

a voyage to the Antipodes involved in those days. Apart from the discomforts over four months, the monotonous diet, separation from family and friends, probably for ever, and the unknown future, one of the most disturbing things on those old wooden sailing ships would have been (particularly in bad weather) noise. The constant creaking of ships timbers, the roar of wind and sea, the strain on rigging, flapping of sails, the shouted orders of the crew, the crash of waves on decks and, in the case of transports, the noise of the prisoners themselves and the clanking of their chains.

My extraction of the whole of the Surgeon's Log of the 'Claudine', covering four months, runs into 25 closely typed pages and is obviously far too long to reproduce here. Much of the daily record of events concerns routine matters repeated throughout the voyage, examples being: 6am the prisoners on deck with their bedding to be aired. The upper and prison decks cleaned. Breakfast, dinner and lime juice served out at the usual hours. The boys at school. At 6pm the convicts sent below with their bedding etc., etc.

The routine was regimented, discipline strict, punishment, of those who stepped out of line, harsh and yet one can see a certain kindness towards those genuinely sick and concern where misbehaviour caused harm to others. From the log one can see that the diet consisted mainly of bread, water, salt beef or pork and other concoctions made from flour, rice, pease, raisens, suet, oatmeal and butter. Lime juice was served daily. Some fresh meat and vegetables were available for a few days when watering at Tenerife and on Sundays and some other days an occasional allowance of wine was issued.

A few of the daily entries follow:

August 13th

At 2pm received 100 prisoners from the 'Justitia' Hulk. Issued their bedding and put them into messes of six each. The whole of the convicts on deck till 7pm when they were mustered and sent below.

August 16th

At 6am the prisoners on deck with their bedding. Upper and prison decks cleaned. Piped to breakfast and dinner at the usual hours. At 2pm received 60 prisoners from the 'Justitia' Hulk - issued them bedding and put them into messes of six each. At 6pm all hands were mustered and sent below with their bedding.

Opened one bag of bread, 1 brl flour (contents 336 lbs), 1 Brl Suett No 292 (contents 180 lbs), 1 Cask raisens (contents 224 lbs)

August 18th

At 6am all the prisoners on deck with their bedding. Breakfast and dinner at the usual hours. Took the irons off Douglas Gilchrist and Robert Mott in consequence of their good character. Issued Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books and Psalters - agreeable to the printed instructions, also Slates, Copy Books and Religious Tracts to the boys. All hands mustered and sent below with their bedding at the usual hour.

August 19th

Prisoners up as yesterday with their bedding. The prison decks cleaned by two messes - prisoners washed and shaved. 4 boatswains mates appointed to see the prison decks cleaned. Breakfast and dinner served out at the usual hours. Took the irons off James Sinclair and James Leadbeater two of the boatswains mates and off John Jackson and Alexander Richards two men appointed to cook the provisions - also off George Davies and Thomas Mears two men appointed to assist in the hospital. The prisoners sent below with their bedding at the usual hour.

Opened on bag of bread, 2 cases of beef (Nos 709, 710 contents 26 pieces in each), 1 bag rice (contents 224 lbs).

August 21st

At 6am the prisoners on deck with their bedding. Upper and prison decks cleaned. Breakfast and dinner at the usual hours. The boys at school during the day. Took the irons off James Oxson, Joseph Watts and John Page three men appointed to shave the convicts. The prisoners mustered below as heretofore with their bedding.

August 24th

All the prisoners on deck with their bedding at the usual hour. Left Woolwich at 11am and was towed over to Gravesend by the 'Favorite' steam boat. Arrived at Gravesend at 6pm and anchored. The upper and prison decks cleaned as usual. The 2 cooks John Jackson and Alexander Richards were served with one Duck Frock and pair Flannel Trousers each in addition to the clothing allowed to them by Government Issue. 30 lbs soap to the convicts and guards, the convicts washing their clothes and also shaved. The whole of the convicts mustered and sent below with their bedding at the usual hour.

August 25th

Prisoners mustered as heretofore. Upper and prison decks cleaned. Breakfast and dinner at the usual hours. 4 lbs of mustard served out to the convicts and 2 lbs to the guards. The boys at school. At 1pm sailed from Gravesend. At 6pm the whole of the prisoners were mustered and sent below with their bedding. Opened 1 bag bread, 1 cask beef No 4549 (Contents 38 pieces)

August 28th

At 6am all the prisoners on deck with their bedding. The prisoners employed washing their clothes - this forenoon. Breakfast and dinner at the usual hours. Upper and prison decks cleaned as heretofore. The boys at school. James Johnson received 2 doz lashes for being on the prison deck contrary to orders. The prisoners shaved. At 6pm all hands were mustered and sent below with their beds. Opened 1 bag bread

September 3rd

At 4am the prisoners on deck washing their clothes. Thomas Williams and all the boys, 20 in number, got their irons struck off. The boys at school. Upper and prison decks cleaned. At 6pm all hands were mustered and sent below with their bedding. Opened 1 bag bread

September 5th

At 6am all hands on deck with their beds. Upper and prison decks cleaned. The lower deck fumigated and fires kept lighted during the day. The irons were taken off James Murray, Thomas Bolton and Robert Barton on account of their advanced age. At 6pm all the prisoners were mustered and sent below with their bedding. Opened 1 bag bread, 1 Brl Pork No 4178 (contents 80 pcs)

September 7th

Prisoners on deck at 6am with their beds to be aired. Breakfast and dinner as heretofore. Edward Culley received 2 doz lashes for robbing his messmate of his trousers. The boys at school. At 6pm the whole of the convicts sent below with their bedding. Opened 1 bag bread, 1 cask cocoa (contents 150 lbs)

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September 8th

At 6am several of the men on deck washing their clothes. Breakfast and dinner as heretofore. Jas Thompson who had been previously released from irons was in consequence of forcing the sentry at the main hatch way double ironed and handcuffed. The boys at school. Served out vinegar to the convicts and guards agreeable to the printed instructions at 1 qt per mess. Weather squally. At 5pm the prisoners sent below with their bedding. Opened 2 bags bread, 1 cask Beef No 4534 (contents 38 pcs)

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September 9th

At 6am all hands on deck with their beds. At 10am all the prisoners were mustered with their clean clothes on. Divine Service was performed on the Gr Deck in presence of all the convicts and guards. At 12am 1/2 pint of wine was served out to each prisoner. At 6pm all hands were mustered and sent below with their bedding. Opened 1 bag bread.

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