge you mates to learn the rest of it for yourselves.

In a

WORD