

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Practice makes perfect. Sailors constantly practised drills and exercises to make them ready for battle. 'Clear the decks' was the order to take all the wooden partitions down so the decks were clear of obstacles. If there were animals aboard they were placed in a boat and towed behind the ship or simply thrown over-board.



Sailing ships attempted to get alongside each other so they could fire their cannon at close range
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

The Admiral gave orders to clear the deck for action. All the cabins were knocked down. Several broadsides were fired to make ready for battle but it was only practice. In my opinion ammunition was thrown away and wasted. Now there is only canvas screens to keep out the frost and snow.

Captain Wybourne

A few of the midshipmen were sent below decks, with orders to shoot any man who attempted to run away.

Samuel Leech

Musket ball made of lead.
Imagine what damage it would do to a body.

National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London

