

Food and Drink on HMS Victory

The following list of stores and provisions were taken on board HMS Victory:

Salt beef.....	25-30 tons
Salt pork.....	25-30 tons
Dried peas.....	15 tons
Biscuits.....	45 tons
Flour.....	10 tons
Butter.....	2 tons
Cheese.....	2 tons
Beer.....	50 tons
Water.....	300 tons
Fuel for galley stove.....	50 tons
Cannon balls.....	120 tons
Gunpowder.....	35 tons
Spare timber.....	50 tons

A GRAND TOTAL OF 739 TONS!!!!

The first meal of the day was always cold, as the chef did not cook until lunchtime. Breakfast could be either cold porridge called Burgoo, ships biscuits, cocoa or Scots coffee.

At 12 noon the only hot meal of the day was eaten. It was made up from boiled salt beef, pork or fish. To this would be added dried peas, rice or oatmeal. To drink, the men could have either four pints of beer or one pint of wine if there was no rum. The men's drinks would be treated with lemon juice, if available, to help combat scurvy.

The men were forbidden to get drunk on board a naval ship!

After supper the ship's company would be beaten to quarters. You're probably imagining the sailors being chased around the deck by an angry cook with a cat-of-nine-tails!! That would be funnier than the truth; the men would be beaten to the quarters by the beating of the drum. Each member of the ship's company would go to their action station as if going into battle.