



Introduction lesson

Lesson 1.2: Captain and crew

Enlisting and enrollment

The crew was enlisted in Middelburg and Vlissingen (Flushing). A total of 37 persons were enrolled for The Unity's voyage.

Enrolling the full crew consisted of reading the article letters aloud and signing them. An article letter is an overview of the rules and regulations and the fines in case they are broken.

Eventually the ship set sail with 36 persons. A number of crewmembers knew each other well, they had sailed several voyages together. The captain was lord and master aboard his ship. The first four crewmembers were officers, the master carpenter through corporal were non-commissioned officers and the next in rank were the sailors.

Ranks

1. Captain
2. First mate
3. Second mate
4. Third mate
5. Surgeon
6. Surgeon's mate
7. Master Carpenter
8. Carpenter
9. Boatswain
10. Boatswain's mate and sail maker
11. Cooper
12. Copper's mate
13. Cook
14. Corporal ((blacksmith)
15. – 32. Sailor
33. – 34. Apprentice or sailor's mate
35. – 37. Ship's Boy

Death

During the voyage a sailor died from illness and along the African coast two crewmembers drowned. At the start of the passage to the Caribbean the crew only consisted of 33 members.

Captain

In addition to being a good seafarer the captain had to be a good merchant. He played a crucial role in the purchasing of the cargason, the cargo that was taken at the time of departure from Middelburg. The Unity's captain was Jan Menkenveld. In 1752 he undertook his first voyage as captain. He earned a monthly salary of 60 guilders. Captain Jan Menkenveld was a successful captain, both in shipping and trade.

More information

The crew: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/voorbereiding-en/bemannig-en/?lang=en>