



28th Aug 2010

Came across this yarn which I had not heard before. Might be of interest to some.

Most of the stories about the Cutty Sark are too well-known to need repetition here. There is one true yarn which is, perhaps, not so well known. When the Cutty Sark was sold to the Portuguese, none was more mortified than a certain officer who had served in her. While in another ship discharging at a foreign port he found the Cutty Sark, under the Portuguese flag and renamed the Ferreira, lying at the next berth. So, desiring a souvenir of his old love, he crept aboard and stole the ship's bell, sailing with his trophy the next day.

When the Portuguese found that their bell had disappeared, they conceived the idea of stealing a bell from a ship lying at the berth on the other side; this was the famous old barque Shakespeare. Then for nineteen years the Ferreira sailed with the Shakespeare's bell aboard.

When Captain Dowman bought her in 1922 the original culprit disgorged the proper bell, receiving in exchange the bell of the Shakespeare. This was presented to the Seven Seas Club in London..

extract from *The Merchant Service* by Lt.Cmd. L.M.Bates, R.N.V.R

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