Captain James Cook R.N.
Crew Database

First Voyage: Endeavour 1768 - 1771

Name: John BOOTIE

Personal Details:
Baptised on 25th February 1750, at St Martin in the Fields, London.
Son of John Bootie and Magdalen (née Pain Vin), who had married at St. Martin in the Fields on 6th September 1741. He had a brother, Peter, and two sisters: Esther and Mary.
Died of dysentery, after leaving Java, on 4th February 1771

Position On-Board: Midshipman

Biographical Summary:
His father, a brazier, had dealt with the Navy Board and it is possibly for this reason that Bootie was selected for the Endeavour.
Joined the Endeavour on 1st June 1768.
He maintained a log and a journal, a section of which has been reproduced in the Historical Records of New South Wales.
Beaglehole obviously enjoyed the content as he stated that Bootie was one of those few people who manage to convey personality.
Part of Zachary Hicks’s log was written by Bootie, suggesting a close working relationship between the two. However, Bootie may not have been totally happy on board as he inscribed his own rough log, “A Log Book of the Proceedings... By John Bootie, Masters Brute”, and he wrote of Nicholas Young, “Evil communications corrupt good manners N Young is a son of a Bitch.”
On 3rd January 1769, he observed such a great quantity of red shrimps that he could not tell the colour of the water.
At a much later date, Bootie Islet, off the coast of North Queensland, was named after him.

Sources:
The Voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1771, J.C. Beaglehole.
Captain Cook Society, Cook’s Log.

This information sheet was produced by the Captain Cook Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook’s first voyage of exploration.
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