

Essential Points concerning Discipline for the Corvettes

*Descubierta and Atrevida in Acapulco*

October 29, 1791.

1. The vessels will be maintained and cleaned internally and externally. We will inspect all the equipment particularly the iron fittings. The storage barrels will be emptied and repaired again.
2. In organising this work, we must be sure to undertake the required tasks with all due attention to the preservation of health, which is linked to the climate: humid days, excessive sun, lack of wind etc. The Officer of the Watch will do great service by passing on, in a timely way, information about any problems he notices concerning this important point, from which result either very happy or very dire consequences that cannot be prevented through making advance arrangements.
3. No officer will be permitted to sleep on land without good reason, and we shall pay particular attention to those who are not present by 9 pm and return only for the morning roll-call. For the sake of maintaining a reliable record and the necessary attention to good order, passes for a special reason or harmless diversion which require an absence of one or two nights can be authorized only by the Commander or Second-in-Command.
4. On Sunday mornings, if the weather allows it, the men will be allowed to go swimming early, and those who go will be granted half a pint of wine; orders must be read after mass.
5. The troops on board will conduct an inspection of weapons and clothing every Saturday morning, and every Tuesday morning they will have musket drill on land.
6. On Thursdays after lunch, there will be drills for cannon, musket and pistol. In both corvettes, there will be continual drills in the procedures for landing boats, watering and cutting firewood in enemy country etc., and great attention must be paid, not merely to general instruction, but rather to the precise detail of each activity.
7. All officers are urgently enjoined not to fail in restraining any disorder among the lower ranks on land, no matter how minor. Anyone who reveals the slightest hint of drunkenness, and everyone who has been absent from his vessel for several days, should be taken into the boats and delivered on-board, with notification to either of the corvettes, without distinction. Neither fail to attend immediately where you suspect quarrels or other disorders are about to start. With all these precautions it must be kept in mind that a certain degree of liberty is almost indispensable to seamen but should be constrained when they get too close to the edge. Likewise if on land any house of vice is identified, or any of our men seen to be involved in vice

or scandalous behaviour, the appropriate vessel should be notified so that the situation can be remedied immediately.

8. Watches on board, (the troop being divided into three parts) will be done with proper vigilance, and nothing whatsoever left out which is required for good order and discipline.

On the corvette *Descubierta*, October 29, 1791

Alexandro Malaspina