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GLOSSARY OF NAUTICAL TERMS

Amidships.	The middle of a vessel, both longitudinally and transversely.
Aftwards.	Across the ship from side to side, at right angles to the keel.
Ballast.	Heavy material eg. stone, iron or lead, placed low in the hold to improve stability and lower the centre of gravity.
Barge.	A flat-bottomed vessel for inland or coastal waters.
Beakhead.	A projecting structure forward of the forecabin.
Beam.	The width or breadth of the hull, also timbers mounted athwartships to support decks and give lateral strength.
Bend.	The curvature or fore-and-aft angle of an inner or outer frame.
Bending.	The technique of shaping a frame timber to its correct fore-and-aft curvature.
Bilge.	The area of the hull's bottom on which it would rest if grounded: generally the outer end of the floor. When used in the plural, especially in contemporary documents, bilges, refers to the various cavities between the frames in the floor of the hold where bilge water tends to collect.
Bilge keel.	A secondary keel placed beneath the bilge or at the outer end of the floor. Sometimes called a <i>stater keel</i> .
Blitz.	A strong upright post used for securing lines and cables.
Boat.	An open vessel. Usually small and without decks. Also submarines are referred to as boats.
Bottom.	The underwater portion of a fully loaded hull, also used as a general designation for a seagoing vessel.
Bow.	The forward part of a hull, specifically, from the point where the sides curve inward to the stem.
Bowsprit.	A spar projecting forward from the bow.
Breasting.	A type of scarf used primarily to join the keel to the stem or keel timbers to each other.
Breastwork.	Balustrades along the upper decks.
Bulkhead.	A vertical partition, either fore-and-aft or athwartships.
Deck.	The side of a vessel above its upper deck.

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