

Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Centurion Naval Communications



Naval Communication

Ship's Terms Commonly used at the corps:

Gash/Gash Can - Garbage or a garbage can. **Stand Easy** - A break.

Secure - To close up, put away gear.

Head(s) - Toilet(s).

Duty Watch - A division that is selected on a rotational basis that is responsible for corps preparation and cleanup.

Scran Locker - Lost and found.

Out Pipes - The commencement of classes or the end of stand easy.

Pipe - Sound produced from a boatswain's call. The notes played have a specific meaning/message.

Colours - The ceremony of hoisting the national colours, usually in the morning or at the beginning of the training day.

Liberty Boat - When all personnel are dismissed for the day and may go ashore.

Bulkhead - A wall.

Deckhead - The ceiling of a ship.

Deck - A floor.

Ship's Company - The complement of a ship (this would include a sea cadet corps).

Sunset - The ceremony of lowering the national colours at the end of the training day.

Gangway - Any recognized entrance, passageway, or traffic route within a ship.

Captain - The Commanding Officer (CO).

Runner/Messenger - The person that is used to pass messages from the Main Deck to the Commanding Officer or Officer of the Day.

Canteen - The ships store

Galley - The ship's kitchen.

Boatswain's Stores - A storeroom for cleaning gear.

Pipe Down - An order meaning to keep quiet.

Kye - A hot chocolate drink or snack.

Coxswain - The senior petty officer on a ship/most senior cadet position.

Stand Fast - Stop moving, (Stand Still).

Belay - To make fast a rope, or to cancel an order.

Aye Aye, Sir/Ma'am - Order understood and will obey, an appropriate response to an order from an officer.

Port - Left side of the ship. **Starboard** - Right side of the ship.

Ship's Office - Administration Office.



Brow - Entrance/exit of ship where personnel must salute as they come aboard or go ashore.

Ship's Log - A logbook that keeps track of the ship's routine.

Quartermaster - At sea, the quartermaster is the master seaman, leading seaman or able seaman who is the helmsman. In harbor, the quartermaster is the senior member of the gangway staff and is responsible for supervising the boatswain's mate and the security of the brow. At a corps, the quartermaster is usually responsible for greeting guests and filling in the logbook.

The Phonetic Alphabet

Alpha; Bravo; Charlie; Delta; Echo; Foxtrot; Golf; Hotel; India; Juliette; Kilo; Lima; Mike; November; Oscar; Papa; Quebec; Romeo; Sierra; Tango; Uniform; Victor; Whiskey; X-ray; Yankee; Zulu

A Sailor's Dictionary

Abaft – Further aft than; never use the term “Aft of”.

A'cock-bill – Anchor clear of the hawse pipe; up and down and ready for letting go

Adrift – Absent, late

Aft – In the direction of the stern

Ahoy! - A call for attracting attention between nearby ships or boats

Aloft – Above

Athwartships – In a direction from side to side in a ship

Avast – An order to stop

Awash – Level with the surface of the sea

Back up – To assist in holding

Batten down – To secure closed or shut

Beach – shore or ashore

Beam end – When a ship is completely on its side; confusion

Bear a hand – An order to assist

Below - Down

Berth – A place to sleep or a ship to secure to

Between decks – Any space below the upper deck and inside a ship

Bilge – The very bottom of a ship's hull; also nonsense

Bitter end – Inboard end of ships anchor cable

Board - The old name for the side of a ship. To board and enter means to enter a ship (forcibly) “Inboard” means inside the ship, “Outboard” outside the ship, “Starboard” means right side and “Larboard” (Port) means left side

Boot topping – The black band around a ship at the water line

Brick – A shell (gunnery)

Brightwork – Polished metal fitting, often brass

Broach - To unintentionally swing the ship around broadside to wave

Brow - A gangway between two ships or from ship to shore

Capsize - To overturn

Carried away - Removed or lost due to sea or wind action breaking items from the ship

Cast off - To let go

Check away - To pay out a rope or wire under control

Chock-a-block - Full, no room to put anything else in

Clean - To change from one type of dress to another

Cleat - A piece of metal or wood with two horns, around from which ropes are made fast

Crest - The highest point of a wave

Derelict - A ship, abandoned by her crew, but still afloat

~~Dhobey~~ - Laundry - and hence DHOBIWALLAH – Person doing the ships laundry

Easy - Carefully or slowly

Eyes of the ship - The extreme forward end

Fair - Favorable or unobstructed

Fake out - To lay a wire or rope on the deck in a wide zigzag pattern, so that it is free for running

Fathom - Nautical measure, 6 feet

Fiddle - Fitting on a table to keep mess utensils from sliding in bad weather

Fleet – A general term meaning the ships of a navy

Flotsam - Any floating cargo, stores, or damaged equipment which have floated off a wrecked or damaged vessel

Founder - To sink

Furl - To fold or roll up an awning or sail

Grog - Traditional Navy drink

Handsomely - Slowly, carefully

Haul taut - To pull tight

Holiday – A gap or a space; area missed when painting

Irish pennants - Rope yarns or loose stray rope ends

Jetsam – Stores or equipment deliberately thrown over side to lighten ship

Jettison – To cast overboard

Junk – Old rope

Jury rig - Temporary, make shift device

Killick - Leading Seaman

Landfall - First sight of land after a sea passage

Lay Up - To take a ship out of service; (storage)

Lee – Opposite side to that upon which the wind is blowing

Make and mend - Time set aside to repair and replace kit

Mess traps - Food utensil kit

Overhaul – To take over; to examine and repair; to haul apart the blocks of a tackle

Port – A viewing window or opening in the ships side

Proud - Sticking out, not in line

Refit - To repair

Roundly - Rapidly or fast

Sculling - To leave lying about or unattended

Scuttle - A round port hole

Secure - To make fast; to stop work

Shipshape - Neat and tidy

Sister ships - Ships of the same class

Silent hours – Hours between lights out and calling the hands, only emergency pipes are made

Skulk – To avoid duty-usually in the sense of hiding

Snug - Properly secured; tight

Spell - Period of time

Spindrift - Spray blown from the crests of waves

Square one's own yardarm – To put oneself in the right without regard to others

Stanchion - A supporting post for a guardrail, etc.

Stone frigate – A Navy shore establishment (ship on land)

Stow - To put away

Sullage - Wet garbage

Swallow the anchor – Retire from the Navy or sea going life

Taut - Tight; to haul taut

Trick - A short spell of duty on a particular job

Work ups – To exercise the officers and crew of a ship in all their duties