**[Gentleman of Fortune](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/" \o "Go to Gentleman of Fortune's profile)**

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

My hobbies are all the "usual suspects" for those interested in re-enacting and Golden Age of Piracy stuff.... but I have drifted away from the pirate scene as my location and young family don't allow for any more than "virtual" pirate participation. Besides Piracy, I am into Reverend Guitars and Vintage Corvettes.

([IP: 80.129.232.148](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.129.232.148)) ·

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179859) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179859)

I am assuming that there was a ships biscuit/hard tack kind of thing for our period.

I think there is an original from the later 18th Century.

Flour- water- salt, round cake with "holes" for breaking in it...

Same for GAoP or?

There is an interesting thread at the Frontier Folk forum

[http://frontierfolk.net/ipw-web/bulletin/b...opic.php?t=5974](http://frontierfolk.net/ipw-web/bulletin/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5974)

and here is a biscuit maker that Mike Ameling made



Any thoughts?

GoF

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=edit)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.116.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.116.238)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179883) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179883)

From the 1701 Admiralty regulations for victualling, daily allowance per man:

"One pound avoirdupois of good sound, clean, well bolted with a horse cloth, well baked, and well conditioned wheaten biscuit."

South of 39N rusk could be substituted for biscuit.

Writing in the mid 1720s the Swiss Cesar de Saussure described RN issue biscuits, "as large as a plate, white, and so hard that those sailors who have no teeth, or bad ones, must crush them or soften them with water. I found them, however, very much to my taste, and they reminded me of nuts."

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=179883)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_179883_menu)

[**Gentleman of Fortune**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

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([IP: 80.129.232.148](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.129.232.148)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179904) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179904)

Thanks Foxe...

I think what I am getting at though is, would something like the above press be good for GAoP, or would any shape biscuit be ok?

I really like that press....

GoF

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=179904)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_179904_menu)

[**capnwilliam**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/35-capnwilliam/)

* Lost at Sea
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,287 posts
* Gender:Male

([IP: 68.14.108.67](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.14.108.67)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179913) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179913)

 Foxe said:

"so hard that those sailors who have no teeth, or bad ones, must crush them or soften them with water. I found them, however, very much to my taste, and they reminded me of nuts."

I've eaten them. and I concur: hard to chew, but very tasty! 

Capt. William

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=179913)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_179913_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 82.26.116.238](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.26.116.238)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179918) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179918)

Was this the biscuit you meant? This is only about 4", so much smaller than those described by Saussure. The prick marks are much smaller than those in the photo you posted GoF, and the broad arrow marks are missing. The prick marks might be to do with the size, and only official Admiralty biscuit would have had the broad arrow marks anyway.

Similarly, de Saussure was talking specifically about RN issue biscuit, so it's quite on the cards that merchant and private ships may have had different shaped and sized biscuit. Hope so, the stuff I carry around is square!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=179918)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_179918_menu)

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

([IP: 209.78.171.157](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.78.171.157)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=179923) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=179923)

An interesting "Cheat" for anyone that wants to make hardtack/Sea biscuits...

Add a little oil to the dough mix... It can't be documented, but you can eat the biscuit then.... Flour, salt and water makes "Play Dough"... With the oil, you have something that will keep forever, and is eatable......

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=179923)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_179923_menu)

[**hitman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1015-hitman/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 720 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sardis Ga
* Interests:women, booze,books,tobacco,tall ships.hot rods and other monstrocities

([IP: 148.63.212.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=148.63.212.65)) · · 

[Posted March 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=180170) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=180170)

Vegtable oil or olive oil?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=180170)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_180170_menu)

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

([IP: 209.78.171.157](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.78.171.157)) · · 

[Posted March 15, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=180191) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=180191)

Dosen't matter, I use vegetable oil....

I've eaten the Play Dough ones.... and the ones with oil..... you can actully eat the ones with oil.....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=180191)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_180191_menu)

[**Barber-surgeon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2795-barber-surgeon/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 64 posts

([IP: 4.246.81.70](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=4.246.81.70)) · · 

[Posted March 17, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=180885) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=180885)

Then too...when I read in some of the transcripts about "biscuits", I do tend to catch myself wondering, 'do they mean as in American Bisquits or British Bisquits..?'

British Bisquits=American cookies

Always a giggle that, the Separation by a common language!

Cheers!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=180885)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_180885_menu)

[**Tall Paul**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1113-tall-paul/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 169 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Colchester, Essex. United Kingdom. Britans oldest recorded Town.

([IP: 82.23.36.231](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.23.36.231)) · · 

[Posted March 23, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=182542) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=182542)

I recently bought a useful little book entitled

**MARINER'S MEALTIMES & OTHER DAILY DETAILS**

**of life on board a sailing warship**

By Una A. Robertson

Published by the Unicorn Preservation Society

it contains lots of useful information about food and provisions on board ship in the 19th Century.

This is an excerpt on the subject of ships biscuits.

*"Everyone has heard of ships' biscuits, nicknamed "Purser's Nuts," that were served in lieu of "soft tommy" (bread). The decreed ration was 1 lb per man per day. They were made in the Royal Bakeries attached to the dockyards where 70X4 oz biscuits could be produced every minute. We are told that they were "round, thick and well-browned biscuits stamped with a purforator in the middle" which compressed the centre into an unbelievable hardness. Made from a mixture of wheat and pea flour, sometimes adulterated by bone dust, they were unspeakably tough."*

The "Perforator" described is doubtless the item at the head of this topic. However, since it is unlikly that it would be possible to compress uncooked dough to unbelievable hardness with a hand held stamp, I thaink that the auther has missinterprited its function.

Whilst it is a simple matter to roll a ball of dough flat, and punch a few holes into it with a pointed stick, this process would take anything upto a couple of minutes to perform. As they were being produced at the rate of 70 per minute, using the stamp would reduce the actions of rolling and pricking to one single action taking only seconds. The length of the spikes would also ensuere a uniformity of thickness which would be important in ensuring an even cooking.

This stamp was used for making biscuits at a rate of over 4,000 per hour, in order to meet the demands of a Navy contract.

I imagine that bakeries producing hard tack for merchant or civil use would not have been under such pressures to turn out biscits at such a rate, they probably had the time to make them by hand.

MARINERS'MEALTIMES goes on to say.

*"But They were not neccessarily eaten just as a biscuit. They could be used in all sorts of ways; for example, soaked in water then fried with strips of pork fat: pounded in a canvas bag with a marlin spike until they resembled coarse flour, then mixed with chopped up meat and baked by the cook: a mixture of pounded biscuit and pork fat and sugar "made a delectable cake": and there was a was a mixture called "Scotch Coffee" - burnt ships' biscuits "boiled in water till (it resembled a) thick blacking paste then sweetened." This, believe it or not, was a favourite breakfast dish."*

 Quote

An interesting "Cheat" for anyone that wants to make hardtack/Sea biscuits...

Add a little oil to the dough mix...It can't be documented, but you can eat the biscuit then....

Any type of shortening will do this. Lard, suet, butter. it prevents the biscuit from drying out and hardening. they are quite tasty this way, but you can no longer keep them on your ships manafest for three years.

"Tall Paul" Adams

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=182542)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_182542_menu)

[**BILLY BONES**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/966-billy-bones/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 307 posts
* Location:Silverton,Oregon
* Interests:I'm a propmaster in the film industry (historical films only). Oil paint, make flags,period maps, scrimshaw, and documents, etc. Master armorer for POTC II & III in the Bahamas, flag maker for POTC III.

([IP: 70.56.218.74](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.56.218.74)) · · 

[Posted March 24, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=182827) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=182827)

Of course, for those who don't want to, or don't have the culinary talent to make them, you can order hardtack from two sources. One is the Mechanical Baking Co., and the other (which I recommend) is Bent's Cookie Factory. Both have made hardtack since the 1850s, and Bent's makes them on the original dies. Look at Bent's website (www.bentscookiefactory.com), and with alittle research, you'll find a rounder biscuit than their square Civil War biscuit. It looks quite similar to the above example. If I remember correctly, they sell the crackers in boxes of 20. Nice people to deal with too, and have a good handle on the history of hardtack. BB

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=182827)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_182827_menu)

[**The Doctor**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1278-the-doctor/)

* aka Mad Jack Wolfe
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 3,670 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:╦┐◤︻㍕┻═▄
* Interests:Historian and writer, partnered with the dazzling and lovely Honour Bright.

([IP: 66.41.198.216](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.41.198.216)) · · 

[Posted March 24, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=182835) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=182835)

 Tall Paul said:

... pounded in a canvas bag with a marlin spike until they resembled coarse flour, then mixed with chopped up meat and baked by the cook...

Add some dried peas and a bit of bacon fat, and you've got yourself a palatable Welsh Pie. :)

**Edited March 24, 2006 by Mad\_Jack**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=182835)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_182835_menu)

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

([IP: 69.85.147.39](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.85.147.39)) · · 

[Posted March 24, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=182887) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=182887)

You'll probably need a dentist if you bite into any o' them real ship's biscuits...breaks teeth really well... 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=182887)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_182887_menu)

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* 
* 
* Moderator
* 3,670 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:╦┐◤︻㍕┻═▄
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[Posted March 24, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=182889) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=182889)

That's why I suggested the bacon fat with the smashed biscuits and such. A bit of oil can make the biscuits at least a bit less harsh on the teeth. Bake it all into a Welsh Pie, and your belly won't growl for at least another 16 hours. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=182889)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_182889_menu)

[**Coastie04**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/27-coastie04/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,008 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Juneau, AK
* Interests:Nautical history, sailing (especially tall ships and my own 'Sanctioned Mistress'), shooting (of all eras and calibers), and homebrewing.

([IP: 152.121.19.61](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=152.121.19.61)) · · 

[Posted March 28, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=183545) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=183545)

I made a mistake sending this thread to one of my ship's cooks. So, today I had duty and was called down to the galley for my normal duties and sitting out there was two ship's biscuits. One was made with olive oil added and the other was more standard. It had the dimples in it that looked like he used a meat cleaver or something for the design, but it did look good. The one with olive oil was a bit flakey and just a little saltier than some of the buscuits we've had aboard at times. The other was not nearly as flakey, but was still rather palatable, about as salty as saltine crackers, but more substantial. I think the next time we go off shore for a few days, we'll probably find a tin of hard tack for any seasick crewmembers.

Also, this is the only hard tack I've heard of being made on Coast Guard Cutters lately. Keep the tradition alive!

Coastie 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=183545)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_183545_menu)

[**Jack Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2837-jack-roberts/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,063 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Orlando, FL

([IP: 70.11.103.219](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.11.103.219)) · · 

[Posted September 28, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221437) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221437)

So i'll drag this thread from Davy Jones' locker. So I would think that if they used wheat flour for the biscuts, I would assume it to be what we call whole wheat today. I mom has gotten into milling her own whole wheat berries. The bread produced from that flour is fairly dark brown. I would think that would be closer to what they would have had "back in the day" for the biscuts. What do you all think?

Also anyone tried to make thier own? I'm definity trying this weekend. Anybody got a recipe? I see that flour, water,and salt is the ingredients. I guess you just mix them until you get a dough like substance. MMM... I'll have to try.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221437)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221437_menu)

[**CrazyCholeBlack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3395-crazycholeblack/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,578 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Illinois
* Interests:Everything! Historic clothing, sewing, fabric dying, cooking, mead, ale, astronomy, celestial navigation, reading, music, film making, blogging & pillaging the internet for visual inspirations.

([IP: 24.159.237.138](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.159.237.138)) · · 

[Posted September 28, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221502) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221502)

thanks for digging this up jack. I'm guessing they would be made like "sack bread" where you add your liquid to a sack of flour & stir until it creates a dough leaving behind the extra flour.

I found it interesting that noone mentioned that the pricking ie docking, is used to prevent dough from rising. even a simple bisquit of flour & water will rise a little as the water evaporates & becomes steam. so docking is used to keep doughs flat (& thus pretty hard).

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221502)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221502_menu)

[**Captain Tightpants**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3115-captain-tightpants/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 50 posts
* Location:Easton, PA, USA

([IP: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221596) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221596)

 Amanjiria said:

So i'll drag this thread from Davy Jones' locker. So I would think that if they used wheat flour for the biscuts, I would assume it to be what we call whole wheat today. I mom has gotten into milling her own whole wheat berries. The bread produced from that flour is fairly dark brown. I would think that would be closer to what they would have had "back in the day" for the biscuts. What do you all think?

Also anyone tried to make thier own? I'm definity trying this weekend. Anybody got a recipe? I see that flour, water,and salt is the ingredients. I guess you just mix them until you get a dough like substance. MMM... I'll have to try.

I'm going to have to try it, too. I keep threatening all around me with an experiment in ship's biscuit and salt cod. 

I agree strongly that the stuff we've seen - in the thread above, and on Bent's website - is far, far too white. According to my cookery books, the white bread we're used to - called *manchet* - would have only been seen by ordinary people on special occasions, if ever at all. The refined flour required to make manchet was, comparably speaking, considerably more expensive than "bran flour," making white bread the stuff of the wealthy man's table.

Therefore I find it impossible that the notoriously parsimonious Royal Navy would contract for biscuits comprised solely of white wheaten flour. Somebody got an original contract/receipt?

P.S. - Robert May's *The Accomplisht Cook* (my copy is a fascimile of the 1685 edition) lists several recipes for manchet, and more for brown bread. All in all, it's a fascinating source for experimenting with C17 English cookery.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221596)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221596_menu)

[**CrazyCholeBlack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3395-crazycholeblack/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,578 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Illinois
* Interests:Everything! Historic clothing, sewing, fabric dying, cooking, mead, ale, astronomy, celestial navigation, reading, music, film making, blogging & pillaging the internet for visual inspirations.

([IP: 24.159.237.138](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.159.237.138)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221640) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221640)

Rather successful I'd say. I used 50-50 flour (half white half wheat). I did add about 2 tablespoons of oil for flakeyness. I doucked 1 bisquit & laft the other flat. The non-docked one had several bubbles while the docked version had only 1 in a spot I didn't poke enough. SO I'd venture to say the docking is to keep them flat.

I like them. Would I want to live on them& scummy water, no. But they were quite good with bean stew.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221640)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221640_menu)

[**Tall Paul**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1113-tall-paul/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 169 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Colchester, Essex. United Kingdom. Britans oldest recorded Town.

([IP: 82.23.38.106](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=82.23.38.106)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221646) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221646)

 Captain Tightpants said:

Therefore I find it impossible that the notoriously parsimonious Royal Navy would contract for biscuits comprised solely of white wheaten flour.  Somebody got an original contract/receipt?

I refer you to my previous post,

They were made from a mixture of Wheat Flour and Pea Flour, that is ground up dried peas. Although the use of pea flour was obviously for reasons of economy, it probably added valuable protein to the sailors diet. the cost was further reduced by adulterating the mixture with bone dust.

 Quote

I did add about 2 tablespoons of oil for flakeyness

Adding oil or fat to the mixture is a modern "Cheat" to make the biscuits more edible. shortening was not used in the origional recipy, as this woul have compromised the long shelf life (Three years or more) of the ships biscuits.

Ships biscuits were "Thrice Cooked" to remove the last vestige of moisture from them. in modern terms, this equates to several hours in a medium oven.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221646)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221646_menu)

[**CrazyCholeBlack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3395-crazycholeblack/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,578 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Illinois
* Interests:Everything! Historic clothing, sewing, fabric dying, cooking, mead, ale, astronomy, celestial navigation, reading, music, film making, blogging & pillaging the internet for visual inspirations.

([IP: 24.159.237.138](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.159.237.138)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221719) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221719)

thankfully Paul I don't have to be keeping them for the long haul. However I was more interested in seeing if they would raise without docking or not. Plus having something palatable to feed the little swab was a bonus.

One question, how thick were these rolled to? I'm assuming fairly thin right?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221719)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221719_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.136.170.128](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.136.170.128)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221727) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221727)

With reference to colour may I likewise direct to my previous posts, particularly this quotation:

 Quote

Writing in the mid 1720s the Swiss Cesar de Saussure described RN issue biscuits, "as large as a plate, white, and so hard that those sailors who have no teeth, or bad ones, must crush them or soften them with water. I found them, however, very much to my taste, and they reminded me of nuts."

And this picture of some genuine 18thC ship's biscuit

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221727)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221727_menu)

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

([IP: 67.150.13.164](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.13.164)) · · 

[Posted September 29, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221733) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221733)

I think I'd rather eat Motza's.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221733)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221733_menu)

[**Jack Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2837-jack-roberts/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,063 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Orlando, FL

([IP: 70.119.18.84](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.119.18.84)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221769) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221769)

Interesting Foxe! I would have thought that they would have used the "cheaper" flour for the sake of cost. So the quote says. So maybe it was a white flour or maybe the "pea" flour and bone dust lightened the color a bit. What do you think?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221769)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/#elControls_221769_menu)

[**Gentleman of Fortune**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

My hobbies are all the "usual suspects" for those interested in re-enacting and Golden Age of Piracy stuff.... but I have drifted away from the pirate scene as my location and young family don't allow for any more than "virtual" pirate participation. Besides Piracy, I am into Reverend Guitars and Vintage Corvettes.

([IP: 217.229.238.117](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=217.229.238.117)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221775) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221775)

And maybe that is just one of many different ships biscuts made.

If its for a contract, you can bet they are going to cut some corners.

Greg

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.142.251.205](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.142.251.205)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221781) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221781)

Oh yeah, I'm sure there were different varieties of biscuit made by different suppliers. De Saussure was talkign about RN biscuit and the photo is of some private contract stuff, so it's safe to say that white was fairly common, but not exclusive I would imagine.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221781)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221781_menu)

[**MadMike**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1572-madmike/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 251 posts
* Location:Careened near the Gulf of Mexico
* Interests:1712 raid on Dauphin Island, Alabama.

([IP: 207.30.206.83](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.30.206.83)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221789) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221789)

Anyone who can't make biscuit should be lashed to the mast and forced to watch "Food Network" for 24 hours.

Seriously though, biscuit is easy to make, will last just about forever and it even tastes good (and yes, even looks like the 1784 century example).

Yours, Mike

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221789)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221789_menu)

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

([IP: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221807) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221807)

As someone who frequently burns water, I take offense! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221807)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221807_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 81.153.159.134](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=81.153.159.134)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221827) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221827)

Ex-Vixene once burnt trifle... :)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221827)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221827_menu)

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

([IP: 207.172.185.78](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.172.185.78)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221836) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221836)

See, I wouldn't even aspire to trifle! I aspire to having men cook for me. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221836)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221836_menu)

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

([IP: 66.53.217.107](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.53.217.107)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221840) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221840)

Well I can cook, but I am NOT making ships biscuts! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221840)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221840_menu)

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

([IP: 209.78.171.157](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.78.171.157)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221851) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221851)

 Quote

I aspire to having men cook for me.

Kass.... how do you like yer oatmeal.... runny or lumpy ? 

And no new ship's biscuts untill we finnish these from three years ago......

ON TOPIC.... I still have a few Ship's biscuts that are three years old, (made with a little oil) and they are still eatable, just no weavles yet.....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221851)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221851_menu)

[**kass**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1603-kass/)

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* Member
* 1,526 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Easton, Pennsylvania
* Interests:Historical Clothing from the 14th through 18th centuries. Getting all the niggling details right. Dressing up and having fun with my similarly-obsessed friends. :)

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[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221855) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221855)

I had oatmeal with weevils in it once. Well, I didn't eat it. My campmate handed me a bowl and I looked at it and thought, "What are these interesting little shapes in the oatmeal?" They probably weren't weevils but moth larvae. The instant oatmeal packets had been sitting on her shelf for sometime, but she figured if they were never opened, they'd be fine.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221855)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221855_menu)

[**Gentleman of Fortune**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

My hobbies are all the "usual suspects" for those interested in re-enacting and Golden Age of Piracy stuff.... but I have drifted away from the pirate scene as my location and young family don't allow for any more than "virtual" pirate participation. Besides Piracy, I am into Reverend Guitars and Vintage Corvettes.

([IP: 217.229.238.117](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=217.229.238.117)) · · 

[Posted September 30, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221866) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221866)

 Quote

And no new ship's biscuts untill we finnish these from three years ago......

\*\*snicker\*\*

GoF

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221866)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221866_menu)

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

([IP: 67.150.0.128](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.150.0.128)) · · 

[Posted October 1, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=221990) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=221990)

Hey Patrick, with any luck, if you keep them for another ten years or so, you can put them in the Smithsonian! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=221990)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_221990_menu)

[**CaptainJackRussell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2767-captainjackrussell/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 122 posts
* Location:Hamburg/ Germany
* Interests:Piracy. Certainly. Martial Arts, Pirates Tabletop by wizkidz, LARP, Reenactment, shooting my muzzleloaders and have always a lot of fun with good company.

([IP: 84.143.75.84](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=84.143.75.84)) · · 

[Posted October 3, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=222282) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=222282)

Thanks for this thread 

I tried to make ships bisquits as well, using 80% wheat white flour, 20% pea flour (bought in an indian foodstore), mixed with water and a little salt.

I rolled it to 5mm thick plate, then using a large glass to cut out circles. A flower display I used to make the holes for breaking.

The baking itself was more a kind of drying. I used 170°C and baked them until a light brown color.

Indeed, their taste is a little like nuts, and the are hard like hell. Good teeth required.

Quite funny indeed is that the german army has such cookies until today issued. The german EPA (german version of MRE) contains always a packet of "Hartkeks", translated best with "Hardtack", well known as "SAPI-Plates" within the german armed forces.

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/comm...tkeks\_offen.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7e/Hartkeks_offen.jpg/800px-Hartkeks_offen.jpg)

Some people indeed like them, but it seems to be a soldier's teeth test to eat. Anyways, they don't taste so bad once chewed. The alternative use is to light a fire with them. Get firewood, make a fine fireplace. Then (we did it quite often during my times at military duty) make a sandwich using the cookies and the issued shoe polish. Light with a windproof match. It burns like hell and lights any fire in a few moments.

I prefer the US crackers:)

By the way, does anyone know where I can get cold weather version of MRE to order? They should ship to Germany and accept Paypal.

Tally Ho,

Jack/ Marcus

**Edited October 3, 2006 by CaptainJackRussell**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=222282)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_222282_menu)

[**Patrick Hand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1049-patrick-hand/)

* The sailor's sailor
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 6,100 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:TH' Mountains of Central California
* Interests:I like wierdness... Klingon, Pyrate..... and even..... gasp.... Renn Faires...... (Baseball and tractor pulls I'd have to think about.... could be wierd or Not,,,,)

([IP: 209.78.171.157](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.78.171.157)) · · 

[Posted October 4, 2006](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=222567) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=222567)

This is out of Period, but interesting.... it is from a site about Nelson... that Blackjohn posted about how Knots of speed were measured... but I looked at some of the other topics and found this on "The Biscuit Factory"

<http://www.twogreens.com/wakeup/lifeatsea/biscuit.htm>

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=222567)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_222567_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,082 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 75.128.82.198](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=75.128.82.198)) · · 

[Posted August 18, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402331) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402331)

 On 3/14/2006 at 1:13 PM, Patrick Hand said:

An interesting "Cheat" for anyone that wants to make hardtack/Sea biscuits...

Add a little oil to the dough mix... It can't be documented, but you can eat the biscuit then.... Flour, salt and water makes "Play Dough"... With the oil, you have something that will keep forever, and is eatable......

Aha! Leave it to the estimable Patrick Hand to present a solution to the concrete-like substance of hard tack. I was reading about Ship's biscuits at Brigand's Grove and I learned that the closer you get the biscuit to the actual cooking time, the softer it is. They get harder and harder as they spend more time drying out. This may explain why Coastie said that the CG cook biscuit made without oil was "...not nearly as flakey, but was still rather palatable, about as salty as saltine crackers, but more substantial." Learned a lot this past weekend, I did. For example, I also read that people did not just take a chaw off the biscuit, they cut slivers of it off or smashed it with something hard and put the tiny pieces into their soup.

**Edited August 18, 2011 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402331)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402331_menu)

[**Dutchman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/6150-dutchman/)

* Has anyone seen my cousin?
* 
* 
* Admin
* 1,773 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:tidewater virginia

([IP: 166.67.66.8](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.67.66.8)) · · 

[Posted August 21, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402398) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402398)

when i did the nelsons navy diet experiment a few years ago (incidentally, i would not recommend trying it as our modern bellies are too soft) i found reconstituted with the peas and a bit of beef left from the day before with a bit of butter was a good meal. i also liked them soaked in water with a drizzle of molasses over them.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402398)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402398_menu)

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

([IP: 76.181.82.246](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.181.82.246)) · · 

[Posted August 22, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402426) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402426)

We used to have enough biscuit on the Santa Maria to nibble on it occasionally. Even the hard stuff softens up after you gnaw on it. The salt in it tastes good on a hot day.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402426)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402426_menu)

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

([IP: 109.150.212.113](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=109.150.212.113)) · · 

[Posted August 23, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402431) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402431)

We did an 1812 'do' at the Tower of London and we made biscuit for that (flour water salt), it worked well as a thickener /bulker for the stews and one of the leftover biscuits served as a teether for both my mates children.

**Edited August 23, 2011 by Grymm**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402431)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402431_menu)

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

([IP: 109.150.212.113](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=109.150.212.113)) · · 

[Posted August 23, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402432) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402432)

Mashed up with a bit of gravy and suet and made into 'dumplings' worked too.

Reminded me of 'Biscuits AB' from British Army Compo Rations, you could stand on the packets and not break the things.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402432)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402432_menu)

[**Littleneckhalfshell**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4-littleneckhalfshell/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 390 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Hudson Valley, NY
* Interests:Blacksmithing, hunting, fishing, stuff.......

([IP: 24.105.219.183](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.105.219.183)) · · 

[Posted August 24, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=402456) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=402456)

it would be interesting if one of those 'food' contest shows, would put ships biscuit as a mystery ingredient! ;-) Then see where they go from there. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=402456)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_402456_menu)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409085) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409085)

 On 3/14/2006 at 10:08 AM, Foxe said:

From the 1701 Admiralty regulations for victualling, daily allowance per man:

"One pound avoirdupois of good sound, clean, well bolted with a horse cloth, well baked, and well conditioned wheaten biscuit."

South of 39N rusk could be substituted for biscuit.

Writing in the mid 1720s the Swiss Cesar de Saussure described RN issue biscuits, "as large as a plate, white, and so hard that those sailors who have no teeth, or bad ones, must crush them or soften them with water. I found them, however, very much to my taste, and they reminded me of nuts."

Good quote which tells much about the sea life .... ”Those who had no teeth, or bad ones". Are there much old biscuits left? I have found only one picture and it is late 18th C biscuit. I am just asking for fun.

Hmm I wonder would it taste good ...

[http://www.rmg.co.uk...php?f=D4001.jpg](http://www.rmg.co.uk/tserver.php?f=D4001.jpg)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409085)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409085_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* 
* 
* Admin
* 5,082 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 24.247.94.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.247.94.112)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409086) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409086)

It doesn't taste like much of anything to me. Of course, the only hard tack I've had had to be soaked for quite a long time in broth before you could even begin to eat it.

True to their name they are incredibly hard and nearly impervious to all liquids. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to find that the cobblestone streets in Europe are laid upon a foundation of ship's biscuits.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409086)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409086_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.147.209.185](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.147.209.185)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409087) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409087)

See my quote from Cesar de Saussure, above.

If the hard tack you ate was tasteless, impervious to liquid, and too hard for someone with healthy teeth to eat, then it probably wasn't right.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409087)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409087_menu)

[**Swashbuckler 1700**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/20630-swashbuckler-1700/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,115 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Europe
* Interests:pyrates, pryvateers, naval military and other history, different books, good movies, music (a little bit), drawing, games,...

([IP: 80.223.160.249](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.223.160.249)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409088) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409088)

 On 5/8/2012 at 1:42 PM, Mission said:

It doesn't taste like much of anything to me. Of course, the only hard tack I've had had to be soaked for quite a long time in broth before you could even begin to eat it.

True to their name they are incredibly hard and nearly impervious to all liquids. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to find that the cobblestone streets in Europe are laid upon a foundation of ship's biscuits.

I was meaning would the over 200 eyars old food eatable....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409088)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409088_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.147.209.185](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.147.209.185)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409089) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409089)

I doubt anyone will ever find out, since 200 year old hard tack would be too valuable to eat.

However, I suspect that it would probably taste much the same after 200 years as it does after 2 years. I have a few pieces of ten year old hard tack which I use for education work, and which is just as edible now as it was when I made it. Since the very old surviving hard-tack looks the same as it did when it was fresh baked, I imagine that it tastes much the same too. If it survives going mouldy in the first month it'd probably last forever.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409089)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409089_menu)

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

([IP: 67.237.182.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.237.182.13)) · · 

[Posted May 8, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409091) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409091)

So has anyone come across an actual period recipe yet or is everyone still guesstimating?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409091)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=2#elControls_409091_menu)

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

([IP: 109.157.207.185](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=109.157.207.185)) · · 

[Posted May 9, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409096) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409096)

From the Royal Naval Museum

<http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/info_sheet_ship_biscuit.htm>

**THE NAVAL "HARD TACK"**

There has always been a need for nutritious, easy to store, easy to carry and long-lasting foods in the Royal Navy. Nuts, fruits, vegetables, live game and fish fulfilled a limited role, but the introduction of cooking and baking various cereals provided a more reliable source of food for travellers, especially at sea. Egyptian sailors carried a flat brittle loaf of maize bread called *dhourra cake*. The Romans had a biscuit called *buccellum*

King Richard I (Lionheart) left for the Third Crusade (1189-92) with “biskit of muslin” - mixed corn compound of barley, rye and bean flour. At the time of the Armada in 1588, the daily allowance on board ship was 1lb of biscuit plus 1 gallon of beer. It was Samuel Pepys in 1667 who first regularised naval victualling with varied and nutritious rations.

Biscuits remained an important part of the sailor’s diet until the introduction of canned foods and bread. Preserved beef in tins was officially introduced in 1847, although tinned items had previously been used in arctic exploration. Canned meat was first marketed in 1813. In the mid-1850s with improved design and new baking equipment, it became possible to bake bread on board ship.

Biscuits have always been made to a large and varied recipes e.g. seed biscuits, fruit biscuits, long biscuits etc. The essential and common ingredients were flour and water, Most flour used today is milled from North American wheat or similar hard grain cereals. It would be difficult to produce an historically authentic biscuit from modern refined flour.

**Recipe**

To produce a similar plain ships biscuit, a medium coarse stone-ground wholemeal flour should be used.

Add water to 1lb wholemeal flour and 1/4oz salt to make a stiff dough. Leave for 1/2 hour and then roll out very thickly. Separate in to 5 or 7 biscuits. Bake in a hot oven approx. 420 degrees F for 30 minutes. The biscuits should then be left undisturbed in a warm dry atmosphere to harden and dry out.

Biscuits are still purchased for the Ministry of Defence for use in operational ration packs but not for general messing.

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[**Capt. Trueblood**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/14117-capt-trueblood/)

* Deck Swabber
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* 37 posts
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([IP: 76.92.182.211](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.92.182.211)) · · 

[Posted May 12, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409174) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409174)

A fine article with sources here: <http://www.colonialbaker.net/Reproduction%20Biscuit%20article%20JOTEA%202011.pdf>

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409174)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3#elControls_409174_menu)

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[Posted May 13, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409177) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409177)

 On 5/8/2012 at 2:33 PM, Foxe said:

See my quote from Cesar de Saussure, above.

If the hard tack you ate was tasteless, impervious to liquid, and too hard for someone with healthy teeth to eat, then it probably wasn't right.

Somewhere, possibly that article I cited last year, I had read that hard tack was sometimes baked three times or more to assure it would last longer. 'Right' may be too subjective a term. Perhaps 'typical' or (based on what I had) 'edible' would be better terms. 

(Although I must confess I wondered when had that hard tack at the Blackbeard festival how the hell anyone ever ate the stuff. At the time I thought of all the times the sailors food was rationed and decided that must have something to do with it.)

As for taste, I can't see flour, water and salt having much more taste than the stuff I tried.

**Edited May 13, 2012 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409177)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3#elControls_409177_menu)

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([IP: 198.12.16.4](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=198.12.16.4)) · · 

[Posted May 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409191) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409191)

When I was a child my mother used to make a paste for crafts out of flour and water. We used it for everything including paper mache. I just can't image adding salt a baking that paste would make it tasty.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409191)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3#elControls_409191_menu)

[**William Brand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1471-william-brand/)

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* Admin
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* Gender:Male
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSkt-q-HihQ

([IP: 166.70.59.121](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=166.70.59.121)) · · 

[Posted May 14, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=409192) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=409192)

John made ship's biscuits three years back for Fort de Chartres. I kept one in my kit. It's still edible despite being hard as a rock. I think it will outlast me.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=409192)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3#elControls_409192_menu)

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[Posted October 23, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=411742) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=411742)

 On 3/14/2006 at 6:02 AM, Gentleman of Fortune said:

and here is a biscuit maker that Mike Ameling made



I was so very sorry to learn the Mike Ameling died a few years back. I had no idea. The man was an amazing artist when it came to blacksmithing.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=editComment&comment=411742)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&page=3#elControls_411742_menu)

[**Capt. Bo of the WTF co.**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2748-capt-bo-of-the-wtf-co/)

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[Posted October 24, 2012](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=findComment&comment=411787) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/7067-ships-biscuits-for-gaop/&do=reportComment&comment=411787)

Yes he was. Most of the strykers I make are directly from his research. I regret having lived so near and never met him.

As for the hard-tack reciept for ships bicuit vs. U.S. Civil War hard -tack, it usually is too hard to do anything with until it has soaked for a couple of hours. We use it for some of our living history encampments and I dread seeing it come out in rations. I always save every drop of bacon grease to make the stuff edible...errr, somewhat edible. There may be some difference in baking but I assure you all that it is too hard for even healthy teeth.

Bo