



NAUTICAL TERMS & NAVAL EXPRESSIONS

Food Edition

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

GALLEY

[\ ga-lē\] noun

The kitchen of the ship. It is likely a corruption of the word "gallery." Ancient Sailors cooked their meals on a brick or stone gallery laid amidships.



GEDUNK

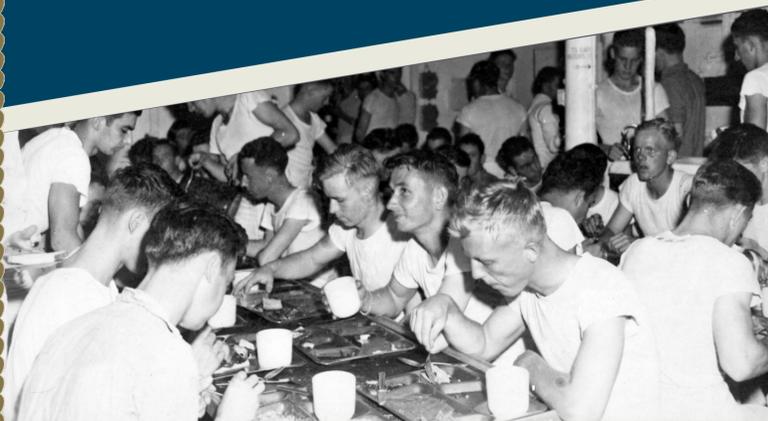
[\ 'gē,dəŋk\] noun

Ice cream, candy, potato chips, and other snack foods. Gedunk also refers to the place on a ship where these items are sold.

JACK-OF-THE-DUST

[\ 'jak\ -\ əv\ -\ θə\ -\ 'dɛst\] noun

Person in charge of the food supplies and provisions aboard the ship.



MID-RATS

[\ 'mid\ -\ 'rats\] noun

Shortened for "midnight rations," this is food that is served to crewmembers assigned to late night duties aboard ship.

STEEL BEACH PICNIC

[\ 'stēl\ \ 'bēch\ \ 'pik-(,)nik\] noun

A feast or barbecue held on the deck of a ship to reward Sailors. On aircraft carriers, this usually takes place on the flight deck or hangar deck, sometimes with volleyball or basketball games, or even a swim call.



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