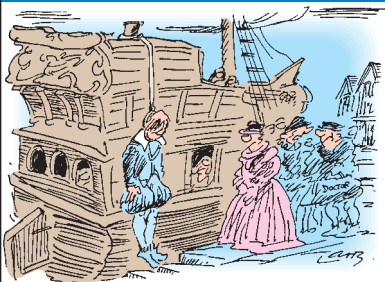


The bitter end



When you have finally finished that dreadful job, you have seen it through to the ***bitter end***. The saying goes back to sailing ships in the 1500s and has nothing to do with fed-up sailors. ***Bits*** were strong, wooden posts fixed to the deck of a sailing ship, used for securing the anchor and other cables. When a rope was let out to the ***bitter end*** that was as far as it could go. Ships' posts for securing lines and cables are still called **bits** today