



NAUTICAL TERMS & NAVAL EXPRESSIONS

Uniform Edition

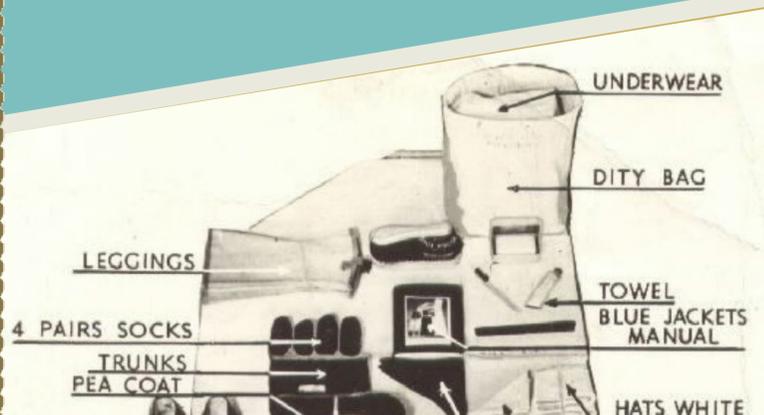
Part 1

In this series of infographics, we'll explore the origin of some common and peculiar nautical terms and expressions used in your U.S. Navy

BLUEJACKET

[\blü\-,ja-kət\] noun

An enlisted Sailor below the rank of E-7 (Chief Petty Officer). The nickname comes from the American bluejacket (pictured far left), a double-breasted jacket that was part of their original uniform. The blue-jacket was standard issue until the peacoat came along in 1886.



DITTY BAG

[\ 'di-tē\ \ 'bag\] noun

The bag issued to recruits that contains a sewing kit, toiletries, and personal items such as paper and pens. The ditty, or dity, bag was originally called "ditto bag" because it contained at least two of everything.

GIG LINE

[\ 'gig\ \ 'līn\] noun

The straight line that runs down the front center of the torso formed by the alignment of the shirt, belt buckle and trouser fly. Failure to align these elements when wearing the uniform results in a "gig," or recorded fault during inspection.



POOPIE SUIT

[\ 'püpē\ \ 'süt\] noun

These blue coveralls are the standard uniform for Sailors on many U.S. Navy ships and submarines at sea. This term also refers to the aircrew survival suit that provides protection for the whole body against the cold and wet.

BLACK SHOE

[\ 'blak\ \ 'shü\] noun

Any "Surface Navy" officer or CPO. The term comes from the black shoe worn with khaki uniforms and was distinguished from the brown shoe worn by aviators. Today, it is often used to also refer to all enlisted personnel in non-aviation career fields.



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