

Mary Read and Anne Bonny

Nearly all pirates were men- with some notable exceptions. Mary Read and Anne Bonny were two women who disguised themselves as men and became pirates. They were better sailors than most of the men on their ships. Mary was a young Englishwoman who run away to find adventures. Anne went to sea when she fell in love with the famous pirate Calico Jack Rackham. She soon decided to become a pirate, too. Mary and Anne met when Mary's ship attacked a merchant ship o which Anne was hiding. Together, the two women terrorized the Caribbean until they were captured near Jamaica in 1720.

Rum, unfortunately, also caused the downfall of many pirate crews. In military and merchant ships the authorities measured out the consume of rum; in a pirate ship, the code of discipline was quite weak and usually did not care about alcohol abuse. Stories say that many pirate ships were easily boarded because the mariners were too drunk to fight. One of the most famous example is the capture of the ship run by the notorious pirates Anne Bonney, Mary Reed, and Calico Jack Rackham.

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