

Toilet Matters

The toilets were called 'heads' and were found at the bow of the ship. The toilets consisted of a row of seats with holes over a clear drop to the sea. There were very few seats, only six in the *Victory*. There was no toilet paper so scraps of paper were used. Seamen used wool, oakum (rope fibres) or a sponge, which they all shared. And rinsed in a bucket of water.

He had drunk too much grog and whisky and fell overboard after visiting the heads. When he was hoisted on board he was quite dead.

We are more like a prison ship, than a man of war. Only two men at a time may go to the privies [toilets], so the pains are quite unbearable, some foul their trousers for want of waiting.

Petition from the seamen

A person knocked at the captain's door with a bundle of papers. 'Very well,' replied the captain; put them in my head.'

Davis

One of our surgeon's mates went to the toilet in the water tank from where the men get their fresh water.

Davis



National Maritime Museum