



## IDIOTIC IDIOMS - 2

**WHERE DOES THE SAYING "DOGSBODY" COME FROM?**

A DOGSBODY IS A LOWLY PERSON WHO GETS ALL THE DIRTY JOBS, LIKE EMPTYING THE ASHTRAYS OR PUTTING NEW TONER IN THE PHOTOCOPIER. ANYTHING MENIAL, DISAGREEABLE, OR BORING SOMEHOW MAKES IT INTO THE JOB DESCRIPTION. AMERICANS MIGHT PREFER GOFER OR GRUNT INSTEAD. THE WORD IS A PRODUCT OF THAT GREAT MELTING-POT AND FOUNT OF CULTURE, THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY. BRITISH SAILORS AT THE TIME OF NELSON WERE JUST ABOUT THE WORST-FED PEOPLE AROUND, LIVING AS THEY DID ON A MONOTONOUS DIET THAT INCLUDED SUCH BAD FOOD AS BOILED SALT BEEF AND SHIP'S BISCUITS. ONE OF THEIR STAPLE FOODSTUFFS WAS DRIED PEAS BOILED IN A BAG. THE OFFICIAL NAME FOR THIS CONCOCTION WAS PEASE PUDDING, BUT JOLLY JACK TARS KNEW IT FOR WHAT IT WAS, AND CALLED IT DOG'S BODY. PERHAPS IT CAME FROM THE SHAPE OF THE BAG AFTER IT HAD BEEN BOILED.