WHAT DID THEY WEAR?

There was no uniform for sailors until 1857. Officers, however had a very splendid uniform.

Clean white trousers, neat blue unbuttoned jackets, glazed tarpaulin hat.

Charles Pemberton

They (sailors) are too lazy to make their clothing suit the occasion. Nothing is more common to see them wear the thinnest linen trousers in winter and a pair of greasy woollen ones in winter.

Dr Thomas Trotter

Dead men's clothing was sold off. No seaman shall be allowed to buy the deceased officer's clothes that are above their rank.



Sailors making their own entertainment. What is happening in this picture?

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

Navy Regulations 1808

Most officers removed the gold epaulettes (shoulder decorations that marked out an officer) because they would provide a good target for snipers in the masts of enemy ships.

The commander in Chief having seen several officers on shore dressed like shop keepers, in coloured clothes and others wearing round hats with their uniforms they are ordered to be arrested.