

## JUDGING THE PRESS GANG

The people they pressed were meant to be British sailors but mistakes often happened. Some fishermen were also protected because they were needed to bring food to the markets.

I have got a nurseryman (gardener) here from Wrighton [Ryton]. It is a great pity that they should press such a man because when he was young he went to sea for a short time. They have broken up his good business at home, upset his family, and sent him here, where he is of little or no service. I feel sorry for him poor man.

**Collingwood to John Erasmus Blackett (July 1804)**

Captain Maitland boarded the fishing boats and took two seaman from each boat, about forty in number.

**Naval Chronicle 1803**



Press Gang parting man and wife

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

Lieutenant Carter takes all sorts of men with his press gang, dragging them from their houses at all hours of the night. He also fired upon people who were not being pressed into the navy. This has caused great distress for there is little food to bring to the markets. He also pressed a soldier who was due to join his regiment.

**National Archives**