

"Trenchard"

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 22 May 1998

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Dan'l Danehy Oakes — 22 May 1998, 08:51

Tony Ellis wrote:

As for the significance of Trenchard... a trencher is, of course, a wooden or ceramic platter, and significantly the word comes from the French trenchoir. Would that make a trenchard some sort of serving man, a medieval plate-carrier? Just a thought.

Trencheior or _trenchier_, actually; a medieval French verb now obsolete in either form. (May come from *trincare*, a later Vulgar Latin verb meaning 'to cut or divide in three,' but that's not attested.) The verb meant 'to cut,' and is also the root for "trenchant."

Given the -ard suffix, I would guess that "trenchard" means something like "person from the trench." Not very helpful, I know.

--Roach