

I met Lord Collingwood in London: he was a school-fellow of mine. I had not seen him in many years - he had been so long on board ship that he walked with difficulty - we shook hands - I observed that tears flowed down his cheeks - I asked him what so affected him - He said that a few days before, his ship's crew were paid off - that he had lost his children - all his family - that they were dear to him, and he could not refrain from what I had noticed.

**Lord Eldon's anecdote book (1824-7)**

During upwards of the three years and a half that I was in this ship, I do not remember more than four or five men being lashed, and then so slightly that it could scarcely hurt, for the Captain was a very kind man, and although he made great allowances for the seamen, yet he made sure that the midshipmen of his ship carried out their duties well.

**Jeffrey de Raigersfeld**

... one morning after breakfast ... all the midshipmen were sent for into the Captain's cabin, and four of us were tied up one after the other to the breech of one of the guns, and flogged upon our bare bottoms with a cat-'o-nine-tails, by the boatswain of the ship; some received six lashes, some seven, and myself three. No doubt we all deserved it. Some time after this another of the midshipmen and myself were put to mess with the common men, where we lived with them for three months... At first I was angry at such treatment, but there was no help for it... and I am very glad I was so placed, as it gave me a great understanding of the character of seamen...

**Jeffrey de Raigersfeld**



The cat o nine tails was used to flog unruly sailors

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London