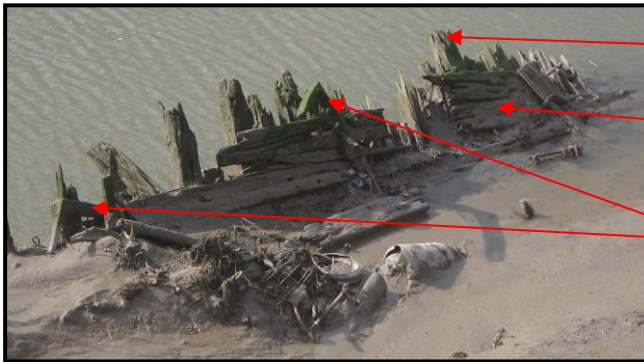


An illustrated glossary of Wooden Ship and Boat Terminology



Frames

Ceiling Planks /
Quickwork

Hanging Knees



City of Ottawa - Rhyl Harbour, North Wales

Ian Cundy

Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

**An illustrated glossary of
Wooden Ship and Boat Terminology**

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**>650 entries / 100 pages /
100 photographs & drawings**



Ian Cundy



Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

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Research & text: Ian Cundy

Design: Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

Photographs (unless otherwise stated): Ian Cundy

First Printing: 2020

Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit
Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 1QQ
United Kingdom

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Cover: The remains of the wreck of the *City of Ottawa* lying visible at low water in Rhyl Harbour, North Wales.

Inside the front cover: The Maritime Heritage Alliance Boatbuilding Workshop at Greilickville, Traverse City, Michigan, USA.

Rear cover: A replica of HMS *Endeavour* with the backdrop of Sydney's 21st century skyline.

Contents

Page

Photographs & Illustrations

Preface

Introduction

1

Alphabetical Glossary of Terminology

3

A Aback – Athwart

3

B Backstaff – Butty

5

C Cabin – Cutwater

17

D Dandy Rig – Dunnage

28

E Earing – Eyelet

33

F Fack – Futtock Shrouds

34

G Gaff – Gunwale

40

H Half Coupling – Hull

43

I Inner Stem Post – Inner Stern Post

47

J Jack – Jury Rig

47

K Kedge Anchor – Knot

49

L Lag Bolt – Luting

53

M Main Sail – Muzzle

57

N Nails – Nautical Mile

61

O Oakham – Outrigger

62

P Pad Eye – Push Bars

63

Q Quadrant – Quoin

67

R Rabbet – Running Rigging

68

S Sagging – Swivel Gun

72

T Tabernacle – Turnbuckle

87

U Upperworks

91

V Vent Cover – Ventilator

91

W Waist – Worm Gear

92

X Xebec

94

Y Yard – Yoke

95

Z

96

Further Reading

98

Index

102

Photographs & Illustrations	Page
Figure 1. Example of Stocked Anchors .	3
Figure 2. Examples of Stockless Anchors .	4
Figure 3. An Astrolabe .	4
Figure 4. A Barque .	5
Figure 5. A Barquentine .	6
Figure 6. Examples of Cannon Projectiles .	6
Figure 7. A Sheet, Belayed onto a Bitt .	8
Figure 8. Belaying Pins on a Spider Band .	8
Figure 9. Examples of Belfries .	9
Figure 10. Example of a hand operated, flywheel driven, Bilge Pump .	10
Figure 11. Examples of Binnacles and Correcting Magnets .	11
Figure 12. Examples of a Double Block and a Sister Block .	12
Figure 13. Timbers inside the Bow on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	14
Figure 14. A Brig (Square Rigged) .	14
Figure 15. A Brigantine .	14
Figure 16. The Deck of the <i>Paul</i> .	15
Figure 17. A traditional UK inland waterways Narrowboat & Butty .	16
Figure 18. A Capstan on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	18
Figure 19. Example of a Carval Planked motor sailing vessel.	19
Figure 20. Examples of Catheads .	20
Figure 21. Chains, Shackles & Turnbuckles .	21
Figure 22. The Stern of a vessel with Hard Chines .	22
Figure 23. Clench Bolts and Roves used in Clinker Planking .	23
Figure 24. Examples of Clinker Planked vessels.	24
Figure 25. A Composite wooden Hull part Sheathed in fiberglass.	25
Figure 26. Examples of Coracles .	25
Figure 27. A Crutch on the <i>Petrus</i> .	26
Figure 28. Lower Rigging on HMS <i>Endeavour</i> .	28
Figure 29. The Decks on a model of HMS <i>Victory</i> .	29
Figure 30. The cutaway plan view of a Deck .	30
Figure 31. A Dhow / Dhoni (Lateen Rigged)	30
Figure 32. Examples of Double Diagonal, Carval Planking .	31

Figure 33.	Details of Draught Marks .	32
Figure 34.	Details of Plimsoll Line marks.	32
Figure 35.	Examples of Fairleads .	34
Figure 36.	Examples of Fastenings found on wooden vessels.	35
Figure 37.	Belaying Pins on a Fife Rail .	35
Figure 38.	The Figurehead on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	36
Figure 39.	Comparison between Cant Frames and Fashion Frames .	38
Figure 40.	The cutaway elevation of a Hull showing types of Frames .	38
Figure 41.	A Gaff Rig .	40
Figure 42.	Examples of a Galley / Caboose .	41
Figure 43.	Muzzle Loading Cannon on a Gun Carriage .	42
Figure 44.	A Half Model of the <i>S/Y Welcome</i> .	43
Figure 45.	Examples of Hatches .	44
Figure 46.	Hawse Pipes inside the Bow on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	44
Figure 47.	A section through the Hull side of the <i>Dispatch</i> .	46
Figure 48.	Joggles cut into Frames to accept Clinker Planking .	48
Figure 49.	A Junk (Lugg Rigged) .	48
Figure 50.	A Ketch (Gaff Rigged) .	50
Figure 51.	Knees on the <i>Dispatch</i> .	51
Figure 52.	A Hanging Knee on the <i>Helping Hand</i> .	51
Figure 53.	A fabricated Plate Knee on the <i>Severn Collier</i> .	51
Figure 54.	A Lodging Knee on the <i>Abbey</i> .	52
Figure 55.	Staple Knees on the <i>King</i> .	52
Figure 56.	The Fore Deck of HMS <i>Victory</i> .	52
Figure 57.	Examples of Logs for measuring speed through the water.	55
Figure 58.	Bow Spars, Rigging & Martingale on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	57
Figure 59.	Examples of Mast Caps .	58
Figure 60.	A Mast Partner on the <i>Harriett</i> .	58
Figure 61.	Example of a Mast Step and coin imprint on a Mast .	59
Figure 62.	Movements that can be encountered when Afloat!	60
Figure 63.	A modern steel Narrowboat based on original lines.	61
Figure 64.	Outriggers on a tourist dive boat in the Philippines.	62
Figure 65.	Part of a Parrel assembly from HMS <i>Invincible</i> .	63
Figure 66.	The Stern of a motorised Dhow .	64

Figure 67.	Examples of opening Portholes & Portlights .	65
Figure 68.	Example of a Folding Propeller on the yacht <i>Quickstep</i> .	66
Figure 69.	The Wheel on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	67
Figure 70.	Examples of Ribs on small wooden boats.	69
Figure 71.	A Rigging Truck from HMS <i>Invincible</i> .	70
Figure 72.	Part of the Stern Hung Rudder on HMS <i>Victory</i> .	71
Figure 73.	Fore Mast Sails on a Fully Rigged Ship .	72
Figure 74.	Main Mast Sails on a Fully Rigged Ship .	73
Figure 75.	Mizzen Mast Sails on a Fully Rigged Ship .	73
Figure 76.	Other Sails on a Fully Rigged Ship .	74
Figure 77.	Scarf Joints in the Carval Planking of a Dhow .	75
Figure 78.	A Schooner .	75
Figure 79.	Example of Scuppers .	76
Figure 80.	Examples of Navigation Instruments .	77
Figure 81.	Copper Sheathing on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	77
Figure 82.	A Ship (Square Rigger) .	78
Figure 83.	A Ship's Boat .	78
Figure 84.	An example of Shroud Cleats on HMS <i>Victory</i> .	79
Figure 85.	Examples of Skylights .	80
Figure 86.	A Sloop (Bermuda Rigged) .	80
Figure 87.	Example of a mechanical Sounding machine.	81
Figure 88.	A Square Rigger under way, with Sails being Furled .	82
Figure 89.	The Stern of a wooden motor sailing vessel.	83
Figure 90.	Stern Gear .	84
Figure 91.	Example of a Composite vessel, the <i>Dispatch</i> .	85
Figure 92.	Examples of Guns & Cannons .	86
Figure 93.	A fallen Mast with Deck mounted Tabernacle .	87
Figure 94.	Spars & Rigging on HMS <i>Trincomalee</i> .	89
Figure 95.	Example of Treenails at the Stern of a wooden vessel.	90
Figure 96.	Wheelhouse / Bridge Equipment.	92
Figure 97.	Examples of manually operated Winches .	93
Figure 98.	Example of a Worm Gear steering system.	94
Figure 99.	A Yawl .	95
Figure 100.	A Yoke used to steer a Rudder .	95

Preface

All professions have their own coveted language and linguistic idioms that can often be completely incomprehensible to outsiders. In addition, the jargon derived from specific occupations, just like dialects, can vary from minor spelling and pronunciation to entirely different words being used from one location to another.

Marine activities are not only classic examples around which itemised terminology and particular terms for specific activities have evolved, but a huge amount of the English language and vocabulary has derived from, and is indebted to, historical maritime endeavours over centuries of seafaring.

As a boat builder of 30 years, while fully appreciating all the above, it never ceases to surprise me that words I take for granted, sometimes sound like a foreign language to non-maritime individuals. Over the years, particularly when lecturing on ship and boat construction, or when working with colleagues, carrying out marine archaeological investigations associated with the remains of wrecked vessels, it has been apparent that many people lacked the necessary terminology for what they were finding, or any comprehension of the activities that went into the production of the constituent parts of ships and boats.

This book has evolved from a basic set of lecture handouts, into this illustrated glossary of terminology. It is intended to be used as a quick reference guide for anyone interested in marine activities, and wooden ships & boats in particular.

Like any assembled lexicon, in this book there will inevitably be some errors and mistakes, particularly with respect to indexing and cross referencing, as well as alternative spelling and the addition of words that the reader may consider too important to have been overlooked. In this respect, the author would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any thoughts and comments so that errors and omissions can be corrected at the earliest opportunity.

Contact details can be found on our website at: www.madu.org.uk

Ian Cundy (Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit)

Introduction

This glossary of nautical terminology is intended to be used as any other dictionary, however, in addition, the index at the back of the book will hopefully assists in not only pointing the reader at the page where the main entry (shown in **BOLD**) can be found, but also where photographs or illustrations (shown in **RED**), together with any other references (shown in a smaller point size) have been included.

Most teachers understand that people learn most effectively in different ways. Some may prefer oral information, while the written word, or visual images (be it pictures, tables, charts, etc) work best for others. This book attempts to compensate for these differences by offering various options.

Often, it is the question "what is the name for a ----- ?" that is being asked, and it is in the pictures and illustrations where the reader may be able to home in on, and discover the answer to what they are looking for.

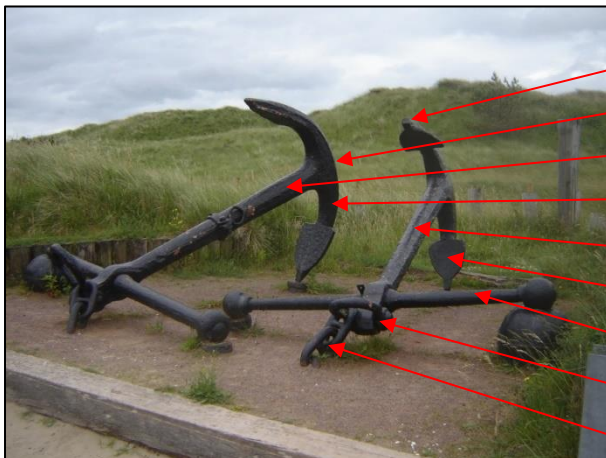
The descriptions associated with each entry have deliberately been kept to a minimum, but they hopefully provide a basic understanding of the word being sought. However, for further reading and more in-depth information, at the rear of the book, has been included a suggested list for further reading.

The author hopes you find this publication of assistance in whatever maritime activities you are involved.

A / Alpha /



- Aback** When the wind comes onto the forward side of the sails – typically driving square **Sails** onto the **Mast**.
- Abaft** Behind, towards the **Stern** or **Aft**.
- Abeam** Forward or **Fore**.
- Aft** A term used for the **Stern** or the rear of a vessel.
- Aloft** The upper **Sails** and **Rigging** – typically on **Square Riggers** (*to go Aloft*).
- Amidships** The central section of a vessel.
- Anchor** A heavy weighted and normally hooked device used to grip the seabed / riverbed – typically used for mooring and preventing a vessel from drifting (see also: **Bower, Danforth, Grapnel, Kedge & Mud Anchor**). (*see Figure 1.*)
- Anchor (Stocked)** An **Anchor** incorporating a fixed or removable **Stock** which requires the **Anchor** to be stored on the **Deck** or suspended from a **Cathead** when raised. (*see Figure 1.*)



- Bill / Pea
- Crown
- Trend
- Arm
- Shank
- Fluke / Palm
- Stock
- Shackle
- Studded Chain

*Figure 1. Example of **Stocked Anchors**.
(Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire)*

- Anchor (Stockless)** An **Anchor** without a **Stock** so that it can be drawn into, and stowed in a **Hawse Pipe**. (*see Figure 2.*)

If you like what you have seen so far, copies of this paperback book are available from the Nautical Archaeology Society at:

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/shop/illustrated-glossary-of-boat-and-ship-terms>

with a RRP of £12.50

Reviews:

“Great Book” – [Jezz Davies](#)

“An excellent piece of work.” – [Robert Hall](#)

“I was pleasantly surprised by the quality. As they are printed to order, I was expecting a loose bound book, but the quality is excellent and the pictures superb. It is also really interesting.” – [Nigel Spickett](#).

“A most useful bedtime and reference read.” – [Huw Roberts](#)

“What a great book on boat terminology. I wish I had it 30 years ago. It takes a lot of reading and distilling of text books to get down to information you have supplied in a really easily available format.”
– [Darina Tully](#)

“This is an excellent, thorough, logically thought out, detailed and beautifully comprehensive guide, accessible to all, whether professional or an amateur just starting out. Descriptions are to the point and clear. Illustrations are lavish and clearly labelled. Professional, Friendly, Informative and Fun, I cannot praise this publication enough.” – [John Richardson](#)