KIDS in the NAVY



Sailing ships of all sizes were very important to commerce, shipping and even warfare over water in the early 1800s. Children of the early 1800s as young as 9 or 10 could serve on board ships and fill important roles. Children in the Royal Navy in England could even be junior officers and fight in battles!



MIDSHIPMAN - an officer of the junior-most rank, in the Royal Navy, United States Navy, and many Commonwealth navies. By the Napoleonic era (1793–1815), a midshipman was an apprentice officer who had previously served at least three years as a volunteer, officer's servant or able seaman. After serving at least three years as a midshipman or master's mate, he was eligible to take the examination for lieutenant.

SHIP'S BOY - A boy who waits on the officers and passengers of a ship, especially running errands for the captain. Boys were usually 13–16 years old, but sometimes as young as 8, and also helped the cook in the ship's kitchen. They would have to run from one end of

the ship to the other carrying messages and become familiar with the sails, lines and ropes and the use of each in all sorts of weather.





POWDER MONKEY - manned naval artillery guns as a member of a warship's crew. His chief role was to ferry gunpowder from the powder magazine in the ship's hold to the artillery pieces, either in bulk or as cartridges, to minimize the risk of fires and explosions. They were selected for the job for their speed and height: they were short and could move more easily in the limited space between decks and would also be hidden behind the ship's gunwale, keeping them from being shot by enemy ships' sharp shooters. Some women and older men also worked as powder monkeys.

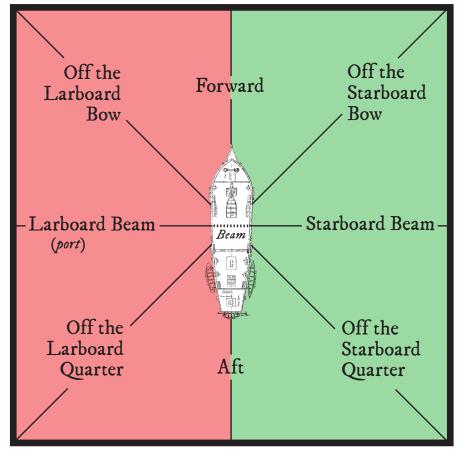
Parts of the SHIP

The FORECASTLE is the upper deck of a sailing ship forward of the foremast, or the forward part of a ship with the sailors' living quarters.

The MAIN DECK of a ship is the uppermost complete deck extending from bow to stern.

The QUARTERDECK is a raised deck behind the main mast of a sailing ship. Traditionally it was where the captain commanded his vessel and where the ship's flag was kept.



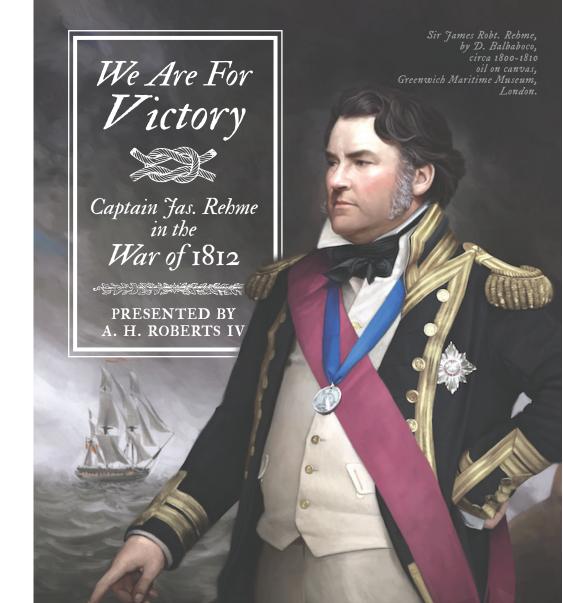


The purpose of *HMS ACASTA* is to accurately portray a crew of His Majesty's Royal Navy circa 1800-1810 for the educational benefit of the public and for the mutual research and enjoyment of the individual members.



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