Mustard or Pepper Bottle
(Cairo Bottle)

This octagonal bottle is a replica of those found on the sunken U.S.S. Cairo, an ironclad gunboat that sank in the Yazoo River during the Civil War. These bottles were marked "U.S. Navy" in raised letters, and contained mustard or pepper sauce, and were sealed with cork stoppers. One bottle, removed during the excavation of the wreckage in 1964, contained edible pepper sauce. Condiments were used liberally to season the crewman's bland diet.

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