

SA559249

Napoleonic Naval Ships Loudhailer or Megaphone - HMS Ajax Aboukir Bay

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA559249****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 53 cm (20.9")

Width = 19 cm (7.5")

Depth = 19 cm (7.5")

Description

A Napoleonic period naval ships loud hailer or megaphone engraved to HMS Ajax 1801. This George III piece of naval ship's equipment is comprised of a cone shaped piece of tin which has been crimped along the join and secured with a nut and screw to the larger end. The brass mouthpiece is brazed to the body and is engraved around the outside with the words: "HMS Ajax 1801" Megaphones have been employed on ships and as a way of amplifying voices over distances since classical times although the modern interpretation is considered to have been invented by Samuel Morland and Athanasius Kircher during the seventeenth century. The ship for which this megaphone bears its inscription, was the second 74 gun third rate naval ship of the line to have born this prestigious name. The first having been built in 1767 and sold off in 1785. The second and more famous descendant was first built by John Randall & Co of Rotherhithe and launched on the Thames in 1798 and initially saw Channel service under Captain John Packenham. In May 1799 and for the following two years, the Ajax was given over to the command of Captain Alexander Cochrane and gained initial success by capturing the Fre...

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