

## **Biscuit and Bread**

Q: What did Nelson's men call the bread supplied to their ships?

A: Biscuit!

But don't be fooled into thinking that these biscuits tasted like custard creams, there was no sugar in them at all! They were made from only flour and water, kneaded a little and then thrown in the oven. These biscuits were baked until they were really hard so that they lasted on long voyages.

Can you even imagine how that might taste?

Not only would the bread have tasted hard and bland but also it was full of a type of beetle called a weevil! The sailors had little black weevils crawling everywhere, infesting their food eugh!!

The only thing that could prevent this would be a tin-lined chest, packed in canvas or cloth bags BUT these hadn't been invented yet!

Sailors had to eat these biscuits (and maybe a revolting weevil or two!) until proper bakeries were fitted in ships at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.