

O! the weary cutters - they've taken my laddie away frae me,
O! the weary cutters - they've taken my laddie away frae me;

They've pressed him far away foreign, with Nelson ayong the salt sea.

O! the weary cutters - they've taken my laddie away from me.

Tyneside song



A cartoon showing the Press Gang in London

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

Activities

1 Draw up a poster to attract volunteers into the navy. (Life of adventure, visiting foreign places, money from 'prizes' taken in battle)

2 Collingwood didn't like the press gang but he had sailors aboard his ships who had been pressed and once organised a press gang himself. How might he explain why he was against press gangs but accepted them as a means of getting men into the navy.

3 How might you try and persuade the navy not to take away their men into the navy?

4 A newspaper article 'Riot at Shields'. You have been sent to Shields to write the story of the riot. (reasons for the press gang, what happened, the future of the press gang).

5 Make up a tune for the two Tyneside songs. Add another verse to the first song.