



## Introduction lesson

### Lesson 2.1: Outward bound

#### Fort Rammekens

Fort Rammekens is located at the estuary of the Western Scheldt. The fort was built between 1547 – 1522 and is the oldest sea fortress in Western Europe. For a long time the most important function of the fort was to guard the shipping line to the harbors of Middelburg and Antwerp.

#### The Roadstead of Rammekens

On September 2, 1761 The Unity departed from the Middelburg harbor and was pulled to Fort Rammekens. A pilot from Middelburg supervised this journey. The pilot used four sets of horses to pull the ship forth.

The ship was brought up stream. This meant that in a few hours it was brought from Middelburg to the Rammekens roadstead. The crew was mustered to help bring the ship up stream without receiving wages.

#### Loading

The ship was partially loaded in the Middelburg harbor. At Rammekens the remaining cargo was brought on board and the ship was prepared for departure. The MCC ships were given a more or less standardized package of ship's supplies. These supplies for the voyage was called 'equipage'. The supplies were listed in the ship's inventory.

#### Inspection

On September 30<sup>th</sup> the 'lords of the equipage' and the 'lords of the commerce' from the MCC inspected the ship. After the lords approved the ship and cargo, the captain was given the travel documents. Along with the first mate he signed the documents, the captain's instructions, the ship's inventory and the cargason list.

#### Departure

After a sea pilot arrived aboard, the voyage could begin. The Unity's voyage began after a preparation time of less than three months.

On October 1, 1761 the ship hoisted her sails and departed from the Rammekens roadstead. In the afternoon of October 2<sup>nd</sup> the pilot disembarked and The Unity sailed towards her destination: Western Africa.

#### More information

Equipage: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/voorbereiding-en/equipage-schip-en/?lang=en>

Instructions: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/voorbereiding-en/instructions-for-the-captain/?lang=en>

Travel documents: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/uitreis-en/travel-documents/?lang=en>

Ready for departure: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/uitreis-en/ready-for-departure/?lang=en>

The North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean: <http://eenigheid.slavenhandelmcc.nl/trajecten-van-de-reis-en/uitreis-en/navigatie-uitreis/?lang=en>