Lauren Parison

John Carnes

Head Powder Monkey

Queen Anne’s Revenge

As Head Powder Monkey of the *Queen Anne’s Revenge*, I would be operating and maintaining the cannons, shot, and gunpowder. In this period of strife and fear for pirates, my job will definitely be necessary. With the increasing pressure from the British Crown and the introduction of more severe punishments for being a private, there is a need to either avoid getting captured, hanged and left to be rot in irons. I am not one to run in fear, though, and because of this, I hope for our crew to push back the presence of British ships as much as possible. With the favour of the rest of the crew, I hope that we can pick off English ships one by one if they ever come looking for us. By taking out British ships individually, we will be able to steadily accumulate prisoners and loot, like wealth and gunpowder. Should we continue this plundering, we will not only intimidate the English authorities, but also other pirates in the area who might wish to engage with us. We should use intimidation tactics to gain notoriety and fear, such as wearing the clothing from previous raids (especially if they are torn or bloody). I am confident that our cannons will be enough to defend ourselves and fight off any opponents: we have enough to be maneuverable while also showing any scallywag the extent of our power. Additionally, if we can be sure that we can maintain our ship’s power and respect, perhaps entertaining a means of working with other pirates would be in our best interests. We could do so through intimidation, as Blackbeard had often done. If we could find a way to work with them just long enough to reclaim our territory, we may be able to subdue the Crown’s influence and avoid the harsh hammer of the law. Perhaps we could even bring some of their best doctors and carpenters to our side, or at the very least have them let others know that the *Queen Anne’s Revenge* was taking the seas from the Crown. Capturing prisoners off port towns, holding them hostage, and demanding ransom would also be a good way to not only gain loot but also further the name of Blackbeard. Overall, I hope to see our crew accumulate wealth, push back the threat of English and really show off what our crew is capable of.

While most powder monkeys were recruited through kidnapping and often pressed into the job, I have been enrolled into the crew after being trained by the Royal Navy. Because of that, I feel that I will be able to supply the crew with knowledge about Navy routines, statistics and ship layouts. I hope to use this information to help our crew gain physical wealth, such as trade maps, prisoners and medicine, and if possible install paranoia and concern in the ranks of the British navy at the idea that their routines are known to pirates. Should there be any strife on the ship, and should we be split on any sort issue, I hope to take use my position as leverage. Additionally, should I be the boss of any powder monkeys, I would like to use them as intelligence-gatherers should any strife occur. I would do so by sending them out past curfew and asking them to report if they see anything. Of course, I would only send out those most loyal, the timing would have to be perfect to avoid getting caught, and it would have to be few are far between to avoid suspicion. I would also like to use the canons and firepower as leverage if I ever felt as though the crew was in an especially divided situation, such as if there was to be a mutiny or defecting to the Crown. I also hope to have hand grenades ready, in case the situation ever escalates to the point of needing them.

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