

B 'Bravo' in international phonetic alphabet. It is indicated in International Code by completely red pennant, meaning I am taking in or discharging explosives.

BABOON WATCH

BABYSTAY See Jackstay.

BACK (ING), TO 1) Turn or brace Sail or Yard so wind blows directly on front of Sail. Bring Wind on reverse side of sail, haul or trim Sail to Windward so that it fills with wind backward and retards ship's forward movement. See Aback. 2) Counterclockwise or anti-clockwise change or shift in wind direction in Northern Hemisphere, clockwise in the southern hemisphere. Reverse of normal wind pattern Opposite of Veering. 3) Nickname for Backbone. 4) Vessel with powered motion Astern or go stern first or to operate engines in reverse. 5) Reciprocal.

BACK AND FILL, (TO) 1) Go backward and forward, roughly remaining in same place. Method for sailing ship to maneuver or Tack using her sails to control forward motion, Crew Backs the Fore and Aft Sails such that wind Fills them on their reverse side and helps blow ship's Head around when changing tacks in light winds. 2) Used as a way of holding the ship steady in one position. 3) Mode of tacking when tide is with vessel and wind is against. 4) To be irresolute.

BACK AZIMUTH Azimuth 180° from given Azimuth.

BACKBONE Main Fore and Aft lower structural members of the Hull.

BACK ECHO Effect on radar display produced by Back Lobe of radar Antenna. See Side Echo.

BACKING 1) Motion in a backward direction. Said of the wind, shifting in a counterclockwise direction in relation to a Vessel's course. See Back and Veer.

BACKING WIRES Tub and Tow pull is applied to this line when moving astern. See Sternlines.

BACKLASH 1) Amount which gear or other part of machine, instrument, etc., can be moved without moving adjoining part, resulting from loose fit. See Lost Motion. 2) Tangle resulting when reel of Line or Cable revolves faster than line is being stripped off.

BACK LOBE Lobe of radiation pattern of directional antenna which makes angle of approximately 180° with direction of Axis of main lobe.

BACK RANGE Range observed Astern, particularly one used as guidance for craft moving away from objects forming Range.

BACK ROPE Rope which stays Dolphin Striker.

BACKRUSH Seaward return of water following uprush onto foreshore. See Rip Current and Undertow.

BACKS Done to Anchor when Ship drops smaller Anchor ahead of Main Anchor in order to reinforce holding powers of latter.

BACKSHORE Part of beach or narrow strip of relatively flat coast bordering sea which is usually dry, being reached only by highest Tides. See Foreshore.

BACK SIGHT Marine Sextant observation of celestial body made by facing away from body, measuring angle of more than 90°.

BACKSPLICE Splice in which the Strands are reversed and interwoven, to make a rope end.

BACKSTAFF Forerunner of Sextant, navigation instrument consisting essentially of graduated arc and single mirror. It was used to measure apparent height of landmark whose actual height is known, such as top of lighthouse. From this information, ship's distance from that landmark can be calculated. It was necessary to face away from body being observed to use it. AKA Quadrant With Two Arcs and Sea Quadrant.

BACKSTAY (S) Any of variety of wires, lines, long rope or Stays supporting or bracing Mast. They stretch, lead or run Aft from upper part of Mast or Masthead to Deck at Stern or to sides of Vessel Aft of Mast. Part of Standing Rigging. Serve or used to give support to Mast against forward pull and prevent it from falling forward. Name according to Mast they support. Can be either permanent or running (adjustable). Takes name from mast supported.

BACKSTAY PLATES Attachment point along Channels of the Ship for Backstays

BACKSTAYS OF SUN Crepuscular rays extending downward toward Horizon.

BACK (TO) To brace Weather Yardarm in so that wind acts on forward part of sail, pressing it back.

BACKWASH Water or waves thrown back by construction such as seaward, Breakwater, cliff, etc.

BACKWATER 1) Stop run of water when rowing by holding blade vertical in water and then reverse direction by pushing on Oars rather than pulling. 2) Water held back from main flow, such as that which overflows land and collects in low places or water that forms inlet approximately parallel to main body and connected by narrow outlet.

BACK WATER, TO Go easy and retrace one's steps, as in rowing boat backward.

BACK WINDED, BACKWINDING Directing Wind force onto the back or low pressure side of a Sail, either by Wind flowing from a forward Sail into the Leeward side of an after Sail or by changing Tacks without shifting Sheets. See Aback and Taken Aback.

BAD-I-SAD-O-BISTROZ Violent downslope wind which affects region around Afghanistan, blowing from Northwest direction from May to September. AKA wind of 120 days.

BAD NAME 1) Mariners were advised to guard their own reputations and that of ship. 2) Unsavory reputation.

BAGGYWRINKLE Padding to inhibit Chafe Aloft. AKA Bagawringle, Bangawrinkle, Baggywrinkle, Bag-o'-Wrinkles, etc.

BAGNIO Brothel.

BAGPIPING Sheeting a Sail to bring it Aback, particularly the Mizzen of a Square Rigger. Pertains to the bag like curves of a Sail when Aback.

BAGUIO Local Philippine term for tropical Cyclone.

BAIL, (TO) Dip out water or to remove water from the boat with a bucket. From the Latin, 'bacula', meaning pail. There is no more effective water pump than a wet sailor with a bucket.

BAILERS Sluices in the Bilge of a small boat to remove water when she's Underway.

BALANCE, (TO) Degree to which all the

forces on a boat are symmetrical so she sails with slight Weather Helm.

BALDHEADED RIG 1) Gaff rigged Schooner with no Topmasts. 2) Male sailor with some thinning Topside.

BALE 1) Throw over side any water which may have gotten into Vessel, usually with Baler. 2) Curved hoop or band, used on a Block, Track or on Deck. From the Norse, 'beyzja', to bend. AKA Bail which probably caused no end of confusion. 3) Collective or plural name for turtles.

BALER Large wooden or plastic scoop with handle and deep bowl, used to Bale water.

BALI WIND Strong east wind at which blows over eastern end of Java across Java Sea.

BALL 1) Spherical identifying mark placed at top of perch. 2) Time Ball.

BALLAST 1) Weight, other than Cargo, placed low or stored in bottom of Vessel's Hull, Ship's Bilge, Keel, hold or on Windward side to provide or improve Vessel's Stability, restrain boat from Heeling too far or assist Ship to stay upright in water. It can either be internal or external; gravel, sand, stones, iron, lead or any heavy material and can be seawater placed in tanks to increase stability. From Danish, 'barlast', meaning bare load or Teutonic 'ballast' meaning belly load. See In Ballast. 2) Stability.

BALLAST DISPLACEMENT RATIO Numerical ratio between the Ballast and Displacement in pounds.

BALLAST GROUND Designated area for discharging solid ballast before entering harbor.

BALLAST KEEL Lead in cigar shaped bulge on foot of Keel.

BALLISTIC DAMPING ERROR Temporary oscillatory error of Gyrocompass introduced during changes of course or speed as result of means used to damp oscillations of spin axis.

BALSA RAFTS Very buoyant raft or fishing float made from the wood of the balsa tree. 'Balsa' meaning float.

BALTIC SEA From Lithuanian 'baltas'

meaning white or Scandinavian 'balta' meaning Strait.

BALTIMORE CLIPPER Fast Schooner or Brig Rigged Vessel, with raked Masts and a sharp Bow, of about 90-200 tons and 35-120 feet on Deck.

BAMBOOZLE 1) Name of Spanish or Pirate custom of deceiving passing vessel of Ship's origin or nationality by flying or hoisting false flags or flying Ensign other than your own to deceive enemies or passing Vessel regarding Ship's origin or nationality. 2) When you intentionally deceive someone, usually as a joke, you are said to have bamboozled them.

BAND 1) Slip of canvas stitched across a Sail to strengthen the parts most liable to pressure. 2) Specific section or range of anything. See Frequency Band.

BAND OF ERROR Area either side of Line Of Position, within which true position is considered to lie, for a stated level of probability.

BANDWIDTH 1) Range of frequencies of device within which its performance conforms to specified standard in respect to some characteristic. 2) Range within limits of frequency band.

BANK 1) Elevation of sea floor typically located on Shelf, over which Depth of water is relatively shallow. Reefs or Shoals, dangerous to surface navigation, may rise above general Depths of a Bank. 2) Shallow area of shifting sand, gravel, mud, etc. such as sand bank, mud bank, etc. 3) Ridge of any material such as earth, rock, snow, etc. or anything resembling ridge, such as fog bank or cloud bank. 4) Edge of cut or fill. 5) Margin of watercourse. 6) Number of similar devices connected so as to be used as single device in common.

BANK CUSHION In restricted Channel, especially one with steep Banks, this effect tends to force Bow away from bank due to increase in Bow Wave on near side. See Bank Suction.

BANKER 1) Ship employed in cod fishing. 2) The person who should not own your boat.

BANK SUCTION Bodily movement of ship toward near Bank due to decrease in pressure as result of increased velocity of water flow past hull in restricted Channel. See Bank Cushion.

BANNER CLOUD Banner like cloud streaming off

mountain peak in strong wind. See Cap Cloud.

BANZAI Japanese felicitation meaning 'may you live forever'.

BANZAI PARTY Shore parties where seaman from Japan and other nations mingled.

BAR 1) Ridge or succession of ridges, Bank, Shoal or mound consisting of sand, mud, gravel, debris, unconsolidated material or other substances below High Water level, especially across mouth of river, Estuary, Harbor or lying a short distance from and usually parallel to Beach and which may obstruct navigation. From the French, 'barre'. 2) Unit of atmospheric pressure. From the Greek, 'baros, pressure. 3) See Bar-Shot 4) Land based nesting and pre-mating natural habitat frequented by sailors when they force themselves to go Ashore.

BARAT Heavy Northwest squally, occasionally violent wind which blows across Celebes Sea in Manado Bay on North and Northeast coast of Island of Celebes, prevalent from December to February and often causes severe damage.

BARBARY COAST Entire southern coast of Meditterrean, along northern shore of Africa.

BARBER 1) Strong wind carrying damp snow or sleet and spray that freezes upon contact with objects, especially the beard and hair. 2) See Frost Smoke. 3) Someone who occasionally tries to attack you with shears.

BARBER HAULER Sail control Line to control the angle or Athwartships lead of a Jib Sheet.

BAR BUOY 1) Buoy marking location of Bar at mouth of river or approach to Harbor. 2) What you will be looking for to lead you to a good time.

BARCA LONGA Large Spanish fishing boat up to 70 feet in length rigged with single Lugsails on each of two or three Masts.

BAREBOAT 1) Rent a boat 'bare' or without a Captain, thus indicating that you wish to sail the Vessel yourself. See Charter. Opposite of Skippered Charter. 2) Sail naked.

BARE ICE Ice without snow cover.

BARE POLES 1) Sailing with no sail

set, usually in high winds, with all sails down or furled using just wind pressure on the hull and rig. 2) Masts and Yards of Vessel when not carrying Sail. See Scud. 3) Sailing with unclothed persons from Eastern Europe

BARE ROCK Rock that extends above Men High Water datum in Tidal areas or above Low Water Datum in Great Lakes. See Rock Awash and Submerged Rock.

BARGE 1) Long, narrow, light boat, generally with no fewer than ten oars, carried on a Man-Of-War. 2) Highly ornamented ceremonial craft, state vessel or Flag Officer's boat used or employed for transporting principal sea officers, such as an Admiral or captains of ships of war. From Latin, 'barca', boat. 3) Powerless, commonplace, unwieldy but functional, useful but clumsy, often flat-bottomed Vessel for hauling cargo. Unfit for open sea. Pulled by conventional Vessels or by animals on the bank of Canal. From Celtic word for boat. 3) Slang term 'to hustle a person'.

BARGE ABOUT Bump someone or move them heavily about.

BARGE IN Clumsily or rudely intercede or to butt in. Interrupt in an abrupt manner.

BARGE POLE Long pole used to propel a barge

BARINE Unusual winds from West which blow over eastern Venezuela

BARK See Barque.

BARKING DOG NAVIGATOR Navigator whose only skill is to steer away from sound of a dog bark because the dog is on land.

BARKY Sailor's term for a Vessel well liked by her crew.

BARNACLE 1) Small sea creature with long stalk and rounded body that adores the bottom of your Vessel. Holds tight and causes unpleasantness. From Middle English 'barnakylle' when people believed that a 'barnacle goose' were born from Barnacles. 2) Tortuous eye glasses that pinch the nose.

BAROGRAM Record mad by Barograph.

BAROGRAPH Recording Barometer or

weather instrument that continuously measures and records atmospheric / barometric pressure. See Microbarograph.

BAROMETER Instrument for measuring and displaying atmospheric pressure in inches or millibars of mercury, usually on a dial with an indicating needle. Often suspended in Gimbals to reduce effect of ship's motion. From the Greek word for pressure, 'baros'. See Glass.

BAROMETER, ANEROID Has partly exhausted, thin metal cylinder somewhat compressed by atmospheric pressure.

BAROMETER, MERCURIAL Employs column of mercury support by atmosphere.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE Atmospheric pressure as indicated by Barometer.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE CORRECTION Correction due to nonstandard Barometric Pressure, particularly Sextant Altitude Correction due to changes in refraction caused by difference between actual Barometric Pressure and Standard Barometric Pressure used in computation of refraction table.

BAROMETRIC TENDENCY See Pressure Tendency.

BAROTHERMOGRAM Record made by Barothermograph.

BAROTHEMOGRAPH Instrument which automatically records pressure and temperature.

BAROTHERMOHYGROGRAM Record made by Barothermohygrograph.

BAROTHERMOHYGROGRAPH Instrument which automatically records pressure, temperature and humidity of atmosphere.

BARRATRY Illegal act or breach of trust by a ship's master. 'Mutiny' by the Captain. From the French 'barratarie' or fraud.

BARREL 1) Revolving cylinder or drum around which a chain or rope is wound in various machines and appliances. 2) Unit of volume or weight measure in the U.S. petroleum trade consisting of 42 U.S. gallons. Not to be confused with a standard steel drum which is usually

but not always 55 gallons.

BARREL BUOY Buoy having shape of barrel or cylinder floating horizontally, usually for special purposes, including Mooring.

BARREL HITCH Used to lift open drums, casks and barrels.

BARRIER BEACH Bar essentially parallel to Shore, the Crest of which is above High Water.

BARRIER REEF Coral Reef which roughly parallels shoreline or land but is some distance offshore, with deeper water or Channel adjacent to land. See Fringing Reef.

BARQUE Sailing Vessel with at least 3 masts. Both forward masts, Foremast and Main Mast, are Square Rigged and one aftermost Mizzen Mast rigged with Fore & Aft Sails in modern style. AKA Bark.

BARQUENTINE Sailing Vessel with 3 or more masts with only 1 Forward Mast Square Rigged. All Masts Aft are rigged Fore & Aft. AKA Barkentine.

BAR SCALE Line or series of lines on Chart, subdivided and labeled with distances represented on Chart. AKA Graphic Scale. See Scale.

BAR-SHOT Cannon shot consisting of two half cannonballs joined by an iron bar, used at sea to damage Masts and Rigging. AKA Bar.

BARYCENTER Center of mass in system of masses. Common point about which two or more Celestial Bodies revolve.

BASE CHART See Base Map.

BASE COURSE UP One of three basic orientations of display or relative or true motion on radarscope. Target pips are painted at measured distances and in their directions relative to preset base course of won ship maintained 'up' in relation to display. AKA Course Up. See Head Up and North Up.

BASELINE 1) Reference used to position limits of territorial sea and contiguous zone. 2) One side of connected survey triangles. 3) Great Circle line that connects radio or Loran master transmitting radio navigation station and secondary transmitting station.

BASELINE DELAY Time interval needed for signal

from master hyperbolic radionavigation system station to travel length of Baseline. Delay between transmission of master and secondary signals make it possible to distinguish between signals and permit measurement of time difference.

BASELINE EXTENSION Extension of Baseline in both directions connecting Loran master with one secondary station beyond either the master or secondary transmitting station.

BASE MAP Map or chart showing certain fundamental information used as base upon which additional data of specialized nature are compiled or overprinted. 2) Map containing all information from which maps showing specialized information can be prepared. AKA Base Chart.

BASE MAP SYMBOL Symbol used on Base Map or Chart as opposed to one used on an overprint. AKA Base Symbol.

BASE SYMBOL See Base Map Symbol.

BASIN 1) Depression of sea floor approximately equidimensional in plan view and of variable extent. 2) Area of water surrounded by Quay walls, usually created or enlarged by excavation and large enough to receive one or more shops for specific purpose. See Graving Dock, Half Tide Basin, Scouring Basin, Tidal Basin, Turning Basin.

BATEAU Flat bottomed, double ended, oar propelled craft with Bow and Stern which is both sharp and raked as well as much Sheer. From French word for boat.

BATHYAL Pertaining to ocean depths between 100 and 2,000 Fathoms and also to ocean bottom between those depths.

BATHYMETER Instrument for measuring depths of water.

BATHYMETIC Pertaining to Bathymetry.

BATHYMETRIC CHART Topographic Chart of water body's Seabed. Generally shows depths by contour lines and gradient tints.

BATHYSPHERE Spherical chamber in which persons are lowered for observation and study of ocean depths.

BATHYTHERMOGRAM Record made by Bathythermograph.

BATHYTHERMOGRAPH Instrument which automatically draws graph showing temperature as function of depth when lowered in sea.

BATTEN (S) 1) Long, thin, narrow, shaped, flexible boards, slats, strips or stout laths of wood or plastic used to support and improve or maintain shape or form of Fore and Aft Sails by stiffening Roach to keep it flat, thus improving power. Placed or inserted into pockets or slots sewn in the Leech of a sail. From French, 'baston', for strip or stick of wood. 2) Flat bars secured along hatch Coamings or Hatchways, used to hold or keep tarpaulins in place. 3) Also used in awnings. 4) Wooden bar from which hammocks are sometimes slung.

BATTEN DOWN (THE HATCHES) 1) Close up, secure or cover all openings, such as Hatches and fasten down all Loose Gear or objects within Hull and on Deck in heavy Weather. Cover wooden Hatches or hatchways with canvas or tarpaulin then Fasten or pin tarpaulin down tightly with Battens and wedges that fit against Coaming. 2) Prepare for a storm or the worst.

BATTLE LANTERN Ship's lantern made of thick horn to prevent fire and explosion, so called because one was placed at each gun to light up the Deck during a night engagement.

BATTURE Elevation of river bed under surface of water, sometimes used to signify same elevation when it has risen above surface.

BAULK Heavy piece or roughly squared beam of timber or deckbeam.

BAY 1) An indentation or recess, sometimes large, in a Coastline or Shore. Inlet of Sea or Lake between two Capes or Headlands. Varies greatly in size but is usually smaller than Gulf but larger than Cove. 2) Shipboard space or section. From the French, 'baer', to stand open.

BAYAMO Violent gust type wind usually associated with thunderstorms blowing from land on south coast of Cuba, especially near Bight of Bayamo.

BAYER'S NAME Greek or Roman letter used in a Bayer's Name.

BAYER'S LETTER Greek or Roman letter and

possessive form of Latin name of constellation, used as star name.

BAYMOUTH BAR Bar extending partially or entirely across mouth of Bay.

BAYOU Minor, sluggish waterway or Estuary's Creek, generally Tidal or with slow or imperceptible Current. Course is generally through lowlands or swamps, tributary or connecting with other bodies of water. AKA Slough.

BAY WINDOW Window projecting from house making room inside appear to mariners like a little harbor or Bay.

BEACH 1) Zone of unconsolidated material that extends landward from Low Water line to place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form or to line of permanent vegetation. Includes Foreshore and Backshore. See Seabeach, Strand and Tideland. 2) Any shore. 3) Intentionally run craft Ashore.

BEACH BERM See Berm.

BEACHCOMBER, BEACHCOMBING 1) Runaway sailor from whale or other ship who made meager existence by living on what he could find or beg. A scrounger. 2) Looking for anything of value.

BEACHED Stranded ship on the shore.

BEACH EROSION Carrying away of beach materials by wave action, Tidal or littoral currents, or wind.

BEACON Fixed, lighted or unlighted, artificial fixed Aid To Navigation shore side marker or post that is attached directly to earth's surface on land or in shallows and fixed to seabed such as shoal or bank, used to mark Channel or indicate danger or hazard. Lights and Daybeacons may both be called Beacons. See Buoy, Daybeacon, Daymark, Lighted Beacon, Mark and Radiobeacon.

BECONAGE System of fixed Aids To Navigation comprised of Beacons and minor lights. See Buoyage.

BECON BUOY See Pillar Buoy.

BECON TOWER Beacon which is a major structure, having a support as distinctive as Topmark. See

Lattice Beacon and Refuge Beacon.

BEAK See Beakhead.

BEAKER 1) Wooden water keg found in a ship's boat, from Spanish. 2) Another name for a mug or cup.

BEAKHEAD 1) Ram on the bow of a fighting galley. 2) Platform at the fore part of the upper Deck or part of the ship forward of the Stem or Forecastle. Fastened to the Stem and supported by the main Knee. Often used for archers and musketmen or the sailor's Head. 3) A smaller pointed platform with various uses.

BEAM (S) 1) Maximum or greatest width or breadth of Vessel at widest point, from: outside planking to outside of planking on wooden Vessels; and outside of Frame to outside of Frame on all other Vessels. From Beams which run from side to side. 2) Structural unit, particularly Deck Beam or heavy horizontal transverse timber, usually providing horizontal support for Deck or connecting one side with other. From Anglo Saxon, 'beam', tree. 3) Direction at right angles to center line of Vessel. 4) Directed flow of electro-magnetic radiation from antenna. See Beam Width and Lobe. 5) Group of nearly parallel rays such as light Beam.

BEAM COMPASS Instrument or Compass for drawing circles of large diameter, usually consisting of bar with sliding holders for points, pencils, or pens.

BEAM ENDS 1) Ship that is about to sink, i.e. listed, heeled or laid over on her side at an angle so far that her Deck supports or Beams (Ends) are almost vertical and in or touching the water and righting power is insufficient to return her to upright. 2) Ends of a ship's Beams. 3) Sailor stating that he is broke. 4) Impecunity or near ruin.

BEAM REACH Point of sailing with Apparent wind blowing at right angles, 90 degrees or perpendicular to boat's heading along Fore and Aft line.

BEAM SEA Waves moving in direction approximately 90° from Vessel's Heading. See Cross Sea, Following Sea, Head Sea and Quartering Sea.

BEAM TIDE Tidal Current setting in direction approximately 90o from Heading or Course of Vessel. AKA Cross Tide. See Fair Tide and Head Tide.

BEAM WIDTH Angular measure of transverse section of a Beam (usually Main Lobe).

Usually measured in one or more specified planes containing Axis of Beam. See Horizontal Beam Width and Vertical Beam Width.

BEAM WIDTH ERROR Azimuth or Bearing distortion on radar display caused by width of radar Beam. See Beam Width and Pulse Length Error.

BEAM WIND Wind that blows across boat from side to side or a wind hitting the side of a Vessel at a right angle to centerline, approximately 90o from Heading or Course. AKA Cross Wind. See Fair Wind, Favorable Wind, Following Wind, Head Wind, Tail Wind and Unfavorable Wind.

BEAMY 1) Wide or a ship broad in the Beam. 2) End result of insufficient exercise on a long voyage with good Chow.

BEAN COD Small Portuguese fishing Vessel with a shapely curved Bow.

BEAR 1) Direction of an object from a Vessel. 2) To sail or steam in an indicated direction. 3) Large, padded stone used for scrubbing the Decks. 4) Something you find in the woods.

BEAR AWAY Put Helm up and run off, Head off, or turn away from Wind to Leeward. To put before wind.

BEAR A HAND "Get moving" or "tend to business". An order from a superior officer. See Lend A Hand.

BEARDING ANGLE Angle of the line of the Stem or Stern structure to the Keel.. From English, 'berden', bevelling.

BEAR DOWN 1) Steer towards and object, frequently an enemy ship. 2) Approach from Windward. 3) Suggestion of a threat.

BEAR DOWN UPON, (TO) 1) Nautical practice or naval strategy to sail rapidly toward another ship from position upwind. 2) Head toward something. 3) Put pressure on someone or something.

BEARING (S) Horizontal visual, radio or radar Compass direction or angle measured in True, Magnetic, Steering Compass or Relative Degrees from one object or point to another, usually from an observer or Heading of boat. Horizontal direction of line of sight

between two objects on earth's surface or Chart, expressed as an angle based on some specified reference direction. See Azimuth, Curve of Equal Bearing and Reciprocal Bearing.

BEARING ANGLE Bearing measured from 0° at reference direction clockwise or counterclockwise through 90° or 180°. Labeled with reference direction as prefix and direction of measurement from reference direction as suffix. For example N37°W is 37° West of North or true Bearing 323°.

BEARING AWAY Ship that is changing course and steering further from the wind. AKA Bear Away, Bear Off or Fall Off. See Heading Up.

BEARING BAR Instrument for measuring Bearings, particularly device consisting of slender bar with vane at each end, and designed to fit over central pivot in glass cover of magnetic compass. See Azimuth Bar.

BEARING BOOK Log for recording of visual Bearings.

BEARING CALIBRATION Determination of Bearing corrections of a Radiodirection Finder by observations of Radiobeacon, particularly calibration radiobeacon, of known visual Bearing, observations being taken over 360° of swing of observing Vessel.

BEARING CIRCLE Ring designed to fit snugly over Compass or Compass Repeater and provided with vanes for observing Compass Bearings. See Azimuth Circle.

BEARING, COLLISION Constant Bearing maintained while distance between two craft is decreasing. See Constant Bearing Decreasing Range.

BEARING COMPASS Compass intended primarily for use in observing Bearings.

BEARING, CROSS Two or more Bearings used as intersecting Lines of Position for fixing position.

BEARING CURSOR Radial line on radar set inscribed on transparent disk which can be rotated manually about Axis coincident with center of PPI and used for bearing determination. AKA Mechanical Bearing Cursor.

BEARING LIGHT Navigation light using

two superimposed optical systems which provides an approximate bearing without use of Compass.

BEARING LINE Line extending in direction of Bearing.

BEAR (ING) OFF 1) Turn away from the Wind or turn Leeward. AKA Bear Away or Fall Off. 2) Avoid something.

BEARING, RADAR Bearing obtained by radar.

BEARING, RADIO Bearing of radio transmitter from receiver as determined by Radio Direction Finder.

BEARING REPEATER Compass Repeater used primarily for observing Bearings. See Repeater Compass.

BEARING RESOLUTION AKA Angular Resolution. See Resolution.

BEAR (ING) UP Bring ship's head closer into the wind. AKA Coming Up or Heading Up. See Falling Off.

BEARING, VISUAL Bearing obtained by visual observation.

BEAT See Beating.

BEATING 1) Sail to Windward or towards wind on successive Tacks with a course sailed as close to Wind as is efficiently possible. AKA Close Hauled. 2) Sailing against the Wind, on alternate Tacks. See Tack.

BEAT (ING) TO QUARTERS Ship's crew running to battle stations to the beat of a drum. See Quarters.

BEAT IT 1) Beat out Port with the first auspicious wind. 2) Go Away. See Sling Your Hook and Shove Off. 3) What you might do on a long, lonely ocean Voyage.

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE Wind velocity (force or pressure) standard scale developed by British Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort in 1805-8. Adopted by British Admiralty in 1838 and internationally in 1874. Originally indicated effect on full Rigged Frigate under Sail. Now extended to cover effects on shore, at sea and wind velocity. Measured from 0: flat calm to 12: hurricane with peak of 17. Each increase of force number indicates a doubling of wind pressure (net velocity).

BECHE-DE-MER Sea cucumber or trepang of Western Pacific. From pidgin English.

BECKET (T) 1) Simple contrivance, often a small loop or eye made or fitted in end of rope, wire or small stuff. As a short piece of rope, often with a knot or toggle on one end and eye at the other, but also with a large hook or wooden bracket, used temporarily to hold or secure running gear, loose ropes, Tackle, Oars, Spars or for holding or securing Tacks and sheets of sails. Also of many uses such as rope handle or may be tailed to Reeve through a Block. From Dutch, 'bogt', bend of rope. 2) Antagonist of Henry II.

BECKET BEND See Sheet Bend.

BECUE Fasten a line to the crown of an Anchor before lowering, to facilitate tripping it when ready to Weigh. From the French, 'coue', tail.

BED 1) Collective or plural name for clams or oysters. 2) Ground upon which body of water rests such as River Bed or Sea Bed or world hollowed area supporting body of water. See Bottom and Floor.

BEDDING COMPOUND Caulking material used for mating two surfaces, hopefully rendering them watertight.

BEDLAM Corruption of the name of St. Mary of Bethlehem Hospital, London lunatic asylum, where the Royal Navy discharged men for treatment.

BEES 1) Leads on the sides of the Bowsprit, for fore-mast Stays, on a square rigger. From English, 'beghe', metal ring. 2) Ship's Cargo that you don't want to escape.

BEETLE OR BEETLY Large mallet or mallet with a heavy head. Shipbuilder and shipboard carpenter's tool, usually of wood, used for caulking seams between planks, driving wedges or pegs, ramming down paving stones or for beating, flattening or smoothing.

BEFORE THE MAST 1) Descriptive phrase applied to common sailors or crew, whose living quarters on board were literally berthed in forecastle, forward of foremast, as distinguished from officers who were berthed aft. Term is also used more generally to describe seamen as compared with officers, in phrases such as "he sailed before the mast." 2) Hauled before Ship's Mast where Captain held court and to be tried for some offense.

BEFORE THE WIND 1) In direction of wind. 2) Said of a ship sailing with wind directly Astern or well aft. See Downwind.

BEING AT LOGGERHEADS See Loggerheads.

BEING OVER THE BAY Being slightly drunk. See Three Sheets To The Wind.

BELAY 1) Make fast, secure, tie or stop, usually Line or running rope, especially one of small lines used for working Sails, around Cleat or Kevel. 2) Take one or more "s" or figure eight turns with rope around Cleat, set of Bitts or any other fixed point without making Knot. 3) Stop, cancel an order, such as 'belay the last command'.

BELAYING PIN 1) Special shaped wooden and later metal bar or pin used to Belay running rigging and around which ropes of the running Rigging are coiled. Normally kept in holes on a Fiferail or pinrail around the Mast. See Pn Rails. 2) Wicked weapon in a fight.

BELL 1) Device for producing distinctive sound by vibration of hollow, cup-shaped metallic vessel which gives forth ringing sound when struck. 2) Once used to express time, being struck every half hour. 3) Used to sound warnings in case of danger or emergency or announce anchor position in restricted visibility.

BELL BOOK Log of ordered engine speeds and directions.

BELL-BOTTOM TROUSERS Sailor's trousers, are practical item for living Aboard ship. Wide, flared, legs at bottom are easy to roll up to knees when swabbing Deck or wading through slightly flooded spaces.

BELL BUOY Buoy with skeleton tower in which Bell is fixed.

BELL ROPE Lanyard on a ship's bell

BELLS, SHIP'S Used to mark the time, particularly of the watches with one to eight strokes for the four hour period. One bell every 30 minutes, up to 8 bells, and starting at midnight. By tradition, sixteen bells are struck at midnight on New Year's Eve. Equivalent to o'clock. See Watch.

BELOT Strong land wind from

PETER'S NAUTICAL TERMS DICTIONARY & GLOSSARY for BLUEWATER SAILING

North and Northwest which blows along southeast coast of Arabia during period from December to March.

BELOW 1) Beneath or under Deck or down from Aloft. 2) To pass below a mark is to pass on its lee side (to leeward - pronounced loo'wud) or downwind side.

BELOW BOARD 1) Pirates attempted to conceal strength of shp's complement by hiding crews below boards or Deck while pursuing merchant ships. 2) Foul play. Opposite of Above Board.

BELT 1) Band of pack ice from 1 km to more than 100 km in width. 2) What holds up your pants.

BENCH On sea floor, a small terrace.

BENCH MARK Fixed physical object used as reference for vertical Datum.

BENCH MARK, GEODETIC Identifies surveyed point in National Geodetic Vertical Network and is marked with a disk.

BENCH MARK, TIDAL Mark near Tide station to which Tide staff and Tidal Datums are referred.

BEND 1) One of several types of Knots, combination of turns and tucks or the final product of fastening one Line's end to another, Fastening Line to Spar, securing Rope to object or tying two lines together. 2) Act of Making Fast, Fastening or Securing one Line's end to another or Fastening a Line to Sail, Anchor or Sail to its proper Yard, Spar, Stay, etc. Also used for Rigging a Sail.

BEND ON SAILS Install Sails on the Boom and Headstay.

BENDER Drinking party.

BENDING SHOT First part of the Anchor cable, whether Line or Chain, which is Bent to the Anchor and is usually heavier than the rest of the cable. From English, 'shoot', splice.

BEND ON Prepare a Sail for Hoisting. To Rig

BEND ON A SPLICE 1) Sailor about to be unite with

their love with or without bonds of matrimony. See Splice.

BENDING SHACKLE Fitting used to secure the Anchor Chain to the anchor.

BENEAPED See Neaped.

BENGAL LIGHT Blue light used for signaling and illumination.

BENGUELA CURRENT Slow moving ocean Current flowing generally northwestward along west coast of Africa. Caused mainly by prevailing southeast Trade winds. Near Equarot, it flows westward and becomes Atlantic South Equatorial Current.

BEN'T Said of a story that is appropriate, happily invented, even if untrue.

BENTU DE SOLI East wind on Coast of Sardinia.

BERG 1) Abbreviation for Iceberg. 2) Hot and occasionally very dusty winds usually coming from Eastern portions of southwest Africa, from north on south coast of Africa and from Northwest in Natal.

BERGY BIT Large piece of floating glacier ice, generally showing less than 5 meters above sea level but more than 1 meter and normal about 100 to 300 square meters in area. It is smaller than Iceberg but larger than Growler.

BERING CURRENT Northward flowing current through eastern half of Bering Sea, through Bering Strait and in eastern Chukchi Sea.

BERM Nearly horizontal portion of Beach or Backshore having abrupt fall and formed by wave deposition of material and marking limit of ordinary High Tides. Narrow shoal or bank, or a raised embankment along a river or shoreline. From Norse, 'barmr', brim. AKA Beach Berm.

BERM CREST Seaward limit of Berm. AKA Berm Edge.

BERM EDGE See Berm Crest.

BERMUDA RIG Name for triangular sails and rig most commonly seen on sailing Yachts. AKA Bermudian or Marconi Rig.

BERMUDA SAIL Triangular Mainsail very generally carried by racing and cruising Yachts. See Marconi.

BERSERK State of violent or destructive rage or frenzy. From Beserker.

BESERKER Wild Norse warriors, who waged battle without the aid of armor or any protective body covering under a frenzied fury known as the 'berserkers rage.' This gave more freedom of action and allowed for more pride in bravery. See Keep Your Shirt On.

BERTH 1) Sea room, working or operating room for ship, sufficient space to maneuver or margin of safety or to allow ship to swing around at length of Moorings. See Give A Wide Berth To, Wide Berth. 2) Boat's position or place at Anchor or Mooring space at Pier, Float or Wharf in which a Vessel may be made Fast or Secured. 3) Secure Vessel at Berth 4) Duty assignment or Billet on board. 5) Room, cabin or bedspace where officers or ship's company Mess and reside. 6) Position, living / sleeping space or assigned bed or cot to sleep in. 7) A little addition to the crew.

BERTH DECK Deck that contains sailors' Hammocks.

B.E.S. Blinding Electronic Speed.

BEST BOWER Port or working Anchor of the two usually identical Anchors, carried at the Bows of a Vessel. See Small Bower.

BESET State of vessel surrounded by ice and unable to move. See Nipped.

BESSEL ELLIPSOID OF 1841 Reference ellipsoid for earth.

BESSELIAN YEAR See Fictitious Year.

BESSEL SPHEROID OF 1841 See Bessel Ellipsoid of 1841.

BEST FISH SWIM NEAR THE BOTTOM Anything worthwhile takes trouble to obtain.

BETWEEN DECKS See 'Tween Decks.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP In wooden ships, Devil was longest seam of Ship. It ran from Bow to Stern. When at sea and Devil had to be

caulked, sailor sat in Bo'sun's chair to do so. They were suspended between Devil and Sea, the "deep", very precarious position, especially when Ship was underway.

BETWEEN SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS 1) Greek mythology had sailors (in Strait of Messina?) pass between monster Scylla (possibly the rocks off Sicily) and dangerous whirlpool Charybdis. Scylla with 12 feet, 6 necks / heads each with 3 rows of teeth devoured sailors from each passing ship while Charybdis sucked in and regorged the sea three times / day. Odysseus passed through and survived. 2) Fate of anyone steering a mid-course between equally dangerous perils. Between rock and hard place. See Between The Devil and The Deep Blue Sea.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

1) Hanging or sitting in bos'n's chair over side of Ship and risking falling overboard while attempting to caulk, paint or Pay with pitch or tar near Waterline, most difficult, long seam or Devil between planks of wooden ship. 2) Caught between two equally unpleasant alternatives or an uncomfortable situation ahead. See Devil To Pay, The. 3) Another description of Homeric passage about Scylla and Charybdis.

BETWEEN (BETWIXT) WIND AND WATER

1) Area most vulnerable during battle or signifying a hazardous wound in ship. Area close above and below waterline on ship. To be hit there would suffer serious damage and was always the prime target of opponent's guns. 2) In a vulnerable spot.

BEVEL Angle between two structural members. See Butt and Seam.

BEVY Collective or plural name for swans. AKA Wedge.

BHOOT Term describing relatively small scale counterclockwise whirling of air filled with loose dust in Inida.

BIAS ERROR See constant Error

BIB (S), BIBB (S) Heavy brackets on a Mast, to support the Trestle Trees, resembling a child's bib with the Mast as the 'neck'.

BIBLE 1) Squared piece of stone used to grind the Deck with sand in order to clean it. Small Holystone. 2) Book of some note and fame.

- BIFURCATION** Division into two branches.
- BIFURCATION (BUOY)** 1) Split, division, fork or junction in a Channel or waterway. 2) Unofficial name for a Preferred Channel Buoy which indicates place at which channel divides into tow. See Junction Mark. 3) A Buoy that you can't tell if its coming or going.
- BIG DITCH** American slang for Mississippi River.
- BIG DRINK, THE** American slang for Atlantic Pacific or any big body of water, including Mississippi River.
- BIG FLOE** See Floe.
- BIGHT** 1) Any part of Rope or Line between ends (Bitter End and Standing Part). Center or middle part of Slack rope. 2) Bend or loop in Rope. Double part when it is folded or bent back upon itself to form U-shape, often a basic element in Knots and Hitches. 3) Indentation, long and gradual bend, recess or curved part in Coastline or Shoreline forming large, open, shallow or receding Bay. 4) Bend in river or mountain range. 5) What you need to do to adequately swallow Hardtack.
- BIG POND** Canadian slang for Atlantic Ocean.
- BIG WATER** American slang for Erie Canal, Mississippi River or less frequently Atlantic Ocean.
- BIG WAVE** Any wave bigger than your boat or taller than your ship is long.
- BIG WIG** 1) Slang title applied to people in high positions. From senior British Navy officers who wore big wigs as emblem of their rank. Although wigs were formidable size, heads covered often had little or nothing in them. 2) Person of importance.
- BILANDER** Two Masted merchant Vessel distinguished by a trapezoidal Mainsail.
- BILGE** 1) Underwater transverse ("Thwartship) curve, or outer shape of Hull. Bottom of Ship's Hull, part on either side of Keel more horizontal than perpendicular. Portion of ship's Hull below load Waterline, from second Futtock to Keel. From French, 'bouge', bulge. 2) Very lowest or deepest part or point of Vessel's interior Hull, usually below lowest Deck plates, Floors or floorboards. It is where Bilge water from rain or seas breaking aboard is most likely to collect in each compartment on lowest Deck. See Turn of the Bilge. 3) Rubbish talk, nonsense or filth likened to the residue, dirty water and cargo sweat which collected in that bottom bulge compartment where the ship's sides curve around. 4) To undercut someone. (such as answering Captain's question that could not be answered by Shipmate).
- BILGE KEEL (S)** Reduce rolling of the Vessel in a seaway, are more effective as rolling increases and are joined to the shell plate with a weak joint. AKA Rolling Chocks.
- BILGE PUMPS** Mechanical pump designed to pump water out of Bilge.
- BILGE WATER** 1) Foul water that collects in the Bilge through leakage or otherwise and becomes noxious. 2) Nonsense, garbage or poppycock.
- BILGE WELL** Lowest part of a compartment into which bilge water naturally drains or collects so it can be pumped out.
- BILL** 1) General term for a document or notice such as a waybill, bill of lading or watch bill. 2) One name for the tip of an Anchor fluke. From English, 'bile', bird's beak. 3) Narrow promontory. 4) What you may try to avoid at the bar.
- BILLBOARD** Angled, reinforced plate or projections of oak plank secured to Bow at rail Forward behind Catheads. Used for housing Anchor or for Fluke of Anchor to rest on. See Catted, Fish and Fish Tackle.
- BILLET** Berth, post, appointment or duty assignment.
- BILLET HEAD** 1) Relatively simple scrollwork ornament at a Ship's Bow. 2) Specially constructed stempiece or round piece of wood fitted to the Bow or Stern of a whaleboat around which the line is secured when the whale is harpooned.
- BILLINGSGATE** Coarse and abusive language similar to that used by fishwives in London's Billingsgate fish market.
- BILLY** Variety of light machines, tools, and other gear. See Handy Billy.

BI-MARGIN FORMAT Format of Map or Chart on which Cartographic detail is extended to two edges of Sheet, thus leaving only two margins. See Bleed.

BINARY STAR System of two stars that revolve about common center of mass. See Double Star.

BINGE 1) To rinse. 2) What you might do on shore leave.

BINNACLE 1) Stand which was used for lamp or lantern. 2) Stand, pedestal, box, case or housing, located near Helm on Bridge in which Ship's Steering compass is fixed or which Compass box or case is contained, mounted, housed or secured and usually illuminated at night. Also contained log-glasses, watch-glasses and lights to show compass at night. Two Binnacles on ship's Deck, one designed for person who steered, other for individual who superintended steerage, whose office was called conning. From Latin, 'habitaculum', place of habitation. Not to be confused with Barnacle.

BINNACLE LIST Ship's sick list containing names of men unable to report for duty and kept or placed at binnacle to inform Captain, officer or mate of watch about crew's health and names of men unable to report for duty.

BINOCULAR 1) Double telescopic instrument for use by both eyes at once, having two optical tubes, each furnished with magnifying lenses. It uses prisms as well as lenses to keep the size down. From Latin, 'bini, two together and 'oculus', eye. 2) Referring to vision with two eyes.

BIOLUMINESCENCE Production of light by living organisms in Sea. Generally stimulated by surface wave action, ship movement, subsurface waves, upwelling, eddies, physical changes in sea water, surfs and rip tides.

BIRD Feathered object of the air.

BISCUITS Biscuits at sea were cooked a second time to keep them from quickly spoiling. From Latin 'bis', twice and 'coctus', cooked; literally 'cooked twice'.

BISE Strong outbreak of cold dry air from north which blows over mountainous regions of southern France and Switzerland

BISECT 1) To divide into two equal parts. 2) Someone who goes both ways in their boat.

BITE Anchor is said to do this when its Flukes hold ground.

BITT (S) Strong vertical, structural timber, wood, iron or metal post used to belay, make fast or fasten heavy lines, mooring lines, Anchor Rode, ropes or cables. Often located near Mast for securing items of Running Rigging, or on Dock or Deck in Bow near Bowsprit or Stern to which Anchor, Mooring and Towing Lines may be Fastened. Usually installed in pairs (Bitts). From Latin, 'bitus', whipping post.

BITTER END 1) Inboard, cut end, last end, last unused piece of rope after Knot or nearest end of Line, especially Mooring Line or ship's Anchor rode, cable, rope or chain. Sometimes Secured to or turn of line around strong set of Bitts or large pillars of oak or iron posts bolted and fixed upright to Boat or Deck. 2) Inboard end of Anchor Rode. When Anchor Line has been let out to Bitter End, then nothing more can be done. If it is not attached to boat when running out Anchor, it can be bitter experience. 3) Extreme end or last part of any Line, Rope or Chain. It was thought to be good luck attached to Bitter End, as well as greater strength. 4) Last and direst extremity or unpleasant final result utter defeat or death. 5) Conclusion or nothing's left. 6) Carry long, difficult struggle to its inevitable conclusion. AKA To the Bitter End. See At The End Of Your Rope, Faithful To The Bitter End, Stick To The Bitter End.

BITTER END, FAITHFUL TO THE Anyone who insists in adhering to course of action without regard to consequences.

BITTER END, STICK IT TO THE Anyone who insists in adhering to course of action without regard to consequences.

BITTER END, TO THE 'To last inch of rope'.

BITT, TO Secure Rope or Chain to Bitt.

BLACKBALLING Stealing or pilfering at sea. From infamous Black Ball Steamer line between Liverpool and New York whose pilfering of its sailors was widely known.

BLACKBIRDER Ship engaged in African or Polynesian slave trade. Used to describe kidnaping or slaving.

BLACK BOOK British Admiralty Black Book or 'Rules for the Office of Lord High Admiral;

Ordinances for the Admiralty in Time of War; the Laws of Oleron for the Office of Constable and Marshall; and other Rules and Precedents'. AKA Black Book of the Admiralty. Concerned with ship conduct, punishment and discipline. Sleeping on watch = hung over side and given a knife (starve or cut self into sea). Murder = tied to corpse and flung overboard. Robbery = tarred and feathered and put ashore at the first point of land. 2) Record of those in disgrace.

BLACK DOWN, TO 1) Tarring Standing Rigging in the days of rope. 2) Blackening the Topsides of warships as a disguise.

BLACK GANG Engineer's section of a crew. Originally referring to the boiler room crew in coal burning steamships.

BLACKJACK Tankard, often of tar-coated leather, for drinking beer or ale.

BLACK LIGHT 1) Ultraviolet or infrared radiant energy. It is neither black nor visible light. 2) An incorrect exam answer to the question regarding what type of light could be found on the now extinct black buoy (replaced by green). Particularly useful when passing hard by with your boat's collection of velvet Elvis coverings or pictures of dogs playing poker.

BLACK LIST List of delinquents to whom extra duty is assigned as a punishment.

BLACK MARIA 1) National heroine who delivered swivel guns to outfit Cutters built to protect American merchant ships. Feared by criminals because of her awesome strength. She also demolished band of smugglers, opened clean and well mannered Boston boardinghouse for sailors, escorted troublesome prisoners to jail and once rescued a policeman from attack. 2) British police horse vans or paddy wagons were nicknamed Black Marias in her honor.

BLACK SEA Named by Turks because of its dangers and large stretches of open water.

BLACKSHOE Any Naval personnel not connected with Naval aviation.

BLACK SHOE NAVY Derogatory term for seafaring navy coined by members of its air arm.

BLACK STRAKE Bank of planks painted with Tar and lamp black, immediately above the wales, which were

extra layers of planks bolted in certain places to the ship's side as protection against chafing and impact.

BLACKWALL HITCH Knot provides a secure means of attaching a Line to a hook as long as that line remains taut.

BLANKET 1) To come between the Wind and a Sail so the Sail is not full, thus to take wind from a Sail. 2) Blank out or obscure weak radio signals by stronger signal. 3) Something to cover you while you're having fun.

BLANK TUBE Marine Sextant accessory consisting of tubular sighting vane, function of which is to keep line of vision parallel to frame of instrument when observing horizontal Sextant angles.

BLATHER 1) Very wet mud of such nature that weight will rapidly sink into it. 2) Nonsense talk.

BLAZER 1) Snappy blue jackets or blue and whit striped jerseys worn as a uniform on ceremonial occasions by boat crew of HMS Blazer and paid for, by tradition by Captain. From Old English, 'blaese', bright torch or firebrand. 2) Jackets with brightest possible blazing scarlet first worn by Cambridge Boat Club. 3) Informal blue sports jacket with gold buttons.

BLEED 1) Edge of map or Chart on which Cartographic detail is extended to edge of sheet. AKA Bleeding Edge. 2) What you don't want to do while sailing.

BLIGH, CAPTAIN 1) Survived three mutinies; 1789: HMS bounty, 1797: mutiny at Nore, 1808: Governor of New South Wales, Australia. 2) Cruel, coldhearted taskmaster.

BLIGHIA SAPIDA Akee tree's botanical name after man who introduced it along with breadfruit.

BLIMEY British exclamation of surprise or wonder. A contraction of '(God) blind me!.

BLIND EYE, A OR TURN A During the Battle of Copenhagen, British Admiral Nelson, as second in command, ignored an order to withdraw by placing his telescope to his blind eye. He then proceeded to win the battle.

BLIND LEAD Lead with only one outlet.

BLIND PILOTAGE Task of conducting passage of Ship in Pilot waters using means available to Navigator in low visibility.

BLIND ROLLERS Long, high swells which have increased in height, almost to breaking point, as they pass over Shoals or run in Shoaling water. AKA Blind Seas.

BLIND SEAS See Blind Rollers.

BLIND SECTOR Sector on radarscope in which radar echoes cannot be received because of obstruction near Antenna. See Shadow Sector.

BLINK Glare on underside of extensive cloud areas, created by light reflected from snow or ice covered surfaces. See Snow Blink.

BLINKER Young Mackerel. AKA Spike or Tinker.

BLINKING Means of providing information in pulse type Radionavigation systems by modifying signal at source so that signal presentation alternately appears and disappears or shifts along time base. In Loran, it is used to indicate that station is malfunctioning.

BLIP Deflection or spot of contrasting luminescence caused by echo on radarscope.. AKA Echo, Pip and Return.

BLIP SCAN RATIO Ratio of number of paints from target to maximum possible number of paints for given number of revolutions of radar antenna.

BLISTER 1) Deformity in Hull fiberglass.
2) See Border Break.

BLIZZARD Severe weather condition characterized by low temperatures and strong winds bearing great amount of snow with wind 32 mph or higher, low temperatures and visibility less than 500 feet.

BLOCK 1) Seaman's term for pulley used to increase mechanical power of ropes running through it, especially in Rigging of ships and heavy lifting. Complete nautical pulley assembly made up of Sheave or pulley that rotates on Sheave Pin, center pin or on ball bearings and hung from metal, wooden or plastic sides or case called Cheeks and Shells (plates) on which Ropes are run. It also has hook, eye or stray by which it may be attached. See Shell, Strop, Fiddle Block, Snatch Block.
2) See Chartlet.

BLOCK & TACKLE Any of several arrangements of Blocks (pulleys) and Line used to gain a mechanical advantage and multiply force.

BLOCK COEFFICIENT Ratio of immersed volume of hull to products of length, beam and draft of the circumscribing block.

BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER Comment made by U.S. Naval Officer who violated U.S. neutrality by rescuing British soldiers after their losing battle with Chinese.

BLOOD MONEY Amounts paid based on the numbers of enemy crew slaughtered in battle and not based on the size or importance of the enemy ship. Officially termed Bounty Money, monies paid for sinking an enemy Vessel.

BLOCKY ICEBERG Iceberg with Steep sides and flat top. Length to height ratio is less than 5:1. See Tabular Iceberg.

BLONDEL-REY EFFECT Effect that flashing of light has on reducing its apparent intensity as compared to intensity of same light when operated continuously or fixed.

BLOOMING Expansion of spot produced by Beam of electrons striking face of cathode ray indicator, caused by maladjustment.

BLOWER Afterburner on engine of high performance Navy aircraft.

BLOWING SNOW Snow raised from ground and carried by wind to such height that both vertical and horizontal visibility are considerably reduced. See Drifting Snow.

BLOW THE MAN DOWN Title of sea Chantey meaning to strike a blow that would put person down on Deck. It has nothing to do with the wind.

BLUE ICE 1) Oldest and hardest form of glacier ice, distinguished by slightly bluish or greenish color. 2) What you want to avoid while sailing under aircraft flight patterns.

BLUEJACKET Nickname for naval enlisted men. From custom of Royal Navy sailors wearing first uniform ever officially sanctioned, which included a short blue jacket open in front.

BLUE LIGHTS Pro British American traitors in War of 1812 who flashed them to British ships as a signal that American ships would soon be sailing from their port.

BLUE MAGNETISM Magnetism displayed by south seeking end of freely suspended magnets. Magnetism of earth's north magnetic pole.

BLUE MONDAY 1) Punishment or flogging day was Monday. 2) Dreary Day.

BLUE NOSE 1) Sailor who has crossed the Arctic or Antarctic Circle by sea. 2) People and Vessels from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland or Canada.

BLUE NOSE CERTIFICATE Scroll or illuminated diploma awarded to and received by Sailors who have crossed the Arctic or Antarctic Circle by ship and completed the traditional ceremony.

BLUE OINTMENT Shipboard ointment for syphilitic chancre and rash made with metallic Mercury, hog's lard, and mutton suet.

BLUE PETER 1) Nickname for international signal Code "P" flag (blue flag with a white square in the middle, flown from mast to indicate ship is ready to sail or will sail that day. It notifies everyone in port or shoresiders to conclude any business with vessel, that all money claims must be settled and also used to recall crew. From French 'partir' meaning to depart. 2) What male sailors will have if you use Blue Ointment.

BLUE RIBBON Reward for the ship that held the transatlantic crossing record. AKA Blue Riband.

BLUFF 1) Ship having little inclination in Bows. Vessel with broad, flattened Bows rising almost straight from water. 2) Headland or stretch of Cliff having broad, nearly perpendicular face.

BLUNDER See Mistake.

BOARD 1) Tack, 'leg', distance or part of a course sailing to windward between Tacks. From Anglo Saxon, 'bord', for side. 2) Abbreviation for Centerboard. 3) To go on or aboard Boat. 4) Attacking Ship by Boarding. 5) What you will never be at sea.

BOARDING LADDER Temporary set of steps lowered over a Vessel's side.

BOARD OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES Agency of U.S. Government that provides for uniformity in geographic nomenclature.

BOAT (S) 1) General or indefinite term for any small craft or Vessel, propelled by Oars, Sail or power. Waterborne vehicle smaller than Ship. 2) Small craft carried aboard Ship. Term is often modified to indicate means of propulsion such as motorboat, steamboat, sailboat or rowboat or intended used; lifeboat, fishing boat, etc. From Anglo-Saxon "bat" that stood for small ship or Vessel. 3) Vessel or small craft that can be carried aboard Ship. 4) A Submarine. 5) Slang for a Boatswain.

BOAT CALLED "SHE" [Non politically correct version]. Boat is called "she" because there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about; she has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint and powder to keep her looking good. It is not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep. She can be decked out; it takes an experienced man to handle her correctly, and without a man at the helm she is uncontrollable. She often shows her bottom and when coming into harbor always heads for the buoys.

BOAT COMPASS Small Compass mounted in box for small craft use.

BOAT FALLS Tackles on boat Davits. May be two fold, double luff or three fold. See Fall.

BOAT HARBOR Sheltered area in Harbor set aside for use of Boats, usually with docks, Moorings, etc.

BOAT HOOK Pole, short shaft or device with one or two fittings or hooks on end(s) shaped to facilitate used to retrieve, pull in, push off, fend off or pick up objects, Buoys, other Boats, Mooring or catching hold of ring bolt or Line when coming alongside a Pier, Wharf or another Vessel or putting line over piling, recovering object dropped overboard. See Gaff Hook.

BOAT SHEET Work sheet used in field for plotting details of Hydrographic Survey as it progresses.

BOAT SPEED Speed through the water.

BOATSWAIN Large Ship carried three smaller boats, boat, Cock-boat, and Skiff. Boat or Gig was usually used by Captain to go ashore and was larger.

Suffix "swain" means keeper or 'swein', boy or servant, thus keepers of a Boat were called this. See Bosun, Coxswain. AKA bos'n.

BOATSWAIN'S PIPE One of oldest and most distinctive pieces of nautical equipment, pipe or flute was used in Greece and Rome to keep stroke of galley slaves. It was used in Crusades to call English cross bowmen on deck for attack. In time, it came to be used as badge of office by commanders. Whistle was used for salutes to distinguished persons as well as to pass orders. Parts of pipe are the buoy, gun, keel and shackle.

BOBBING A LIGHT Quickly lowering height of eye and raising it again when navigational light is first sighted to determine if observer is at Geographic Range of light. AKA Dipping A Light.

BOBSTAY Heavy Stay rigged from end of Bowsprit tip to Stem or Cutwater, counteracting upward pressure of Topmast Forestay. It supports Bowsprit Vertically. From Celtic, 'bob', meaning short. See Dolphin Striker.

BOHICA Nautical term for 'bend over, here it comes again'.

BOHOROK Dry and warm downslope type of wind which blows frequently during period from May to September in Sumatra from leeward side of Barison Mountains in southwest to northeast coast of Sumatra. Wind comes from Indian Ocean but loses much of its moisture on windward side of backbone mountains in Sumatra.

BOILING POINT Temperature under standard conditions of atmospheric pressure at which water boils: 212 degrees Fahrenheit or 100 degrees Celsius.

BOLD Rising steeply from Sea, such as Bold Coast. See Abrupt.

BOLERO Staysail hoisted behind spinnaker when Running.

BOLIDE Meteor having magnitude brighter than 4 Magnitude. They are observed with much less frequency than shooting stars. Light bursts, spark showers, or splitting of luminous trail are sometimes seen along trails which may persist for minutes or up to an hour. AKA Fireball. See Meteor.

BOLLARD Single or double, strong vertical

Fitting or post, usually metal, concrete, wood or iron, firmly secured on Wharf, Quay, etc., to which Hawser or Mooring Lines are Secured, received or Fastened. It often has mushroom shaped head. Sometimes found on Deck aboard Ship but usually shore side, Pier or Wharf. From Norse, 'bols', tree trunk since it resembles a tree stump.

BOLLOCKS Blocks on the Topmast of a Square Rigger, through which the Topsail Tyes were Rove. AKA Bullock Blocks.

BOLSTER 1) Shaped and smooth piece of softwood on the Trestletrees of a Vessel's Mast, to impede chafe. 2) Rounded lip on a Hawsehold or Fairlead also used to impede chafe.

BOLT Name given to length of cloth, canvas or manmade fiber from which Sail is made.

BOLTER Missing Arresting Gear or wires on aircraft carrier landing (if landing gear contacts deck). See Low Pass.

BOLT ROPE 1) Cordage Rope border sewn or secured to edge of virtually every main Sail and awning, often covered with fabric. Used to give it strength, prevent the fabric from ripping and to facilitate adjusting Foot and Luff tension.. Usually a Line sewn into the Luff or Foot of a Sail which allows the Sail to be secured into a groove along a Spar. See Foot Rope, Head Rope and Leech Rope. 2) Refers to a superior quality of manila or hemp rope with long fibers.

BOMB Warship with no Fore Mast, used to carry very heavy pieces of ordnance mortars for destroying coastal defenses.

BOMBING RANGE Area of land or water, and air space above, designated for use as bombing practice area.

BONAVENTURE 1) Fourth small mast at Stern of ship. AKA Counter-Mizzen. 2) Lateen Sail on its own Bonaventure Mizzen mast, way Aft on Galleons, usually adorned with pennants and flags.

BONANZA 1) Spanish word, 'bonansa', meaning 'fari weather at sea'. 2) Learned by miners from sailors and used to describe rich body of gold or silver ore in a mine or any rich strike. 3) Prosperity.

BONNET Extra piece or additional strip of Sail or sailcloth attached or fastened to Foot or bottom of

square Sail, bottom of larger sails for strength or to Leach of Fore and Aft Sail. It is also used for added Sail area in mild weather.

BOOBY Dimwitted nautical bird. From Spanish, 'bobo', slow witted and foolish.

BOOBY HATCH 1) Hatchway, hooded compartment or covered Hatch with wooden hood leading either to Bow or Forepeak or to storage space under Poop Deck. 2) Confinement area for sailors being punished, possibly with screaming due to imprisonment in cramped, stifling area where they might also capture birds by hand. 3) Mental institution or hospital for insane.

BOOM 1) Metal or wooden lower Spar of Fore and Aft Sail that extends and supports Foot of Sail, usually Mainsail and to which Foot of Sail is attached with lacing, slides or a groove. See Gooseneck. 2) Spar on which Studding Sail was set on Square Rigger. 3) Type of shipboard crane for handling cargo and supplies. 4) Floating barrier used for security, shelter, or environmental clean-up. From Norse, 'bathum', meaning Beam. 4) Noise sometimes made against head as result of a surprise jibe.

BOOMKIN See Bumkin.

BOOM VANG Control system of Fittings such as a Tackle, Line or hydraulic system running from Boom to base of Mast. It restrains Boom from lifting or holds Boom down under some sailing conditions and controls mainsail twist when reaching and Running. It also steadies Boom when off Wind. AKA Kicking Strap.

BOOT Nickname for Navy or coast Guard recruit. Used as term of disdain for new recruits who began wearing seaboots when scrubbing the Decks rather than in the traditional barefoot manner. Alternately from sailors who wore leggings called 'boots.

BOOT CAMP During Spanish-American War, sailors wore leggings called boots, which came to mean Navy or Marine recruit. These recruits trained in "boot" camps. Boot(s) were trained in these camps.

BOOTLEG 1) Practice of sailors who smuggled goods ashore in upper part of their seaboots. 2) Sell or traffic in goods illicitly.

BOOTLEGGER Smuggler. From sailors smuggling goods ashore tax free, hidden in their seaboots

which were high cut to keep out water when stepping ashore.

BOOT TOP (PING) 1) Painted band, line or decorative stripe of paint on ship's Topsides, at Waterline or just above to slightly below Waterline or between anti-fouling bottom paint and painted sides of Vessel. Usually used to indicated designed waterline. 2) Paint used to coat the entire bottom of a boat. 3) Paint used to create Boot Top. 4) Process of creating the Boot Top.

BOOZE 1) Drink heartily or the drink itself. From 'bowse' or 'bouse the can'. 2) Haul a rope taut with block and tackle.

BORA 1) Cold, northerly wind blowing from Hungarian basin into Adriatic Sea, affecting entire Dalmation coast from Trieste to Albania. See Fall Wind. 2) Half of a Tahitian Island. 3) Sailor with too many stories.

BORASCO Thunderstorm or violent squall, especially in Mediterranean.

BORDER BREAK Cartographic technique used when it is required to extend Cartographic detail of map or Chart beyond neatline into margin which eliminates necessity of producing additional sheet. AKA Blister.

BORDERLAND Region bordering Continent, normally occupied by or bordering Shelf that is highly irregular with depths well in excess of those typical of Shelf.

BORE Churning, foaming wall of water found in some rivers and estuaries at certain times of year. Caused by crest of High Tide meeting and overrunning the trough of Low Tide in area restricted in width or Depth. Sudden strong Tide wave or surge. See Tidal Bore.

BOREAS Greek God of the North winds. AKA Aquilo in Latin. Offspring of Aeolus, King of Aeolian Islands and Eos or Auroa, Dawn.

BOREX Any boring exercise.

BORING 1) Forcing Vessel under power through ice or by braking a Lead. 2) What you don't want to be.

BORMAN One of many valley winds in Swiss Alps, blowing over central part of Lake Geneva from the Drance valley.

BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HIS MOUTH

Sons of privilege entered Navy and were promoted without taking examinations. Considered to have entered through Stern cabin windows where silver plate was used for meal service. Lower class sailors were referred to as entering Navy through Hawsehole and sailor was 'born with a wooden ladle in his mouth'.

BORROW Approach closer to Shore or wind.

BOSUM BREAD Large, flat loaves of bread that stevedores working Mississippi steamboats carried for snacks in shirt fronts against their chests of Bosums.

BOSUN 1) Leading petty officer or senior seaman in charge of Deck crew, Hull, Rigging, Sail maintenance, Ship's Boat as well as Deck operations or working parties. From English, boat and 'swain' or 'swan' meaning attendant or assistant. Contraction of Boatswain. AKA bos'n, bo's'n, bo'sun.. 2) Only person allowed to salute with their left hand because the Bosun Pipe may only be played with the right hand.

BOSUN'S CHAIR Seat, sometimes rigid plank, short board slung by four legged bridles and sometimes made of Canvas. Used as seat while working aloft, over ship's side or for lowering someone into a hold or tank. Used to Hoist a person Aloft to repair Rigging and on which pockets for tools are often included.

BOSUN'S LOCKER 1) Shipboard storage area for Deck supplies, paint, Rigging Fittings and tools. 2) Place used by the Bosun to 'counsel' non performing members of the Deck Department.

BOSUN'S PIPE OR WHISTLE Whistle of peculiar shape and shrill tone, used to signal or give various commands or orders from officers to crew and recognized by individual pattern of notes piped. AKA Boatswain's Call.

BOTANY BAY 1) Named by Captain cook after many, new botanical specimens. 2) Incorrectly applied name to convict settlement at Sydney or to whole of Australia.

BOTTLE UP Instead of drinking their tot of rum ration at time of issue as required, some sailors would spit their tot into a bottle and when it was full, then drink it in one wild session.

BOTTOM 1) Ocean floor, submerged land or any ground under body of water. See Bed and Floor.

2) Boat's Hull under water or underbody. 3) Something to look at.

BOTTOM CHARACTERISTICS 1) Designations used on surveys and nautical Charts to indicate consistency, color and classification of sea Bottom. AKA Character Of The Bottom and Nature Of The Bottom. 2) With regard to human beings, the definition speaks for itself.

BOTTOM CONTOUR CHART Chart designed for surface and sub-surface Bathymetric Navigation Seaward of 10 Fathom Contour. Bottom configuration is portrayed by depth contours and selected Soundings.

BOTTOM PAINT 1) Paint on lower portion of hull, often containing anti-fouling compounds to reduce the growth of marine organisms. 2) What you get when cockpit seats are freshly painted.

BOTTOM SAMPLE 1) Portion of material forming Bottom, brought up for inspection. 2) What you should not do without permission.

BOTTOM SAMPLER Device for obtaining portion of Bottom for inspection.

BOUGUER'S HALO Infrequently observed, faint, white, circular arc or complete ring of light which has radius about 39o and centered on Antisolar Point. When observed, usually in form of separate outer ring around Anticorona. AKA Ulloa's Ring. See Fogbow.

BOULDER Detached water rounded stone more than 256 millimeters or one inche in diameter. See Cobble.

BOUND What a Vessel is doing with regard to her destination of a Vessel. From Norse, 'bounded', destined.

BOUNDARY DISCLAIMER Statement on map or Chart that status and/or alignment of international or admisistrative boundaries is not necessarily recognized by government of publishing nation.

BOUNDARY LINES OF INLAND WATERS

Lines dividing high seas from Rivers, Harbors, and Inland Waters. Waters Inshore of lines are "Inland Waters" and Inland Rules of Road or Pilot Rules apply. Waters outside of lines are High Seas and International Rules apply.

BOUNDARY MONUMENT Material object placed on or near Boundary Line to preserve and identify location of Boundary Line on ground.

BOW Most forward part or front end of any Vessel, Ship, Boat, Float or craft. From Icelandic, 'bogr', meaning shoulder. The pointy end is the Bow and the round end is the Stern, except on Submarines where it is the other way 'round.

BOW AND BEAM BEARINGS Set of successive relative Bearings (left or right) of 45° and 90° taken on fixed object Ashore or an Aid to Navigation whose position is known, used to determine distance off and obtain Running Fix.

BOWDITCH Nickname or popular name of the standard maritime reference book on Navigation, "Pub. No. 9, The American Practical Navigator", containing useful tables and instructional text. Named after American Nathaniel Bowditch, who wrote the first edition in 1802.

BOWER, BOWER ANCHOR Principal Anchor routinely carried on each Bow used when Anchoring. Port Bower or Starboard Bower are main anchors ship rides on. From fact that such Anchors were carried at Bows.

BOWLINE (1 Word) (Knot) 1) One of sailor's most useful Knots, used to make temporary loop or Eye in Line. 'King of Knots' is simple, strong, virtually slip proof and very easily untied 2) Line, Rope or Tackle used for Trimming Foresail of a Square Rigger. It was, attached near middle of Leech or perpendicular edge of square sails by three or four Bridles. Used only when wind was so unfavorable that sails had to be braced sideways or close hauled to wind. It kept Weather or Windward edges of principal sails tight forward and steady so Ship could point as closed to wind as possible. From Icelandic, 'bogr', bow and French, 'boeline', sounding line.

BOW LINE (2 Words) Docking Line running or leading from Bow of Vessel onto Pier or Dock, generally leading Forward.

BOWLING ON A BIGHT Knot made from a bight or loop taken in the middle of a line rather than at its end.

BOWS Sides at the Bow.

BOWSE 1) Haul , Heave or pull downwards. 2) Tipple.

BOW SHEETS Slightly raised seat in the Bow of a lifeboat.

BOW SPRING LINE Bow pivot line used in docking and undocking, or to prevent boat from moving forward or astern while made fast to a Pier.

BOWSPRIT Large Spar, usually fixed, extending, protruding or projecting Forward from Bow or Stem of Vessel at Steave Angle, to which Forestays and / or Headstay, then Headsails are Fastened and Foremast Stayed. It braces Foremast and carries spritsail, extends the head sails, thereby counteracting effect of after sails and keeping sail plan balanced. It is also one of the main supporters of Foremast, which is fastened to it by stays. Integral part of Hull to which Figurehead was fastened. Also useful for Anchor handling. It may be prolonged by Jib Boom and Flying Jib Boom. From Dutch, 'boespruit'. AKA Widow Makers.

BOWSPRIT SHROUDS Support Bowsprit laterally. See Bobstay and Dolphin Striker.

BOW WAVE 1) Wave set up by Bow of Vessel moving through water. AKA Wave Of Displacement. 2) Shock wave in front of body such as airfoil.

BOX (ING) OR BOX THE COMPASS 1) State in order or name thirty two points of Compass from north through east on around and back to north.. Form Spanish, 'bajar', to sail around. 2) Wind is said to do this when it shifts direction all around the compass. 3) What you might attempt to foolishly do after drunkenly returning to the ship.

BOXHAUL (ING) 1) To Wear Ship in Square Rigger, in limited space, sometimes to minimize Forward movement. 2) Method of bringing Close-Hauled ship around upon other Tack by throwing head sails aback, if it refuses to Tack and there is no room to Wear. AKA Box Haul.

BOYS OF THE BULLDOG BREED Pugnacious Englishmen, often sailors. From a popular song.

BRACE (S) 1) Two opposing sets of Lines or ropes, usually with Tackles, which controlled Yards from which Sails were hung. They were attached to and ran from ends of Yards to Deck of Square Rigger and allowed Yards to be swung round in horizontal plane or hauled Aft. 2) Two or pair. From Old French, 'brasse', width of two arms.

- BRACE BACK** Haul Yards over to Windward to stop run of ship.
- BRACED IN** Yards were Braced in this fashion so Yards formed smallest angle with Vessel Centerline to Sail against wind.
- BRACES OF SHAKES** 1) Fraction of minute's time in which shaking movement could be detected in sails as ship was brought into wind. 2) Very short period of time.
- BRACE ROUND** Traverse Yards when Running before Wind, to increase constantly angle of Yards to Centerline so as to reduce Leeway.
- BRACED SQUARE** Yards were Braced in this fashion to Run before Wind.
- BRACE (ED) UP** 1) Yards and sails were 'braced up' when they were tensioned hard against wind in order to sail as close to wind as possible. 2) Tighten rigging. 3) Used as an order meaning get organized, stop messing about, get under control etc.
- BRACKISH** Containing salt to moderate degree, such as sea water which has been diluted by fresh water, such as near mouth of River. Salinity values range from approximately 0.5 to 17.0 parts per thousand.
- BRAIDED LINE** Modern configuration of rope. It may be single or double Braid with one core or Braid inside another. See Laid Line.
- BRAIL** Line encircling Sail, used to gather in Sail to Mast or Yard. From French, 'braile', belt.
- BRANCH** 1) Creek or Brook. 2) One of bifurcations of Stream.
- BRASH ICE** Accumulations of floating ice made up of fragments not more than 2 meters across, wreckage of other ice forms.
- BRASS MONKEY** Nickname for Cunard Line's house flag, a gold lion rampant on a red field.
- BRASS POUNDER** Nickname for early radio operators whose transmitter keys were made of brass.
- BRAVE WEST (WINDS)** Strong, often stormy, winds from west northwest and northwest which blow at all seasons of year between latitudes 40° S and 60° S. Prevailing belt of westerly winds of Temperate Zone of Southern Hemisphere. See Roaring Forties.
- BRAVO** See B.
- BRAZIL CURRENT** Ocean Current flowing southwestward along Brazilian Coast. Origin in westward flowing Atlantic South Equatorial Current, part of which turns south and flows along South American Coast.
- BREAD CRUMBS** Signal from senior British Navy officers that junior midshipmen in Mess were not to hear what was going to be said next and had to stuff their ears with break until senior officers finished speaking.
- BREADTH** See Beam.
- BREAK** RT proword indicating separation of text from other portions of the message. Used only when confusion between text and heading or ending is likely.
- BREAK-CIRCUIT CHRONOMETER** Chronometer equipped with electrical contact assembly and program wheel which automatically makes or breaks electric circuit at precise intervals, sequence and duration of circuit open circuit closed conditions being recorded on Chronograph. Program sequence is controlled by design of program wheel installed. By recording occurrence of events such as star transits on Chronograph sheet along with Chronometer breaks, Chronometer times of those occurrences are obtained.
- BREAK OUT** 1) Release from Stores. Prepare or assemble for service. Put something to use, such as food or gear from the storerooms or the hold. Also, a flag or sail that has been in Stops. 2) Freeing an Anchor from the Bottom.
- BREAKER (S)** 1) Wave that breaks, crests or roll over themselves as they reach shallow water or dashes against obstacle, particularly over dangerous objects such as rocks, a shoal or at / on a beach. From Anglo Saxon, 'breken'. See Whitecap. 2) Small cask. From the Spanish, 'bareca', barrel.
- BREAKWATER** Line of rocks, pilings, other material or structure, usually stone or concrete, built to create protected area, protect or create Harbor and its entrance or, improve an existing Harbor, either natural or artificial. It breaks force of Sea at particular place. See Jetty.

- BREAM** Clean a Vessel's bottom.
- BREAMING** Applying heat to melt old pitch out of boat seams preparatory to re-caulk.
- BREAST** 1) Abeam. 2) Mammary gland of a Figurehead. See Breast In, Breast Line, Breast Off.
- BREASTHOOK** 1) Horizontal, angle brace in Bow of any craft, usually joining Stem Post to Strakes. See Stem. 2) Bra strap.
- BREAST IN** Pull a Vessel sideways toward a wharf or another Vessel. Reverse of Breast Off.
- BREASTING FLOAT** See Camel.
- BREAST LINE** Mooring or Docking Line leading or extending at an angle laterally at right angles to the Keel, right angles from the Vessel's sides or about 90° from the Fore and Aft line of the Vessel to a Pier, wharf, Float or another Vessel, approximately Abeam. Used to hold a Vessel into the Dock. AKA breast fast. See Spring Line.
- BREAST OFF** 1) Fend off, shove out, hold off or push away from a wharf or another Vessel. 2) What Amazon warriors did to improve their sword fighting capabilities. 3) Something that could be very painful when crewmembers are working in close proximity to rotating machinery.
- BREAST THE SEA** Meet a swell or waves head on.
- BREECH** Part of a Block, the fall side, opposite the Swallow. AKA the Arse or Choke.
- BREECHES BUOY** Life ring with a canvas seat or ring shaped lifebuoy that looks like or forms the waistline a pair of canvas breeches or pants. Fitted with a harness by which it can be hauled along a Trolley Line and used for passenger rescue purposes from stranded Vessels when other methods, such as using small boats, cannot be used.
- BREEZE** 1) Wind of Force 2 to 6 on Beaufort Scale. 2) Any light wind.
- BREEZE, FRESH** Wind of Force 5 (19-24 mile per hour or 17-21 knots).
- BREEZE, GENTLE** Wind of Force 3 (8-12 miles per hour or 7-10 knots).
- BREEZE, LIGHT** Wind of Force 2 (4-7 miles per hour or 4-6 knots).
- BREEZE, MODERATE** Wind of Force 4 (13-18 miles per hour or 11-16 knots).
- BREEZE, STRONG** Wind of Force 6 (25-31 miles per hour or 22-27 knots). See Light Air.
- BREVA** Valley wind which blows on Lake Como in northern Italy.
- BRICK FIELDER** Hot, dry and dust laden wind blowing across south of Australia from deserts of interior during summer.
- BRIDE OF THE SEA** Historical name for Venice. From annual wedding of Doge of Venice to Adriatic symbolizing sea power of Venice.
- BRIDGE** 1) Location from which vessel is steered and its speed controlled. Originally, elevated 'thwartship platform or structure extending across or over Vessel's Weather Deck or part of such structure, usually between or just forward of paddle boxes of sidewheeler and was structured like shore side light footbridge. Term is sometimes modified to indicated intended use, such as Navigating Bridge or Signal Bridge. 2) Control Station or center of Ship, especially power Vessel. 3) Persons in charge of Vessel or an organization. 4) Structure over water or depression to carry pedestrian, vehicular or railroad traffic and which is convenience for those crossing water but sometimes an annoyance for ships trying to cross a thin stretch of metal 'land'. See Causeway, Control Station, Viaduct.
- BRIDGE, NAVIGATING** Runs full width of Ship, has clear lookout, and is equipped with navigational equipment.
- BRIDGE TO BRIDGE STATION** VHF-FM radio station located on a ship's navigational bridge or main control station that operates on a specified frequency in the 156-162 MHz band, usually channel 13, which is used only for navigational communications.
- BRIDGE WINGS** Port and Starboard extension of Bridge, particularly useful when maneuvering Ship.
- BRIDLE** Any of many arrangements of Line, Rope, wire, chain, etc., or two or more parts secured at both ends in order to distribute strain between two

points.. Usually a length of rope secured at both ends and controlled from its center. Multiple applications, particularly in towing or for rope span with ends secured for the Sheet Block to ride on. From English, 'bridel', braid.

BRIG 1) Vessel with 2 masts, both Square Rigged. 2) Two masted Vessel, Square Rigged for Gaff rigged Fore and Aft Mainsail. 3) Naval jail, prison cell or place for incarcerating bad boys of the Boat. From the tradition of using old stripped down ships, often two masted for the place of confinement or from habit of placing Brigands in jail or the type of Ship they sailed.

BRIGAND Pirate or criminal.

BRIGANTINE Vessel with two masts; 1 Forward or Fore Mast full Square Rigged and 1 Aft or Main Mast rigged Fore & Aft, sometimes with square sails on main Topmast. Used by Brigands. AKA Hermaphrodite Brig.

BRIG, HERMAPHRODITE 1) Two masted sailing Vessel, with Foremast Square Rigged and Mainmast having Fore and Aft Mainsail but Topsail and all above it Square Rigged. 2) Two masted Vessel with Foremast Square Rigged but with Mainmast now completely Schooner Rigged, carrying Fore and Aft Sails.

BRIGHT DISPLAY Radar display capable of being used under relatively high ambient light levels.

BRIGHTWORK 1) Varnished or bright woodwork and/or polished metal objects such as Trim, especially Topside. 2) Polished brass, bronze, stainless steel Metal which is kept polished aboard Vessel. 'Bright' it should be and 'Work' it is. Brightwork originally referred to polished metal objects, and bright woodwork to wood which was kept scraped and scrubbed, especially topside.

BRINEY 1) The Ocean. 2) Salty. 3) Residue (brine) pumped overboard from fresh water maker.

BRING BY THE LEE Incline so rapidly to Leeward of course, when ship sails large, as to bring Lee-side unexpectedly to Windward; and by laying all sails aback expose her to danger of upsetting.

BRISA Northeast wind which blows on coast of South America or east wind which blows on Puerto Rico during trade wind season. 2) Northeast Monsoon in Philippines. AKABriza.

BRISOTE Northeast trade wind when it is blowing stronger than usual on Cuba.

BRISTOL (FASHION) Everything in place or in a neat, clean and orderly manner and in good condition. Shipshape and conforming to high standards of seamanship. From Bristol, a bustling English seaport, renowned for having all shipping regulated, organized and in proper order.

BROACH (ING) 1) Sudden, unplanned and uncontrolled turning of Vessel so that Hull is Broadside or Beam on to seas, parallel to Waves or Wind, subjecting Ship to possible capsize. Loss of steering, to spin or get out of control, turn or slew toward wind due to mishandling or action of elements. Heading up sharply and Capsize or come close to Capsize, usually when sailing off Wind. What sailing craft does when she involuntarily turns too much to Windward when Running Free. From French, 'brochier', meaning turn. AKA broach to. 2) Piece of jewelry that you would not want to wear in heavy weather at sea.

BROAD Refers to Bearings, i.e., "broad on the bow" or 45° and "broad abeam" or 90°. From Anglo Saxon, 'brad', meaning wide.

BROADCAST NOTICE TO MARINERS (BNM) Radio broadcast designed to provide important marine information in a timely manner of immediate interest to navigators.

BROAD OFF About 45° to either the Bow or Stern. AKA Broad On.

BROAD ON THE BEAM Bearing 090° or 270° relative. If Bearings are approximate, expression On The Beam or Abeam should be used.

BROAD ON THE BOW Bearing 045° or 315° relative. If Bearings are approximate, expression On The Bow should be used.

BROAD ON THE QUARTER Bearing 135° or 225° relative. If Bearings are approximate, expression On The Quarter should be used.

BROAD REACH (ING) 1) Point of Sailing with Apparent Wind Broad on Beam, Sailing Downwind or Reaching at a wide angle to the wind direction greater than 90 degrees. 2) How a lady of the evening might grab at you as you walk down a dimly lit pier.

BROADSIDE 1) Side of Vessel. 2) Firing of entire 'main battery' on one side of a warship. See Deliver a Broadside. 3) Number of cannon mounted to fire from Ship's sides.

BROADSIDE ON Beam on, such as to Wind or Sea.

BROBOE Dry wind blowing from east over southwestern part of Celebes island, usually from June to October.

BROKEN BOW See Anticorona.

BROKEN WATER Area of small Waves and Eddies occurring in what otherwise is calm Sea.

BROOK Very small natural stream or rivulet. AKA Run, Runnel. See Creek.

BROOM Broom tied to the Masthead indicates that you have swept the seas of your enemies.

BROUGHT UP SHORT; BROUGHT UP ALL STANDING 1) Stopping ship by letting go anchor in emergency. 2) Unexpected or emergency standstill or reversal of fortune..

BROW Light weight Gangplank. From the Danish or Swedish, 'bro', bridge.

BRUBU Name for Squall in East Indies.

BRUMMEL HOOK Patented and special Sisterhook used on modern sailboats.

BRUSCHA Northwest wind in Besgell Valley, Switzerland.

BUBBLE ACCELERATION ERROR Error of bubble Sextant observation caused by displacement of bubble by acceleration or deceleration resulting from motion of craft. AKA Acceleration Error.

BUBBLE HORIZON Artificial Horizon parallel to Celestial Horizon, established by means of bubble level.

BUBBLE SEXTANT Sextant with bubble or spirit level to indicate horizontal.

BUCCANEERS 1) Caribbean purveyor of dried and smoked meat jerky called 'boucan'. 2) Pirate, reckless or lawless adventurer who sometimes claimed to be Privateer. From 'boucan', 'boucaniers' meaning

smokers or eaters of smoke cured meat or from 'boucanes' meaning dome shaped smokehouses or from the French, 'boucanier', pirate or hunter. See Corsair and Freebooter. 3) Cheap price for earrings. 4) Expensive price for corn.

BUCKET ROPE Line to bucket, especially if dipped over side.

BUCKET TEMPERATURE Temperature of surface sea water trapped and measured in bucket or similar receptacle.

BUCKEROO OR BUCKY A Bully.

BUCKLER (PLATE) Plate, shield or shutter over a Hawsehole or Hawse Pipe, used to close off the opening at the top against the entry of water and to keep water from washing Aboard. From a similar term for a small armor shield used when armor is worn.

BUGEYE Double ended, Shoal Draft, Ketch Rigger Vessel with extreme raked Masts, characteristic of the Chesapeake Bay and used for oyster fishing. Registered as Schooners, but more like a Ketch. From the custom of decorating the Hawseholes in the form of large eyes or from the Scottish, 'buckey', oyster.

BUG JUICE Nautical drink sort of like Kool Aid.

BUILD Method for constructing or building wooden boats. Three types of 'build' are: clinker build, carvel build and diagonal build.

BUILDING Label on Nautical Chart which is used when entire structure is landmark, rather than an individual feature. AKA labeled house.

BULBOUS BOW Design of bow in which the Forward underwater frames ahead of Forward perpendicular are swelled out at forefoot into a bulbous formation.

BULKHEAD Shipboard vertical wall, Transverse wall or partition in Vessel or Hull that strengthens, provides Athwartships support for Hull and separates a boat's compartments or cabins. Interior compartmentalization of Vessel is created by these. In some cases they are structural or load bearing and watertight, adding to safety in case of damage to Hull while others are not watertight. From Norse, 'balker', partition. See Partition.

BULKHEAD DECK Uppermost Deck to which

watertight Bulkheads and the watertight shell extend.

BULLET Housed forward and reverse gears and prop shaft on outboard engine. AKA nosecone.

BULL NOSE Curved portion of Bulwarks or a closed Chock at the Bow of a Vessel.

BULLROPE 1) Line for sending up or striking an upper Mast on Square Rigger. 2) Line from Bowsprit to Mooring Buoy. 3) Line for a small boat to ride when secured to a boatboom.

BULL'S EYE Specially shaped Grommet of wood or metal serving as a Fairlead. See Deadlight.

BULL'S EYE SQUALL Sudden squall forming in apparently fair weather, characteristic of ocean off Coast of South Africa. Named for peculiar appearance of small isolated cloud marking top of invisible vortex of storm.

BULL THE BUOY Bump into or hit a Buoy.

BULLY BEEF Sailors of Colonial Navy had daily menu of this amazingly elastic and stringy substance, actually beef jerky. Term appeared so frequently on the messdeck that it naturally lent its name to sailors who had to eat it. See Bully Boy. As indication of beef's texture and chewability, it was also called "salt junk," alluding to rope yarn used for caulking the ship's seams. From name for bull carcasses of French 'bouilli', meaning boiled meat.

BULLY BOY Term prominent in Navy chanties and poems, means in its strictest sense, "beef eating Sailors."

BULWARK (S) Solid rail or side plating used in place of a rail, usually consisting of extensions for vessel's sides or frames above Deck level and planked over, thus creating sides raised above Deck. Used to help keep Deck dry and provide extra protection on weather Decks to guns, crew, cargo or men and prevent them from being washed overboard. See tumblehome.

BULWARK STAY Brace extending from the Deck to the top of a Bulwark to give the Bulwark added strength and rigidity.

BUM BOAT Any boat or small harbor craft used or employed to sell, peddle or carry provisions, supplies vegetables and small merchandise for sale to ships, either in Port or lying at distance from shore. Also

used to ferry ship's crews or as scavengers' boats used to remove filth from anchored ships. From the Dutch, 'bom', 'bluff' or from 'bum' for buttocks or from 'boomboat' signifying Boats permitted to lie at Booms.

BUMKIN 1) Any of several, short sparlike projections Outboard of Hull, for various lines. 2) Yacht: projection dead Aft, usually for the Mizzen Sheet of a Yawl or Ketch. 3) Research Vessels: outboard projections for handling various equipment. AKA Boomkin.

BUMMOCK Downward projection from underside of ice field. It is counterpart of Hummock.

BUMPER 1) Low life lubberly landsman term for a fender. Definitely see fender. 2) Fender left hanging out while Under Way.

BUND Embankment or embanked thoroughfare along body of water.

BUNK Built-in bed in boat, essentially fixed. From Dutch, 'bank', meaning bench. AKA Berth. See Hammock.

BUNKER (S) 1) Compartment or tank, usually in or near machinery spaces designed for storage of fuel: coal, oil, etc. From Norwegian or Danish, 'banke', meaning hold. 2) Actual fuel itself used by Vessel during Voyage. 3) Where you might want to go in order to escape your Crew if the Booze runs out halfway to your Destination.

BUNT 1) Main body or central part of Sail, especially square sail. Central area within Head, Foot, Luff and Leech. 2) Said of a Sail when bunched up for Furling or after Reefing. From English, 'byndel', meaning bundle.

BUNTING Loosely woven wool or cotton cloth from which flags are made. From English, 'bonten', to sift.

BUNT LINES Lines for gathering Square Sail to its Yard.

BUNTLINE HITCH Simple, useful Hitch for attaching Halyard to Shackle. It is Strong, secure and easily undone.

BUNT LINES Long lengths of line on a Square Rigger, attached to the Foot of a Sail, leading up its Forward side, used for Furling the sails.

BUOY 1) Unmanned, usually anchored floating Aid To Navigation. Floating device or object, Moored or Anchored in one place and used mainly to show or mark Channel, position or location, rocks, shoals or other obstructions and hazards, prohibited areas on water, or turning points in races. May be classified according to shape (spar, cylindrical, can, conical, nun, spherical, barrel, pillar), by color scheme (red, green, striped, banded, or checkered), by location (channel, mid-channel, middle ground, turning, fairway junction, junction, sea, bar), by nature of hazard to navigation (obstruction, Shoal, wreck, telegraph, cable, fish net, dredging, spoil ground) or by use (anchor, anchorage, quarantine, mooring, marker, station, watch, or position.). From Spanish, 'foyar', to float. 2) Also used for Mooring and Anchoring. See Buoy The Anchor. From French, 'boie' or 'boye', meaning chained or fetter. 3) Uplift or sustain by encourage. 4) Opposite of girlie or flying gull.

BUOYAGE System of Buoys. See Cardinal System, IALA Maritime Buoyage System and Lateral System.

BUOYANCY Upward force that keeps boat floating. Tendency of object to float. Occurs whenever object, such as Vessel, placed in water displaces or takes place of certain volume of water. Weight of displaced water is exactly equal to weight of Vessel that displaces it.

BUOYANT Suggesting lightness and freedom or the opposite of being chained since a Buoy's anchor chain was invisible.

BUOY, COMBINATION Buoy which has more than one means of conveying information.

BUOYED TRIP LINE Line with one end fastened to Crown of an Anchor and other to Buoy used on a rocky bottom where Flukes may be caught and can not be dislodged by pulling directly on Anchor cable.

BUOY, ICE Sturdy Buoy used to replace more easily damaged Buoy during period when heavy ice is anticipated.

BUOY, LIGHTED buoy with light having definite characteristics for detection and identification during darkness.

BUOY, RADIOBEACON Buoy equipped with marker radiobeacon.

BUOY, RIVER Light weight Buoy designed to withstand strong Currents.

BUOY, SOUND Buoy equipped with characteristic sound signal and which may be further classified according to manner in which sound is produced such as bell, gong, horn, trumpet or whistle.

BUOY STATION Established or Charted location of Buoy.

BUOY TENDER 1) Vessel designed for and engaged in servicing Aids To Navigation, particularly Buoys. 2) How you might feel after Buoys guide you safely home.

BUOY THE ANCHOR Temporarily Fasten the Anchor Line to a float so that the Anchor need not be raised when a Vessel is leaving its Anchorage. See Buoy.

BUOY, TOPMARK Buoy fitted with characteristic shape at top to aid in identification.

BURAN Dreaded, wildly violent and intensely cold wind which breaks out through Siberia and into south Russia from Northeast.

BURDENED VESSEL Old terminology for Give Way Vessel. That vessel which, according to older applicable Navigation Rules, must give way to privileged vessel. The term has been superseded by the term "give-way".

BURGA Strong windstorm in Alaska, usually attended by snow or sleet.

BURGEE 1) Special owner's or house flag flown on Vessel indicating ownership. From French, 'bourgeois', meaning master or owner. 2) Special flag or pennant indicating the identity of a Yacht club, sailing or boat club or similar organization. It also acted as Dog Vane.

BURGOO 1) Unfancy food. 2) Oatmeal or abominable porridge made from anything on had that wasn't fit for anything else. 3) Hard tack and molasses. 4) Stew. From Arabic, 'burghul', a dish of wheat, dried and boiled.

BURN (ING) YOUR BOATS (BEHIND YOU) Military tactic since Roman times. Meant to instill a 'backs-to-the-wall' spirit. Used by Roman Generals, Caesar, Cortez and others . After boats are burnt on the

beach you had no alternative, could not retreat and had to move forward.

BURNT OFFERINGS It was believed that fat encouraged scurvy and cook could also see excess fat (see Slush Fund). Thus meats were cooked until they were completely dehydrated and defatted liked this.

BURN YOUR BRIDGES BEHIND YOU
Originally Burn Your Boats Behind You.

BURTHEN Vessels' carrying capacity. From English, 'byrpen', meaning load. See Ton and Tun.

BURTON Type of Tackle purchase.

BURY 1) The part of the Mast below the Deck. 2) Inboard portion of the Bowsprit. From English, 'beorgan', shelter or cover. 3) What the Bow does in heavy seas.

BUSTER Full military power on Navy aircraft, go fast.

BUSTLE 1) Special kind of Fairwater Aft on larger merchant ships and some yachts. 2) another name for "blisters" built onto the sides of some merchant steamers to improve stability. 3) Faired bulge on the Bottom near the Stern on some racing sailboats. From the lady's bustle.

BUTT 1) Cask or hogshead, often open headed, for wine, Grog or water. Simple wooden cask for provisions. See Scuttlebutt. 2) End joint between two plates placed end to end. See Bevel and Seam.

BUTTE 1) Isolated flat topped hill, similar to but smaller than Mesa. 2) Not always big nor pronounced the same way.

BUTTERWORTH (ING) 1) Method of cleaning oil tanks using two water nozzles rotating in the tank at right angle planes. By using steam, hot water at high pressure is forced against every part of the tank. 2) Patented machine.

BUTTOCK Rounded part of a ship's Stern, From English, 'buttok', a part of your anatomy.

BUTTOCK LINES Lines of a craft's afterbody or convexity of Stern.

BUTTOCKS Components in design of any hull.

Lines of vertical longitudinal planes or slices passing through hull parallel to fore and aft centerline..

BUTTON Circular grooved fitting used to hold the Eye of wire Rope. Used on lock walls as well as on Deck, where it may be Used as Fairlead.

BUY BALLOT'S LAW Rule of thumb for determining variants of atmospheric pressure in a storm condition and location or direction of a storm center, cyclone or anticyclone. Named after Dutch meteorologist C.H.D. Buys Ballot in 1857.

BY Used in many sailors' phrases, such as 'by the wind,' 'by and large', etc. From Sanskrit, 'ahbi', meaning toward or to.

BY AND LARGE 1) Sail as close to wind as possible without being hard on wind and to sail off or with wind full in sails. Imprecise method includes all ways of sailing from least favorable to the most. 2) Describing passage which included bad days of headwinds when Vessel would be sailed By the Wind, and good days when the large or square sails could be used giving more comfort and better speed. 3) In general, on the whole or overall. 4) Vessel that is a good sailing vessel er on all points from on ('By') the wind to 'large' with the sheets well eased. See Full and By. 5) For the most part.

BY GUESS AND BY GOD 1) Method of navigation whereby Skipper relies on experience, intuitiveness, memory and implicit faith. Used particularly in fishing boats. 2) Inspired or educated guesswork.

BY THE BOARD (S) 1) Wooden boards and Hull Planking which made up ship's Deck. 2) Literally to throw over side or figuratively to let something pass. See Aboard, Overboard and Take Aboard. 3) Ship's mast which falls over side and carried away. 4) Missed opportunity.

BY THE CUT OF HIS JIB Used to describe person's general appearance. From days of sail when ships of each nation had their own particular rig and sailor could thus determine her nationality by this technique.

BY THE DEEP Language of the Leadsman, reporting the Depth when reading between the markers on the Leadline.

BY THE GREAT HORN SPOON Something Jack Tar could swear by without taking name of the Lord in

vain. From poor use of spoons whittled out of horns of cattle rather than costly pewter spoons.

BY THE HEAD See Down By The Head.

BY THE LEE Sailing downwind on a run when the Wind and the Boom with the sails trimmed, are all on the same quarter or side of a sailing Vessel, making a sudden or accidental Jibe likely.

BY THE STERN See Down By The Stern.

BY THE WIND Sailing Close Hauled.
