

HAZARDS ON THE SHIP

In the West Indies, the fuel made use of on board a ship is wood, among which varieties of insects are brought, such as scorpions, centipedes, and tarantulas, with now and then a few snakes; these soon begin to crawl up and down the ship, even into the hammocks, and the men frequently get stung and bit by them.

Jeffrey Raigersfeld



Cartoon showing the flight of a cannonball

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

At all seasons and in all places, they attacked us in every possible manner. Rats, mice, mosquitoes, locusts, flies, bugs, moths, cockroaches, fleas, scorpions, centipedes inhabit the ship. Besides being pestered in the day, we have been frightened in our beds by the prowling of rats, bitten by fleas, driven out by bed bugs and in danger of being carried off by cockroaches.

James Prior

The principal thing I see in the navy, requiring improvement is the galleys [kitchen] or fireplaces. I am amazed that half our ships are not burned down.

Major General Cockburn

The sergeants and corporals have to go round at night time with a lantern and a candle to see that all is well.

Robert Wilson