Section H. Section GLOSSARY

A SELECT GLOSSARY

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Able Seaman An experienced seaman.

Adze A traditional boat-building tool, for dubbing flat and for circular work.

After End That part of a vessel abaft the beam, nearest the stern.

Aldis Lamp A portable electric signalling lamp.

Aloft Above the deck, usually meaning high up in the rigging.

Amidships The middle section of a ship, in a fore and aft line or athwartships.

Anchor Chain The chain used to anchor a vessel, usually called cable.

Anchor Crane Usually mounted up forward in a vessel, for hoisting the anchor

aboard.

Angle Irons Iron or steel plates of angular cross section used in shipbuilding as

stiffeners.

Anti-Fouling Any specially prepared composition used for coating the bottom of a

vessel to prevent marine growth.

Apron Timber situated behind stem to create a landing for plank ends.

As Designed Drawings Set of drawings from which a vessel is built.

As Fitted Drawings Set of drawings compiled incorporating all modifications built into a

vessel during construction.

Backstays Wire ropes fitted as standing rigging to support mast against forces

acting in an oblique direction: they are led from a mast to a point just

abaft it at the ship's side.

Ballast Tanks Compartments holding water, or other liquid that can be pumped

from one tank to another for purposes of trimming a vessel.

Barquentine A three or more masted sailing vessel having square sails on the

foremast only.

Beam A transverse timber or steel bar to withstand the stresses at the ship's

side and used to support a deck.

Ream Shelf A large version of a gunwale but used in a decked vessel below decks to

support the deck beams.

Beam Trawl A trawl net whose mouth is kept extended by a beam.

Beating Sailing close to the wind with all sails taut.

Belay To make fast a rope round a cleat or belaying pin.

Belaying Pin A wood or metal pin that is fitted through the pin rail or fife rail and

around which ropes are belayed.

Bermuda Rig A Fore and aft Sail triangular in shape. The top comes to a point at the

> masthead. In vogue from the early 20th century as racing boats found they could sail to windward more efficiently than with the Gaff Rig, since the upper sail area can be pointed closer to the wind direction

than with a heavy gaff.

Bilge The rounded part of a hull where the sides and bottom meet. **Bilge Keels** Projecting fin-like plates fastened outside the hull at the bilges to

steady the ship at sea.

Bilge Keelson A stringer placed fore and aft across the frames at the bilge.

Binnacle The stand or case in which the ship's compass is housed, located close

to the steering position.

Bitts Heavy timbers in the deck to secure ropes to.

Block A pulley with one or more grooved sheaves, used as a tackle to gain a

mechanical advantage or to lead a rope in any direction required.

Boat Davits Curved metal arms used in pairs with a purchase on each to hoist and

lower boats from the mother ship.

Boathook A long stave with a hook attached at one end, used for fending off or

holding a boat alongside or for recovering purposes.

Bobstay The wire from the cutwater to the bowsprit to counteract the upward

pull of the forestays.

Body Plan A sectional diagram showing the curves of the frame, forward and aft

in a vessel's construction.

Bollard A stout circular iron post fitted in any required position to receive

ship's securing ropes. Usually mounted in pairs. A vertical timber in a

wooden boat.

Bolt Rope The rope sewn to the edges of sails to prevent fraying or tearing.

A spar used to extend the foot of a sail. **Boom**

Boot Topping Special protective composition applied to the Boot Top, located

between light and load waterline.

Boss Plates The structural shell plates through which the propeller shaft emerges. **Bottlescrew** A screw threaded casting which turns on two opposite threaded bars,

each equipped with an eye. Used for setting up rigging.

Bottom The keel of a ship, though the term is commonly applied to all that

exterior part below the waterline.

Bottom Boards Wooden boards fitted inside the bottom of pulling boats.

Bow The front of a vessel.

Bowsprit A spar projecting from the bow of a sailing vessel to which the head

stays are secured, supporting the foremast.

Brace Running rigging – ropes or tackles controlling the ends of a yard so

> that it can be pulled round to the desired angle. The heaviest brace in the ship controlled the mainyard, hence splicing, i.e. mending, the mainbrace was a huge task, which called for refreshment all round

when completed.

Break of Deck Where a deck is divided by a vertical thwartship bulkhead.

Breast Hook A selected crook of wood or metal shaped as a knee and fitted to hold

the gunwales or beam shelves to the stem.

Bridge The raised platform with a clear view all round, from which the

officers control the ship.

A two masted sailing vessel having square sails on both masts, and a Brig

gaff main sail.

Brigantine A two masted sailing vessel with square sails on the fore mast only,

being fore & aft rigged on the main mast.

Brightwork Varnished timber about the decks of a vessel.

Bulkheads Any transverse or longitudinal vertical partition maintaining rigidity

of construction and sometimes dividing a vessel into watertight

compartments.

Bulwarks The sides of the ship that are above the upper deck, they form a

protection from the sea.

Bumpkin A spar fitted over the stern of a vessel to anchor the mizzen sheets. **Buoy** A floating container anchored to the sea bed which may be used for

mooring vessels or indicating a wrecksite, or a channel.

Burton A type of purchase.

Buttock Lines Lines used in ship and boatbuilding plans to represent fore and aft

vertical sections equidistant from the hull centre line.

Cable The chain or rope to which the anchor is shackled.

Cape Horn Fever Malingering practised in cold rough weather.

Capstan A revolving metal bollard supplying power for lifting anchors and

working cables.

Carlins Fore and aft timbers between beams.

Cat Head A strong beam or metal support fitted to project from the bow, to take

the large tackle used when catting the anchor.

Caulking Driving oakum into the seams of planking or decks to make them

watertight, before 'paying' them with pitch.

Ceiling Planking In wooden cargo vessels the planking on the inner surfaces of the

frames forming the hold.

Centreboard A wooden board lowered from a sailing boat through a slot in the

middle of her keel, its purpose being to give lateral stability.

Chain Locker Space below chain or naval pipe where anchor cable is stowed.

Chain Plate Anchorage for the shrouds at side of vessel.

Chain Riveting Also called Double Riveting. Rivets placed two abreast in close parallel

lines.

Chart House Compartment on or near the bridge for the stowage of navigational

equipment.

Cheeks Sometimes located either side of stem and stern post to accommodate

rollers.

Cleat A wood or metal fitting with two arms, or horns to which a rope may

be belayed.

Clench To fasten or rivet a nail, by beating and then burring its end over a

rove (conical copper washer), with a hammer.

Clench Built Also called Clinker or Lapstrake. Overlapping strakes in a wooden boat

or metal plated ship.

Clipper A fast sailing ship with fine lines, raked masts and sharp bows. Clipper Bow A bow where the stem is concave from the stem head to the waterline.

Cloth Narrow length of canvas to be sewn together to form a sail.

Close hauled Wind coming from forward of the beam, sails adjusted to allow

forward progress.

Coaming A vertical housing erected around hatches etc. or a raised wooden rail

around a well or cockpit.

Cockpit The after well in sailing boats where the helmsman sits.

Collision Bulkheads Situated up forward in ships, to stop the inrush of water after suffering

bow damage.

Companion Hatch A timber structure over a deck opening giving access to the

accommodation below.

Composite Vessel A vessel constructed with a metal frame, but with planking of wood. **Copper Fastened**

Said of a vessel whose plank fastenings are made of copper rather than

iron.

Cordage General term for ropes made from vegetable fibres.

Counter A projecting stern, or the underside of the overhang of a stern.

Course The square sail bent to a lower yard, the main sail thus being the main

course.

Cove Line A decorative narrow concave band around a hull.

Coxswain One who steers a boat or one in charge of a boat and her crew. Cranse Iron A circular boom iron fitted to a bowsprit to take the stays. **Cringles** Metal thimbles fitted into the bolt ropes of sails at the corners.

Cross Jack Lowest yard on the mizzen mast or the sail it supports.

Cross Trees Timbers laid across the upper end of a mast supported by the cheeks, a

foundation for the top.

Cutter A sailing vessel with one mast, gaff mainsail and two headsails, jib and

staysail.

Cutwater The fore part or curved portion of a ship's stem. Datum Waterline A base line at waterline level used in lines plans.

Deadeye A round flat faced wooden block with three holes, through which

shroud lanyards are rove to tension the standing rigging.

Dead Rise The amount of rise of a ship's bottom above the base line, as measured

at maximum beam at the turn of the bilge.

Deadwood Blocks of timber attached inside and onto the keel fore and aft, where

> the hull is narrow and the angle of the timbers at its most acute. The deadwood extends from the stem and stern post and forms a solid upwards extension of the keel to which the timbers can be fastened.

Decklight Any strong glass prism fitted into a deck to permit access of light to the

accommodation below.

Diagonal Planking Built with the side planking at an angle of 45° with a second layer set

cross-wise at right angles to the first -

Dipping Lugsail A lugsail that has to be lowered a short way down the mast when going

about, so that the yard and tack may be passed round the mast, and

then re-hoisted for the new tack.

The weight of the volume of water displaced by a ship. Displacement

Dolly Winch Used for the discharge of cargo.

Donkey Engine & Boiler Any small boiler, often portable, used to operate machinery or provide

steam.

Double Bottoms The spaces between the inner and outer bottom plating of the hull. **Doublings** That part of a built-up mast where the top of one and foot of the other

above it overlap.

Downhaul Any rope specifically fitted to pull anything down from aloft.

Draught The depth from the underside of keel to the waterline.

Drogue A bucket or canvas bag used forward as a sea anchor, or over the stern

to check a boat's way.

Drop Keel A centreplate or centreboard.

Fairlead A metal fitting having two guards or arms, through which hawsers are

led outboard. Sometimes fitted with a central bollard.

Fathom A nautical measuring unit equalling six feet, applied to ropes for their

length, and to depths of water.

Fid The iron or wooden pin used to keep the heel of a topmast or bowsprit

securely in place, and also a tool to aid splicing and rigging work.

Fiddle Head An ornamental scroll on the bows in place of a figurehead.

Fife Rail An iron or teak rail fitted near a mast a few feet above the deck,

carrying belaying pins to which running rigging is secured.

First Mate The deck officer next in rank to the Master.

Fisherman's Anchor The oldest type of anchor, with the stock fixed at right angles to the

shank.

Flare The curve of the free board from the bows, upward and outward, providing extra lift to oncoming

waves.

Flush Plating System of plating where plates are fitted edge to edge using butt straps

inside.

Flywheel Pump A cranked shaft attached to pistons connected to the bilge pump with

two flywheels.

Following Sea When a sea runs along with the ship.

Foot Rope The rope on which seamen on square-rigged vessels stand when

working on the yards taking in sail.

Fore and aft Sail/Rig Any sail or system of sails where the sail is hoisted with the leading

> edge against a mast. The sail is controlled by a sheet which keeps it out at the optimum angle on either side of the mast. See also *Gaff Rig*,

Bermuda Rig.

Fore Peak Right forward part of a vessel inside the hull.

Forestay A wire rope located between the mast and the fore end of a vessel

supporting the mast.

Frame Structural rib taking up the shape of the hull of a vessel and fabricated

in wood, iron or steel.

Framing A combination of frames making up the entire shape of a hull prior to

planking or plating.

Freeboard The distance on a ship's topsides between water level and deck.

Freeing Port Apertures cut in the bulwarks of a vessel to relieve her of sea water on

Full Rigged Ship A three, four or five masted vessel square-rigged on each mast.

Futtocks The middle sections of a built-up wooden frame.

Gaff Rig/Sail A sail or system of Fore and aft Sails where the main lower sail is

> quadrilateral in shape. The lower edge may have a boom to stretch it flat, or it may be loose-footed, and the top edge is stretched by a gaff. A gaff-rigged mast would usually have a topsail, quadrilateral or triangular in shape, set in the angle between the gaff and the upper

Gaff The spar at the head of a four sided mainsail to which the sail is bent.

Gaff Topsail A three sided sail hoisted above a gaff rigged sail.

Garboard The strake of planking or plating each side of a vessel immediately

adjacent to the keel.

Gig A lightly constructed open boat capable of being rowed or sailed,

carried aboard some vessels to complement the lifeboats.

Gooseneck A fitting connecting the boom to the mast which has multi-directional

movement.

Grapnel A small anchor with three or more flukes, used for recovering objects

from the sea bottom, etc.

Grating A slatted timber framework used to cover hatches or as bottom boards.

Gun Tackle A block and tackle purchase used horizontally.

Gunwale In a boat the thick length of fore and aft timber located inside the

sheer strake to stiffen the structure. Formerly upon which a gun could

be mounted.

Half Tide Level or time halfway between low and high water, a constant factor. Halliard Ropes used to raise and lower sails, spars and flags aboard ship.

Handspikes Wooden spar with square section end used as a lever.

Hanks Metal rings used to secure a sail to a stay.

Hatch Wedges Used in the hatch cleats to secure the tarpaulin hatch covers.

Hawse Pipes Iron castings located at the bow, and occasionally the stern, of a vessel

with hawse holes through which the cables run and where the anchor

is secured.

Head Rails Timberwork outside the hull of a vessel at the bow to support the

structure, and used by the crew to answer the call of nature outside the

vessel, hence the term 'heads' for a marine WC.

Heaving Lines A line used as a messenger in advance of hauling a heavy warp across a

distance.

Heave To Trimming the sails to keep a vessel stationary in mid-ocean

Heel The location where the keel and stern post meet. Hog A fore and aft piece of timber similar to a keelson, but placed directly

on top of a keel in a small boat. Also a vessel that has drooped at each

end of the keel is said to be 'hogged'.

Horn Timber The section of timber joining the stern post/keel to the transom or

Horse A transverse metal rail on a sailing vessel which anchors the lower

blocks of the mainsheets to the deck, and along which the blocks can

Hounds Shoulders of timber or metal located at the mast head to create a

foundation for the shrouds and trestle trees.

The name applied to the entire structure of the body of a ship. Hull

In Ballast When a vessel is not carrying cargo

lack Stav A metal bar attached to the top of a square yard on the forward edge to

which the square sail is bent.

Jack Yard Spar supporting a four sided top sail set above a gaff main sail.

Jaws The arms attached to the end of a gaff to engage the mast.

Jib Boom A spar that extends the bowsprit and is located on top of it, though

they could be run in when in port.

Jigger Mast The after mast in a four masted vessel, or a mast set right in the stern

of a boat behind the tiller.

Joggled Plating Allowing both in and out strakes of plating in a metal hull to rest on

the frames, the out strakes being joggled over the inner and riveted.

Keelson An additional inner keel located across the top of the floor timbers

above the keel.

King Plank The centre plank of a laid deck.

Knees In a wooden vessel, wood or metal reinforcement brackets to tie the

ends of beams and thwarts into the hull structure.

Knight Heads Heavy timbers located either side of the bow to give additional

strength to the bowsprit.

Larboard Former term for 'port', now obsolete.

Lateen Sail A narrow triangular sail set below a long gently-sloping yard. It was

common in ancient ships and up to the 16th century, but since then

mainly confined to the Mediterranean and Arabian Seas.

Launching Ways Greased timbers down which to launch a vessel in a cradle.

To take a vessel out of service. Lay Up

Laying Off The drawing out of a vessel's hull shape on the mould loft floor

Lazarette A small provision store, sometimes on deck aft, to contain fresh food. Lee Shore A shoreline with the wind blowing towards it, thus more dangerous,

especially for sailing ships.

Wooden spars located vertically either side of a vessel to support her Legs

when she dries out on a beach or shallow harbour.

Lignum Vitae A very hard timber, used for the construction of dead eye's, block

sheaves and rigging fids.

Lines Plan The contours of a hull drawn in three views.

Load Line Load water line or Plimsoll mark.

Lodging Knee A horizontally positioned angled bracket in wood or metal built into a

vessel's hull structure.

Main Boom The spar on the lower side of a main sail. **Main Course** The lowest square sail on the main mast.

Mainsail A three or four sided sail hoisted on the main mast. **Mainsail Haul** The order issued when tacking a square rigged vessel.

Mainsheet The rope purchase used to trim the mainsail.

Make Fast To belay a rope.

Mast Bands Hoops of iron or steel fixed round a mast at intervals to clamp together

the timbers forming the mast.

Mast Step A grounding for the heel of a mast.

Midship Section The broadest cross section of a hull, a drawing showing a cross

sectional view of construction of the hull.

Mizzen Mast The mast third from the bows, usually the after mast.

Molgogger Sometimes called Mole Jenny. Portable multi-roller fairlead used with

drift nets.

Mould A temporary series of pieces of timber fastened together to form the

shape of one section of a hull, used in the construction of boats.

Mould Loft Where the moulds for the hull and other parts of a vessel are

constructed. Usually close to where the laying off of a vessel is done.

Oakum Strands of old hemp rope teased tarred, and used for caulking plank

seams.

Oilskins Waterproof overgarments treated or soaked with linseed oil giving

weather protection.

Ordinary Seaman Crew member yet to qualify as an Able Seaman.

Oxter Plate A complex shaped shell plate situated adjacent to the sternpost

immediately below the counter or transom.

Painter The rope secured to the fore end of a small boat to make it fast to the

shore.

Pawl Post A stout vertical post with the pawl for the windlass attached to it.

Pay Filling caulked plank or deck seams with molten pitch.

Peak Halyard A means of hoisting the outer end of a gaff with a series of blocks and

Pinrail A row of *Belaying Pins* fixed to a rail along the side of the deck either

> side of each mast, to which the many running rigging ropes were secured. The first thing any sailor had to learn was which rope went on which pin, so he could attend to the right one without delay. There were more or less standard layouts, but some captains had ideas of

their own.

Pitch of a Propeller The angle of the blade of a propeller or the distance one revolution

would cause it to move forward.

Poop The after raised deck in a ship.

Pooping of a Vessel To be overtaken by a following sea which crashes aboard, doing

damage.

Port The left hand side of a boat when looking forward.

Purchase A type of block and tackle.

Ouarter That part of a ship between the stern and midships. **Ouarter Decks** A low raised deck back aft, not as high as a poop deck.

Rabbet Groove cut into the keel of a vessel to receive the planking, edges and

ends, also used in other locations with ship's joinery.

Rake The angle at which a mast leans back from the vertical. Masts are

> rarely quite vertical, and ship captains had their own ideas about what angle would balance up the whole rig and give the best performance.

Ratlines Small ropes providing steps to climb the shrouds of a vessel, to which

they are tied.

Reaching Wind from the beam or thereabouts the fastest point of sailing Reefing A method of reducing sail area as the wind becomes stronger, by

folding or rolling up part of the sails.

Reef Points Lengths of cord worked into sails in lines for tying in a reef. **Reverse Sheer** Convex upper line of hull instead of the more usual concave.

Riding Sail A small sail, typically a *Gaff Sail*, also known as a steadying sail, set

> on a mast at the stern of a motor fishing boat to steady the vessel in choppy conditions, particularly in holding a steady course into the

wind or lying at one end of a drift net.

Ringtail A sail set aft of the spanker in light weather.

Rise of Floor See deadrise.

Rivet Small iron or steel rod with a head at one end. They are heated, then

> pushed through a prepared hole to fasten two or more metal plates together, and hammered over on the other side, creating a head which

makes a permanent tight fastening as the hot metal cools.

Rocker The keel of a vessel that is rounded fore and aft instead of being

straight.

Rocker Arm Windlass Type of windlass operated with a pivoted arm with a crewman at each

A metal washer over which a nail or rivet is hammered over on the Roove or Rove

inside of a plank or strake.

Rowlock A space cut into the washstrake or a metal crutch fitted on top of the

gunwale to take an oar.

Rubbing Strake A plank of thicker dimensions than its surrounding planking to protect

the side of a vessel against pier etc.

Rudder Head The top end of the rudder stock.

Rudder Trunk Housing in the hull for the rudder stock.

Ruffle Holes Holes in a keel fore and aft to assist in hauling a vessel up the beach.

Running Wind abaft (i.e. aft of) the beam round to right astern. **Running Rigging** The rigging of a vessel that moves with the operation of the sails, as

compared with the standing rigging, which holds the masts and spars

in place.

Sail Plan A drawing denoting the dimensions of masts and sails of a vessel.

Samson Post A strong bitt.

Scarf or Scarph The process of joining timbers together end to end to form a longer

> piece than otherwise available. Very elaborate interlocking and pinning together is needed to give the finished article the strength of a single piece of timber the same size. Scarfing was often used to mend a

broken mast or spar.

Scull A method of propelling a small boat with one oar.

Scuppers Holes at deck level cut into bulwarks to allow small quantities of

surface water to escape from decks and waterways.

Scuttles Apertures in the decks for loading coal.

Sea Anchor (See Drogue.)

Seam The gap left for caulking in a planked vessel or the overlap of cloths in

sailmaking.

Term used by pilots of the time they spend at sea looking for ships. Seeking

Self Righting A vessel designed with the ability to recover from a capsize. Serving The binding of wire rigging with marlin or other line for rust

protection.

Shackle A U-shaped metal link with a threaded bolt across the jaws, used to

connect items of rigging, etc.

Parts of the hulls of wooden vessels could be covered or 'sheathed' Sheathing

with lead or copper plates to prevent their hulls being attacked by

marine wood boring animals.

Sheer The fore and aft curve of a vessel's rail or deck.

Sheer Plan Drawing showing a vessel's fore and aft layout with thwartship,

horizontal and vertical sections.

Sheerstrake The top line of planking or plating in a vessel's hull.

Sheet A rope fastened to the clew (the lower downwind corner) of a sail and

used to trim the sail angle to the wind.

Shell Plating The external shell of a vessel made up of metal plates.

Shift of Butts The staggering of the butt joints employed in the construction of a

vessels hull planking or plating to eliminate weak lines of structure.

Shipwright A person skilled in the building and repair of ships.

Shroud Wire or rope employed from the ship's side to masthead to support it,

part of the standing rigging.

Skylight A framework over a deck aperture glazed to admit light below.

Gaff rigged fore and aft sail on the mizzen or jigger mast of a square Spanker

Spider Band A hoop fixed round a mast at waist level above the deck, fitted with any

number of Belaying Pins.

Spreaders Extensions bolted on *cross trees* to spread the mast rigging, giving a

better angle of support.

Square Sail or Rig A rectangular sail used in conjunction with a yard, to which its top

> is laced or tied. The yard and sail are in general carried cross-wise or athwartships, but may be hauled round by the *braces* to an angle either side. The terms are also used to mean a complete rig based

mainly on square sails.

Stanchion A fixed pillar of metal or wood for supporting bulwarks and other deck

and hull structures.

Standing Rigging The parts of the rigging that are fixed and do not move with the

operation of sails and spars.

Starboard The right hand side of a vessel when looking forward.

Stays The rigging supporting the masts in a fore and aft direction, from the

head of the masts downward and forward.

Staysail A triangular sail hanked to the stays supporting the masts.

Stem The upright timber or metal to which the planking or plating is

attached at the bow of a vessel.

The after end of a vessel. Stern

Sternpost The upright post to which the rudder and planking or plating is

attached at the stern of the vessel.

Sternsheets The part of an open boat extending aft from the aftermost thwart.

Softwood plug employed through the keel of a wooden vessel in the Stopwater

rabbet to prevent inflow of water at joints.

Strake Longitudinal run of planks in a wooden hull, or a belt of plating in a

metal ship.

Stretchers Foot support mounted thwartships in the bottom of pulling boats for

the oarsmen.

Stringers Fore and aft strengthening members laid connecting a vessel's frames. Storm Sail Smaller and very heavy-gauge sails which can be set when ordinary

sails would be blown out. See also *Trysail*.

Studding Sails Often called Stunsails. Extension sail to a square sail at its outward

edges when sailing in light winds to increase sail area.

Studlink Chain Employed for anchor cable, iron bars across links to prevent kinking

and for strength.

Stunsail Booms The extending booms from which stunsails are supported.

Sweep A long oar.

Tackle A generic name for a set of running gear, but also specifically an

> arrangement of rope and pulleys to multiply the force exerted by those pulling on the business end. In this sense it is the same as a Purchase, but there are different usages – a tackle should have two blocks

whereas a *Purchase* may have only one (but can also have two).

Tarpaulin Canvas weatherproofed with tar-like preparation used for covering

hatches and other deck openings, vulnerable in rough weather.

Thole Pin Wooden or metal pin in gunwale, in pairs or singly instead of a

rowlock or crutch to hold an oar.

Throat Halyard Rope used to hoist the inboard end of a gaff next to the mast.

Thwarts The seats upon which oarsmen sit, placed athwartships.

Tidal range Difference in water level between high and low tide. Varies greatly.

> Spring tides occur when the pulls of sun and moon reinforce each other. High water level and tidal range are at the maximum, low water level at the minimum. When the two pulls are partly opposed to each other, we get *neap tides* less extreme in all ways. Tidal range varies from 14 metres or more in a very few places, to practically nothing in

the Mediterranean.

Tiller Metal or wooden bar attached to the rudder head with which to steer a

boat.

Top Platform at masthead to extend the base of the shroud used as a

lookout position, or sniper's post, and as a base for working aloft.

Other masts had tops named correspondingly.

Topping Lift A tackle or rope suspending a spar or derrick.

Topsail A sail set above the main sail.

Tramp Steamer

Topsides Sides of the hull above the water. **Trailboards** Decorative boards on a ship's side usually at the bows.

A vessel carrying cargo that is not employed on a regular route but

calls at different ports as required.

Transom Area of vessel's hull which extends athwartships across the stern, and

supports the hull planking.

A bolt made of hardwood, usually oak, used to secure planks to the Treenail

wooden timbers.

Trestle Trees Fore and aft supports for the top at masthead height, giving a better

purchase for rigging.

Trysail A sail improvised to give some control when all normal sails have been

destroyed, or the mast(s) damaged. See also Storm Sail.

Tumble Home The inward slope of the topsides as they rise toward the top of the

bulwarks.

Ventilators Usually fitted with cowl tops for the purpose of ventilating the lower

regions of a vessel without allowing the inflow of water.

Wale Thicker strong strakes in a vessel's topsides.

Washstrake May be the top strake of a boat's planking, sometimes has rowlocks cut

into it.

Waterway A channel along the outer edge of a deck adjacent to the bulwarks

down which excess water will run towards the scuppers.

Waves Waves are usually generated by wind. The stronger the wind, and

> the greater the distance it blows over water, the higher the waves generated. Waves caused by wind in the immediate area are referred to as a sea. Waves generated by winds far away, different from local winds (if any) are called *swell*. Waves which roll into a sheltered

harbour where they may be no wind, are called scend. Some harbours need to include a scending beach deliberately without wall or quayside

in order to absorb scend.

Whiskers Shrouds supporting a bowsprit.

Winds Measured on the Beaufort scale from Force 1 (very light airs) to 10

> (Storm) or 12 (Hurricane). Some notorious winds have special names in certain areas, such as hurricane (Caribbean and surrounding waters), typhoon (South China Sea), mistral, scirocco, meltemi,

levanter, etc. (Mediterranean).

Windlass A geared wooden or metal horizontal barrel winch for hauling up the

anchor.

Yoke A wooden or metal fitting attached to the top of a rudder and having

ropes or yoke lines with which to steer instead of a tiller.