

Stopping the grog [rum] of all who were found drunk for a month or six weeks at a time or putting an extra quantity of water in it. Sometimes they were given extra duties that were unpleasant, such as cleaning out the heads [toilets].

Daniel Goodall



Cat o' nine tails

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich,

No one was supposed to swear on board the *Minerva* but it was almost impossible to prevent it. At seven in the morning one man was punished with half a dozen lashes. Though the punishment was light the old seamen didn't like it as they'd been used to swearing and only fined a shilling (5p).

William Richardson

The Captain does not flog a man for a mistake which was not his fault. The only crimes for which punishment is carried out is for drunkenness, answering back, quarrelling or not doing your duty. It generally happened that the same men got into trouble for the same things which convinces me that a ship's crew could not be kept in order without flogging. I have known a boy at school receive more lashes than ever the captain of the *Gibraltar* gave to his crew.

A Passenger aboard the *Gibraltar*

Punished William Dun, the gunner for hitting a woman on Friday night with a dozen lashes. Punished Michael Bryne with 9 lashes for complaining of the surgeon. Punished the boy Richard Skipper on his backside with 12 lashes for giving half a pint of rum to the *Gater* for washing his clothes. Many boys sell their rum otherwise they would get drunk.

Aaron Thomas

Swearing was strictly forbidden. When they were brought for punishment, a heavy wooden collar with 32lbs of cannon shot was added. The collar was fastened with a lock and key.

Midshipman Dillon