

RICHARD BRIGINSHAW

Age 14
Height 4ft 7in
Complexion Dark
Hair Brown
Eyes Hazel
Slim made
Born in St Marylebone
No trade

Brought into custody 5th July
Stealing a printed bound book value 5/- the property of Ann Roberts

Tried 14/7/1819 Recorder
Verdict of Jury Guilty of felony
Transported 7 years

12 August 1819 To 'Bellerophon Hulk' Sheerness
Here in September last

JAMES COLE

Age 18
Height 5ft 8in
Complexion Florid
Hair Dark brown
Eyes Hazel
Slim made
Born at St Mary le Bow London

15th August 1819 to 'Laurel Hulk' Gosport

The original and notorious Newgate Gaol was the biggest and worst of all the London gaols. Daniel Defoe had been incarcerated there in the early part of the 18th century and left a graphic description in his novel 'Moll Flanders' of 1722. Many inmates died of gaol fever (typhus) and other diseases and it was not until 1770 that it was rebuilt on a less cramped scale. It was from here that the condemned began the cart ride to the gallows at Tyburn (the origin of someone 'going west'). After 1783, and in the days when Richard was there, executions took place in public in the road outside and this continued up to 1868.

We see that James Cole remained there until the 15th August on which date he was sent to the prison hulk 'Laurel' at Gosport. His story has not been followed.

Richard was held in Newgate for a total of 39 days until 12th August 1819 when he was transferred to the prison hulk 'Bellerophon' lying at Sheerness.

On 18.6.1815 Napoleon had been defeated at Waterloo. The Allies advanced across the French Frontier and entered Paris on the 7th July. Napoleon abdicated in favour of his son and then surrendered to the Commander of the British ship 'Bellerophon' lying off Rochfort. He was then taken to St Helena where he died in 1821.

The 'Bellerophon' was a 3rd rate vessel built in 1786 and one of many 74 gun ships built around this time. She carried 28 - 32 pounders, 30 - 24 pounders and 16 - 9 pounders. She became a prison ship in 1815. Captain Cook's proud 'Discovery' was another famous ship that ended her days in this ignominious role.