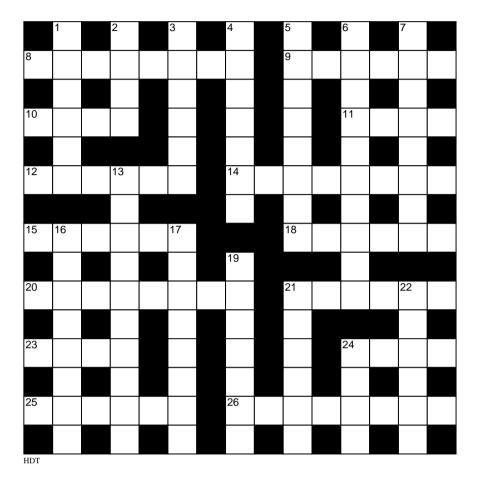
Mess Deck Cryptic Crossword

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ACROSS

- 8 After the sailor fled in retreat, the pressman was told (8)
- 9 Fixed by nail for African (6)
- **10** Open up in a sound of battle (4)
- 11 Headless bear goes round in circles (5)
- 12 Join up, strangely silent (6)
- 14 Maladies of the manliest (8)
- 15 Sail with new sector (6)
- **18** Ships that supply weapons to an American lawyer (6)
- 20 The Royal Navy choose altered ship (8)
- 21 Weak and aged nurse on French island (6)
- 23 Body of boat on the Humber (4)
- 24 Found in a message by Morse (4)
- 25 Corrupt practices a sailor employs (6)
- 26 Early days after delivery of late anon. (8)

DOWN

- 1 The said clergyman's gun (6)
- 2 Ship featured in extract from retrospective programme (4)
- **3** A watercourse, and the way it can absorb an artist (6)
- 4 A mad girl, not good, bashed officer (7)
- 5 I'll float round the ships (8)
- **6** Sailors start lashing in a beam seen slipping (4,6)
- 7 Boyfriend required by law (8)
- 13 Oliver's image destroyer (10)
- 16 Yields, hearing knight arrives (8)
- 17 Temporary home letter has a stake (4,4)
- **19** Taking ship with a desperado (7)
- **21** Sarah embraced one soldier or seaman (6)
- 22 Foreign seaman left with a mark of injury (6)
- 24 Port for trade (4)