

Finds from HMS Pomone

Navigation, Weaponry and Armour

The many objects found at The Needles wreck site give an indication of everyday life on board a frigate of Nelson's navy.

Plotting a course – Navigation



Lens

Glass lens from the front of a telescope. Circa 1780.

IWCMS:20001.9.39



Brass Cap

This is probably a cover for the glass lens of a telescope.

IWCMS:20001.9.38

Lens frame

This brass frame is part of a sextant known as a Hadley's octant. It would house glass shades. By placing the shades over the light path the navigator could observe the sun directly. Moving the shades out of the line of view would reveal faint stars at night.



IWCMS:20001.9.46



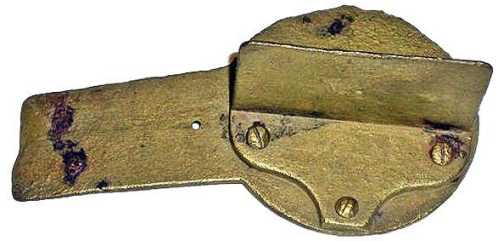
Octant

This is part of a brass frame from a Hadley's octant.

IWCMS:20001.9.45

Where are we?

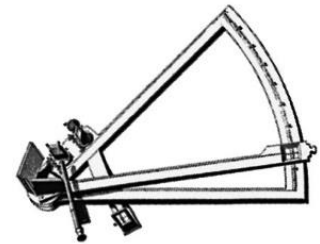
This is part of a sextant with a mount for a mirror. A sextant was used for measuring the angular distances between objects and especially for taking altitudes in navigation.



IWCMS:20001.9.15

Sextants from the Pomone

We know that the pieces of sextant found at the Needles wreck site are from the wreck of HMS Pomone (1811). They could not have come from HMS Assurance, sunk in 1753 at the same site because the sextant was not invented until four years later, in 1757.



Hadley's octant



How far?

This brass divider would be used to measure distances on a map.

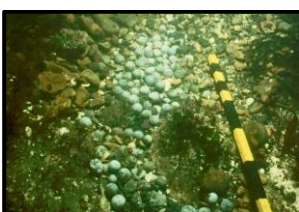
IWCMS:20001.9.42

Into the fight – weaponry & armour

Shot

Lead shot could be fired individually from a musket, or together, as grapeshot, from a cannon.

IWCMS:20001.1.11



Lead shot in a gully at The Needles wreck site.



Flattened on impact!

These lead shot have been fired, flattening themselves on impact.



They may have impacted on the side of the ship.

IWCMS:20001.1.19 & 1.42

Powder horn

The brass end cover from a powder horn. A powder horn was a container for gunpowder and was generally created from a cow's horn.

IWCMS:20001.1.17



Trigger and Trigger guard

The trigger and guard from a naval musket.

All of the ship's crew received basic training in the use of a musket.

IWCMS:20001.1.119

Butt caps

These Bronze butt caps would have fitted against the wooden handle of a pistol. Firing just a single shot, the pistol was used for self-defence. It was slow to reload, so after firing the fighter would draw a sabre or use the gun as a club.

IWCMS:20001.1.92





Sword handle

There is evidence of a spiral design on this sword handle: it is very basic and would not have belonged to an officer.

IWCMS:20001.1.104

What's in a name?

The ammunition and gun powder storage area on a ship is called the magazine. This name plate may be from the door of Pomone's magazine.



IWCMS:20001.5.149



Strap

This copper strap is stamped **PD 18** indicating it to be part of an 18 pound gun. It probably comes from the gun carriage or arms chest.

IWCMS:20001.1.175



Cannon flintlocks

This is the brass body of a cannon's flintlock firing mechanism. The missing lock hammer would be enclosed in the brass casing and is discharged by pulling the cord at the rear.

IWCMS:20001.1.148 (Left)

This brass cannon flintlock is stamped with a crown over 6 (an inspector's mark) and a crown over a broad arrow (the British government ownership mark).

IWCMS:20001.1.117 (Right)

The Flintlock

These flintlock mechanisms were part of a cannon used onboard HMS Pomone. Flintlocks were used to create a spark which would ignite the gunpowder in the barrel. The gunpowder would explode, firing the cannon ball. The flintlock used a flint, a hard rock which, when it strikes iron, creates a spark.

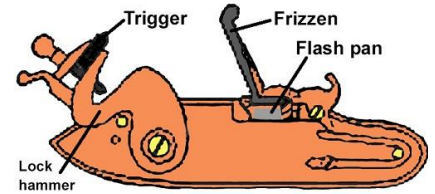
The main parts of a flintlock were;

The **hammer**, this would hold a piece of flint.

The **mainspring**, this would power the hammer.

The **frizzen**: the piece of steel that the flint would strike.

The **flash pan**, this would hold a small quantity of gunpowder ready to receive the spark.



Carronade

A carronade is a short cannon which was used by the Royal Navy from the 1770s to the 1850s. Its main function was to serve as a powerful, short-range, anti-ship and anti-crew weapon.



Commander John Bingeman with a thirty-two pounder carronade recovered from the Needles wreck site.

The carronade was on display at Lord Louis library in Newport.

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