



Assignments online archival research

Answers to the questions on archival research, lessons 1.1, 2.1, 2.2 en 6.2

Answers to the questions on archival research, lesson 1.1

Question 1

On **November 18, 1761** the carpenters began making the main wooden 'tent', a kind of lodging placed on the stern. The African women could stay here during the day. The tent, according to the shipping surgeon from Zeeland D.H. Gallandat, was located above the quarterdeck. In the top of the tent there was a hatch for fresh air.

'Slave houses' or latrines

On **December 10 and December 12, 1761** the toilets for the African slaves were built. The toilets for the African's were often built after the arrival to Africa. On December 9th the first male African was purchased. This is also the day the 'slave house' on the aft was built: this was the outhouse for the female slaves. On December 12th 1761 the other 'slave house' was built, for the men, beside the grating deck, where the male slaves remained throughout the day.

Slave galley (kitchen)

On **December 18, 1761** the slave galley was built. The first mate wrote about the construction of the galley for the African prisoners in the forecastle of the ship. A small portion of the raised deck, or topgallant forecastle deck, was cut out. The galley was built using the 1200 stones, lime, sand and 4 iron plates listed in the ship's inventory. This happened in 11 days after the arrival to Cape Monte, Liberia. For this galley a copper 'slave kettle' was brought, in which the food for the Africans was prepared. The provisions brought from Middelburg for the meals consisted of groats, beans, old meat and was supplemented with fresh produce in Africa.

Bedding

On **February 8, 14 and 17, 1762** the bedding for the African prisoners was built. During the journey they slept on the tween deck: the men on the deck below the grating deck and the women on the tween deck in the aft. The space for the women was called the quarterdeck in the logbook. As the number of prisoners increased, an extra 'floor' for additional sleeping quarters was placed in the tween deck. First on one side of the ship, then on the other. For these 'beddings' extra custom made wooden planks were brought.

The first beddings were placed on February 8, 1762 on the starboard side of the tween deck below the grating deck, the place where the African men were locked up. A few days later, on February 12th and 14th, the bedding in the quarterdeck followed, the quarters for the African women on the tween deck in the aft. Finally on February 17th the last of the beddings were built in the quarters for the African men. The beddings were the last adjustment to the ship, preparing it for the transport of a large number of prisoners. The other, previously executed adjustments, was the construction of a partition just behind the mainmast (which was intended to make it impossible for the male Africans on the grating deck to access the aft and quarterdeck), the 'slave houses' or latrines and the slave galley (kitchen).

Question 2

Breaking down the adjustments for the transport of the Africans

On **August 19, 1762** the beddings were taken down.

On **August 20, 1762** the partition, the 'slave houses and the slave galley was broken down.

While The Unity was in Essequibo, the crew conducted large-scale maintenance to the ship. On August 19th, the day of the slave auction, the bedding (where the slaves slept) was taken down. The next day the partition, the 'slave houses' and the slave galley was broken down.

Question 3

The partition is not listed in the adjustments when they are placed, but is listed when taken down (August 20, 1762). Midway across the ship the wooden partition with a door was placed. This was intended to make it impossible for the male Africans on the grating deck to access the aft and quarterdeck. The partition was intended to protect the crew and the door was continually guarded by a crewmember with a cutlass, a short, flat sword. **The first mate did not list the construction of this partition in his logbook, but did list when it was taken down: after the sale of the last female African prisoner.** Potentially the partition was already present upon departure from Middelburg. The danger of an uprising or revolt was present. During the next, fourth, voyage taken by The Unity a revolt occurred according to the logbook: "... [the slaves] firstly and without our awareness, have taken from the man **guarding the partition** the cutlass and overtook the door, and thusly attacked us, at which time we, who were on the half deck, being the captain, the first mate and the third watch, forthwith went to the armory chest, which was placed on the back of the cabin."

Question 4

Free form and optional.

Answers to the questions on archival research, lesson 2.1

1. 39.060 guilders.
2. Textile, gunpowder and ammunition.
3. Overview of unsold goods (prices in Dutch guilders):

23 ps. ship's cutlass [short, wide machete] à f 0:15½ =	f 17:16:8	f 18
14 ps. brass trumpets à f 2:2 =	f 29:8:0	f 30
550 lb. black stripped dominé [beads] à f 0:6½ =	f 178:15:0	f 179
175 mass broken pieces of glass à f 0:5 =	f 43:15:0	f 44
88 heap flamed glass beads à 0:10 =	f 44:0:0	f 44
2 ps. chestergantij [textile] à f 17:10 =	f 35:0:0	f 35
19 ps. negatpautz [textile] à f 10 =	f 190:0:0	f 190
2 ps. blue kings mantels with silver à f 24:0 =	f 48:0:0	f 48
4. Free form, from the largest sum (190.000 guilders) to the smallest (18 guilders).
5. 35.211 guilders; the largest post for the purchased Africans.
6. Cheapest: Upper coast (Liberia); Most expensive: Ivory coast/Gold coast; Most slaves: Ivory coast (mostly Cape Lahoe).
7. Total 99.981 guilders.
8. You can see that a large profit was made, despite the fact that 33 purchased Africans died before they could be sold. A profit of 67.357 guilders was made.

Answers to the questions on archival research, lesson 2.2

1. April 5, 1762.
2. 11 barrels.
3. 9 barrels.
4. April 30, 1762.
5. In the declaration by the Ship's Council. In this it states that water barrels were lost on June 5, 1762. The first mate's logbook states the barrels were lost on April 5, 1762.
6. The declaration by the Ship's Council was signed on May 12, 1762, which is before June 5, 1762.

Answers to the questions on archival research, lesson 6.2

1. The complaint they both had was a stomachache. They also had individual complaints.
2. Adriaan de Puit was 'young': "did a bleeding because he was young and sanguine, but this brought no improvement the pain remained".
The African woman was old: "elderly": "did my utmost duty to keep her alive although being elderly and frequently ill, being one of our first purchased slaves"
3. The treatment of the ailments for Adriaan de Puit was much more extensive than the treatment for the African woman. The medication was also very different, in part, as we can read from the journal, due to the age of the patients. For bleedings one had to be "young" and certainly "sanguine".
4. The ailments were taken seriously; a careful examination was done and based on observations (and in the case of Adriaan de Puit also based on discussion) a diagnosis was made. They both were given a laxative, although both a different kind.
5. A worm. The African woman pooped out the worm in one sitting and pooped out maggots too. Adriaan de Puit needed three sittings to poop out his worm. Although it is not entirely clear if the worm broke in three pieces, or if it was three separate worms.
6. Adriaan de Puit recovered from his ailments; the African woman died.
7. This cannot be determined with any certainty, but based purely on the descriptions in the surgeon's journal you can conclude that it was a combination of all four factors. The motivation for the answer can be derived from the journal written by the surgeon.