

Food for Officers

Often live animals were hoisted aboard to provide fresh meat. They were usually the private property of the officers.

It must be admitted that the sailors did not like it but dare not say anything to see seventeen or twenty dishes carried to the Great cabin - full of savoury meats and vegetables when they had dined off a gob [piece] of pork or pease and water.

Had pease soup with a fiery pepper. A chicken boiled but with the taste as if it had been used to swab [clean] the decks before being put in the pot.

Aaron Thomas

We have three dozen turkeys on board which cost us only two shillings [10p] a piece. I have got a nice cow for ten pounds.

Captain Thomas Freemantle



National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

In our last cruise we had not much sickness, the Captain had allowed the seamen to supply themselves with pigs. These were left to run on the main deck and one day I counted one hundred of them. They were washed every morning and fed by their owners. That supply of fresh meat helped keep off the scurvy *

We have now on board six live sheep, five goats and six kids. They eat under the deck and when I came up this morning it stank of the cowyard.

Aaron Thomas