

**Trinity Church of England High School
BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG
Guide Booklet**



Teresa Oneal

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Introduction

October Black History Month was more significant as 2007 marked the 200th year of Parliament's abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

Staff from the Manchester City Council Corporate Services Black Staff Group and Pupils of Trinity Church of England High School worked together to mark the Bicentenary with an exhibition of articles, objects including the creation a Bicentenary Freedom Flag.

People as far as Canada, USA, Africa, China, Spain, Italy and Ireland visited the exhibition in the town hall.

The Bicentenary Freedom Flag was designed by the Black Staff Group and shows pictures of historical people which are laid on the colours of the Sierra Leone Flag, birth place of Joseph Cinque.

The flag recognises the work, struggles and sacrifices that these people have made to ensure the slave trade came to an end.

The Bicentenary Freedom Flag was later framed and is on display at Trinity Church of England High School, Manchester.

Front Cover photo:

Town Hall exhibition picture taken in November 07

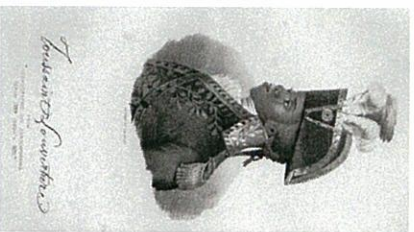
Lord Mayor Glynn Evans,

Isabelle Valade (teacher), Teresa Oneal, Angela Weekes (Black Staff Group), Trinity High School pupils: Vimbainashe Mutero, Simeon Ricketts, Caine Smillie, Alomah Amuntung, Cherria Davis and Camunelle Fletchman.

This booklet is a guide to the historical people on the Bicentenary Flag with articles from pupils and has been produced by Teresa Oneal for educational purposes.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE 1743 -1803

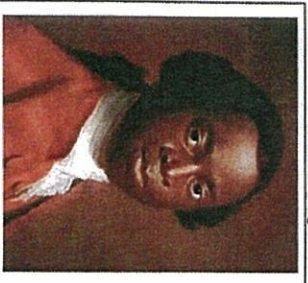


On 23 August 1791 an uprising of the enslaved Africans on the island of St Domingo began (modern Haiti and the Dominican Republic). This revolt was a crucial event in the fight against slavery and was led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, also known as the Black General'.

He gathered a following of his own and trained them in the warfare tactics. Knighted and recognised as a general, Toussaint demonstrated extraordinary military ability, rose rapidly in rank and the black army proved to be surprisingly successful against the European troops.

The English, Spanish and French armies were defeated. The revolution created the first independent black republic.

OLAUDAH EQUIANO 1745 -1797



Olaudah Equiano was an African writer whose experiences as a slave prompted him to become involved in the British abolition movement. Equiano bought his own freedom, and then spent 20 years travelling the world, including trips to Turkey and the Arctic. In 1786 in London he became involved in the movement to abolish slavery. He was a prominent member of the 'Sons of Africa', a group of 12 black men who campaigned for abolition. In 1789 he published his autobiography, 'The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African'.

He travelled widely promoting the book, which became immensely popular and helped the abolitionist cause. It is one of the earliest books published by a black African writer.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

FREDERICK DOUGLASS 1818 -1895



Frederick Douglass broke the physical and mental chains of slavery and he devoted his life to helping others do the same. Born a slave in Maryland in 1818, he grew up facing hunger, backbreaking work and beatings.

At age twenty, he escaped from slavery and began life as a free man.

A brilliant and powerful speaker, Frederick travelled to England, Scotland, and Ireland where he continued speaking against slavery, sharing his story and spreading his antislavery message. During the Civil War, he was active in recruiting black soldiers for the Union Army.

Douglass also became an advocate of women's rights. Later in his life, he served as an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. He wrote several books and published a newspaper that promoted equal rights for black people and for women.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

"BUSSA" BARBADOS UNKNOWN SLAVE STATUE



Statue of unknown slave with broken shackles named "Slave in Revolt" commissioned by the government of Barbados to commemorate the 150th anniversary of slave emancipation in the British colonies; unveiled in March 1985.

Chosen for the Freedom flag to represent all the unknown slaves and abolitionists who sacrificed their lives for freedom of others whose names were never recorded in history.

Bussa is one of Barbados' national heroes born in Africa captured and brought to Barbados in the late 18th Century as a slave. Bussa planned and commanded some 400 freedom fighters into battle at Bayley's Barbados on 16th April 1816 against troops of the First West India Regiment. Although Bussa died in battle his spirit lived on encouraging the Barbadian slaves to continue their resistance. It is reported that many went into battle shouting the name of Bussa.

HARRIET TUBMAN 1820 -1913



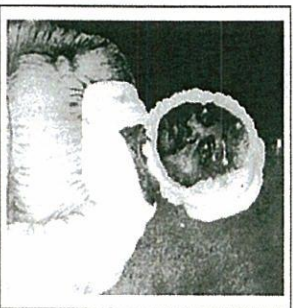
Formerly a slave in the American South, Harriet Tubman became known as the most famous guide of the Underground Railroad, a secret network that during the mid-1800s helped slaves escape to freedom in the northern United States and Canada. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, Harriet became known as "Moses" like the shepherd who led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt during biblical times.

Harriet led slaves out of the South like Moses. She used music, Bible verses, and folklore to alert escaped slaves of danger and give them directions to safe houses. During the Civil War, Harriet was a nurse to sick and wounded Union soldiers. She also taught newly freed men and women how to care for themselves.

In World War II, a ship was named in her memory.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

ELIZABETH FREEMAN aka Mum Bett 1742 –1829



Born of African parents, she was purchased when young and became a servant in a Massachusetts household. After an incident of maltreatment, she left her owner and enlisted the aid of a Massachusetts antislavery lawyer.

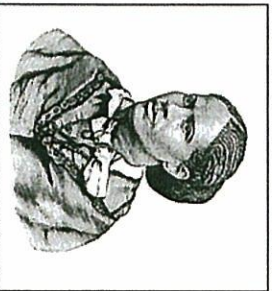
Persuading a fellow slave named Brom to join her, she hastened to the home of Theodore Sedgwick, Sheffield's leading lawyer.

There they sought his assistance in obtaining their freedom.

Brom & Bett v. Ashley was argued before a county court

The jury ruled in favour of Bett and Brom, making them the first enslaved African Americans to be freed under the Massachusetts constitution of 1780, and ordered Ashley to pay them thirty shillings and costs. This municipal case set a precedent and ultimately led to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts.

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER 1825 –1911



Frances E W Harper was an African-American writer, lecturer and political activist, who promoted abolition, civil rights, women's rights, and temperance. She helped found and held high office in several national progressive organisations. She is best remembered today for her poetry and fiction, which preached moral uplift and counselled the oppressed how to free themselves from their demoralised conditions. She moved on to Pennsylvania in 1851, there, alongside William Still, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, she helped escaped slaves along the Underground Railroad on their way to Canada.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

AMISTAD SHIP

SENGBE PIEH - JOSEPH CINQUE



Sierra Leone Flag

Slave revolt leader of the Amistad Ship. Joseph Cinque Born in Mani 1813, Sierra Leone, son of a local chief and married with 3 children. Sengbe Pieh, sometimes referred to as "Cinque" by his captors led a slave revolt in 1839 aboard the ship Amistad, which was carrying captured Africans from Sierra Leone. They tried to sail back to Africa but ended up off the coast of Long Island USA. Tried for his part in the mutiny, Cinque was defended by former U.S. president John Quincy Adams (1767-1848). Adams won the case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1841, and Cinque and the 35 surviving mutineers were freed and returned to Africa.

REPLICA AMISTAD SHIP, in Liverpool Albert Docks 2007

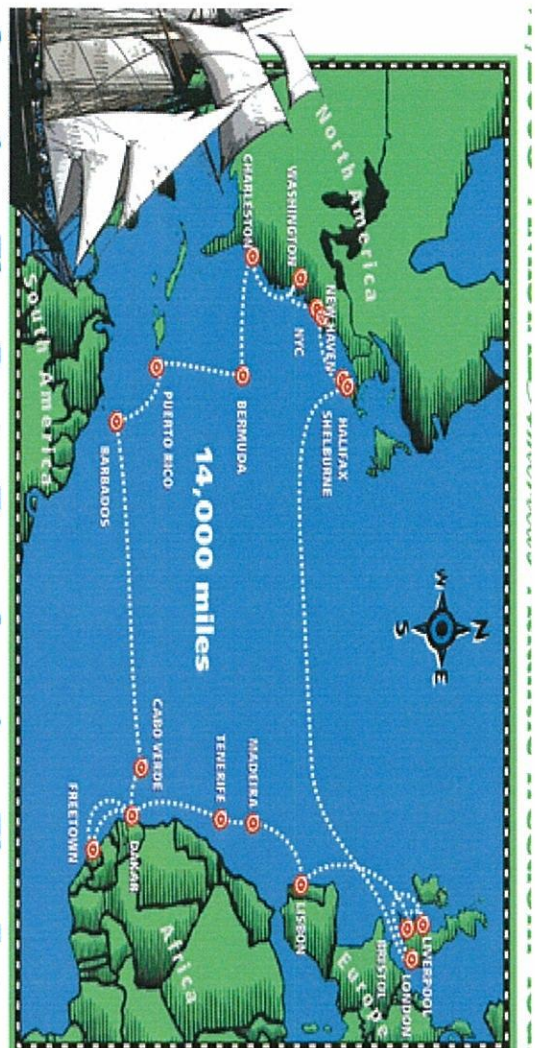


Picture of the replica of the Amistad ship, which once carried Joseph Cinque set sail on June 21st 2007 from New Haven USA on the first leg of the 18 month Amistad Atlantic Freedom Tour to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

AMISTAD SHIP

MAP OF THE 18 MONTH AMISTAD ATLANTIC FREEDOM TOUR FROM 2007 to 2008

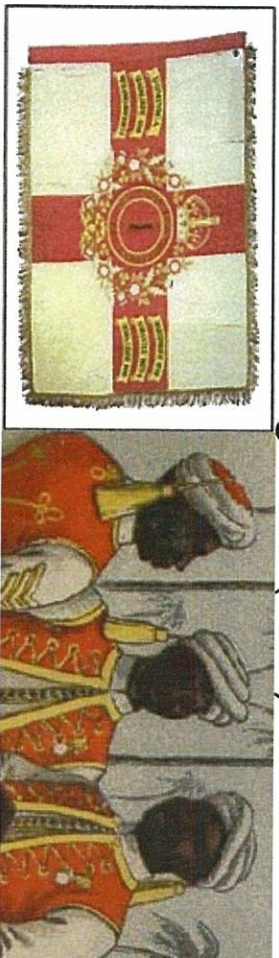


The international voyage of the recreated ship will retrace the infamous slave industry triangle with stops at more than a dozen Atlantic ports that played a significant role in the trade and reflect today's social, political and cultural character. Ports of call include Halifax, Nova Scotia; London, Liverpool and Bristol; Lisbon and Madeira, Portugal; the Canary Islands; Dakar, Senegal; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Praia, Cape Verde; Barbados; Puerto Rico, Bermuda and the east coast of the United States.

In Liverpool, the galleries of the new International Slavery Museum opened on Slavery Remembrance Day 2007 (23 August) a day that commemorates an uprising of the enslaved Africans on the island of St Domingo (modern Haiti and the Dominican Republic) in 1791.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

The West India Regiment (WIR)



The West India Regiments were British colonial infantry regiments. They were raised, initially in 1795, by recruitment amongst freed slaves from North America and by purchase of slaves in the West Indies.

Britain struggled to defend its Caribbean colonies from the French. Many British soldiers died either en route or fell victim to tropical diseases such as yellow fever and malaria. In year 1796 in Barbados of 19,676 British soldiers sent to the island 17,173 died within 5 years.

Various conditions accelerated the diseases - unsanitary transport ships and barracks sited in low-lying places close to swamps or salt ponds along with unsuitable uniforms. The diet was poor. The constant provision of salted beef or pork only added to thirsts already greatly increased by climatic conditions. This in turn encouraged widespread addiction to rum, which was tolerated as it was thought to have some anti scorbutic properties.

To overcome the shortage of European soldiers during the French Revolutionary Wars, the British Army Establishment sanctioned the use of enslaved Africans as part of regular line infantry establishment.

From 1795 to 1808 it is estimated that the British Government bought 13,400 slaves for its West India Regiment (WIR). By 1800 most of the WIR troops were bought from slave ships fresh from Africa and trained into British soldiers who were skilled, brave, loyal and effective. The regiments saw most service during the period of the Napoleonic Wars.

There were three separate mutinies between 1802 and 1837. A factor in these and a weakness in the WIR throughout its history, was that it did not always attract a high caliber of British officer. Prevailing social attitudes meant that service with black infantry was not a popular option during the nineteenth century.

In 1807 some 10,000 black slave-soldiers in the West India Regiment of the British Army were freed under the Mutiny Act passed by the British parliament that same year.

The WIR remained on the British Army Establishment until 1927.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

The West India Regiment

The Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion. West India Regiment



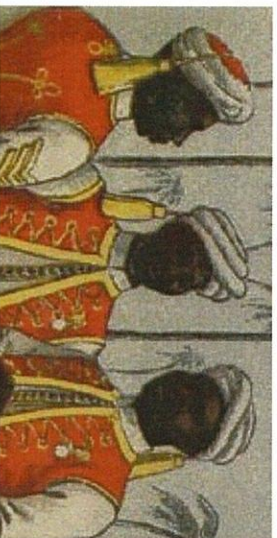
The Regiment paraded for the last time on the 31st January 1927 at Up Park Camp, Jamaica. The Regimental Colours were trooped for the last time and then crated to be shipped back to England.

On Friday the 18th February 1927 the colours were taken to Buckingham Palace and presented to King George V.

They were later transferred to St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where they hang on display with other colours of the British Army.

The colours display 132 years of loyal service with battle honours.

WIR UNIFORM, approved by Queen Victoria

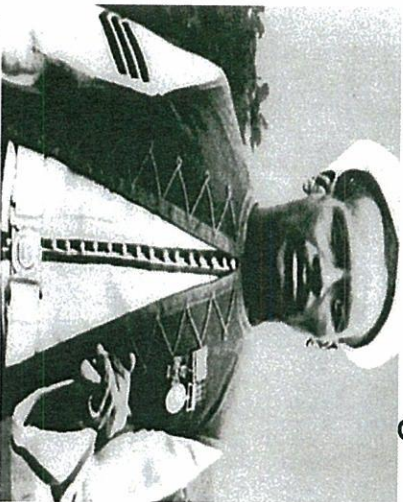


In 1856 a very striking uniform was adopted for the regiments modelled on that of the French Zouaves approved by Queen Victoria: a head dress comprised of a red fez wound about by a white turban, scarlet sleeveless jacket with elaborate yellow braiding worn over a long-sleeved white waistcoat, and dark blue voluminous breeches piped in yellow. This distinctive uniform was retained for full dress throughout the regiment until 1914 and by the band until disbandment in 1927.

The West India Regiment lives on in the Zouave regimental military band, which represented Barbados at one of the Edinburgh festivals as part of the Military Tattoo.

PEOPLE of the BICENTENARY FREEDOM FLAG

The West India Regiment



picture Courtesy of: *W D Critbbs*

Sergeant William Gordon, Born in Jamaica. Awarded the Victoria Cross. Enlisted in the West India Regiment on 9th July 1885. In March 1892 he won the Victoria Cross in Sierra Leone after throwing himself into the line of fire to save his commanding officer.

picture Courtesy of: *W D Critbbs*

Note: The West India Regiment should not be confused with the British West Indies Regiment that saw service between 1915 and 1919 during the First World War (1914-1918).

Alomah's Freedom Rap

By Alomah Amuntung

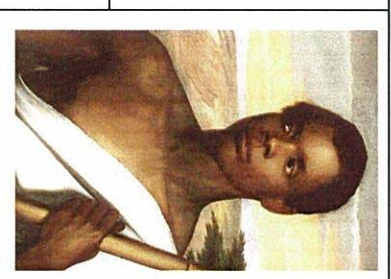
BELIEVE IN FREEDOM IN LOVE AND FORTUNE
AND ALL WE NEED IS A PEACE OF HEAVEN
BELIEVE IN FREEDOM IN LOVE AND FORTUNE
AND ALL WE NEED IS A PEACE OF HEAVEN
WE ALL NEED LOVE
FREEDOM, COME ON EVERYBODY
WE ALL NEED LOVE
FREEDOM, LET'S LIVE FOR FREEDOM
WE ALL NEED LOVE

YES! I KNOW YOU WANT SOME MORE
FROM WHAT I SAID, JUST RIGHT BEFORE

**SO CLAP YOUR HANDS TO THE BEAT OF THE SOUND
PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND BACK TO THE GROUND**

I NEVER SAW A JAM LIKE THIS BEFORE BACK TO
THE FRONT AND DOOR TO DOOR
IF YOU WANT SOME MORE, GET ON THE FLOOR
LOVE WILL COME AND THAT'S FOR SURE
FREEDOM IS LIFE
FREEDOM IS JUSTICE
IT'S THE ONLY THING FOR FREE

Joseph Cinque – Freedom Fighter
Slave revolt leader of the Amistad Ship.



Blacks and Whites

By Caine Smillie

**Blacks and whites were once apart but now
they're whole again**

Chorus:

**Freedom in God yhe yhe freedom in
God x2**

**There was Luther and his Jnr who helped to
set us free.....**

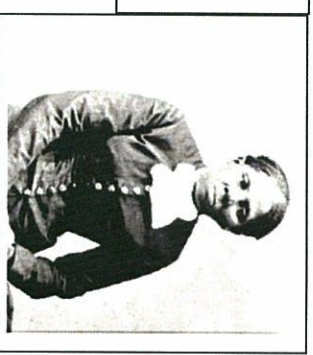
Chorus:

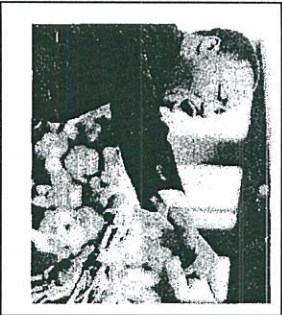
These people show us where God is and
how he sets us free... .. but they have come and
gone..... But now the world is a better place for all
the people in it.

Oh thank the Lord they have come

Oh thank the Lord they have gone.....

Harriet Tubman
used Music, Bible verses, and folklore to alert escaped
slaves of danger.





Martin Luther King

by Cherria Davis

Martin Luther King stood up for the rights of black people.

All of us were huddled together.

Rightfully we should have been able to choose.

Together we were whipped, Together we died.

In Gods eye's we were being put through hell, but when we did die we were put into heaven.

Never again shall any child or adult will be put through the pain of slavery again.

Love for one another is what kept us going through the pain and suffering.

Useless and helpless we couldn't do anything other than hope that we could live through the pain to have freedom again.

The people that went through slavery we thank them that we don't have to go through it ourselves.

Hating every second of our lives we asked God why.

Every one of our ancestors would have loved to see day light and have freedom again.

Really should we have gone through all of that?

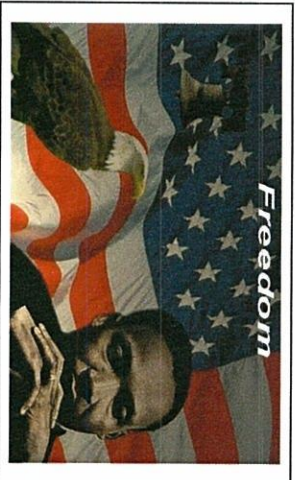
Kindly some of our capture let us buy our freedom.

Individually we were brought away from our families never to be seen again.

Now we are celebrating, but what are we really celebrating.

God asks our captures why they did what they did.

I HAVE A DREAM



By Camunelle Fletchman - 8HR

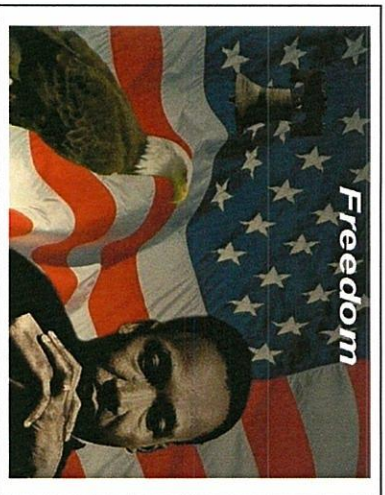
I have a dream that people and colours of our nation will form great life with laughter and fun.

Throughout humanity people will have a dream that black and other colours will unite to make one big religion no matter what colour they are, they are still the same. We are brothers and sisters for a reason.

I have a dream that the religious beliefs are real but be sure that whatever god you believe in, you are still with the same god who gives you the first breath and your senses.

Hold on to your dream. It will not stay for long. It is a bubble, it will pop and not to be seen at all. Make sure you believe that no matter what colour you are, we are still the same, you are still a part of our nation.

I HAVE A DREAM



By Simeon Ricketts – 8HR

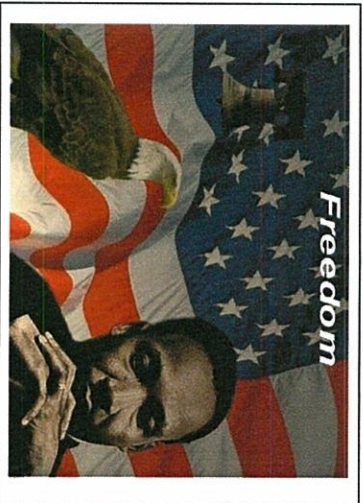
I have a dream that one day this nation will change into a place where people will like to live, and it will not be a place of war or destruction where people die for no reason. There is no need for people to die if they are innocent.

I have a dream that one day everyone will live in peace and people will give up bad habits like; smoking, drugs and other things that other people do because those things kill people every year. Also I wish that people would respect other peoples' opinions.

I have a dream that people will one day reduce the amount of carbon emissions and greenhouse gases that are getting put into the atmosphere.

That's what I would like to happen in the future.

I HAVE A DREAM



By Vimbainashe Mutero - 8HR

I have a dream that people will stop killing the animals and the rainforest. All the trees would be standing up that they don't get cut down.

Would you like your children to grow up in a world like this?

I have a dream that racism will stop, that Asian, Black and White can be friends and not be ashamed to be seen together.

A dream that people will not be put off because of their colour and that we all will be treated the same.

One colour does not make a rainbow!

I have a dream that the world would be smoke free and that thousands of people would not die because of smoking.

I have a dream that littering would be stopped and we stop dropping litter on our planet.

It is our planet and we should look after it!

Would we like our children to live like that?



DIARY OF A DIARY OF A SLAVE

LA AMISTAD (original ship)

By Shola Brown Age 12 (Stretford High School)

Dear Diary,

As I sit here on this cramped ship a blanket of sleep wraps itself around my sore beaten body. But why can't I sleep? It may be the many types of excretion that constantly sting my nose hairs.

My leg has no feeling as it is squashed underneath the corpse, which has died due to mal nutrition. My empty stomach lurches, yet there is nothing for it to throw up. I have gone hungry. The morsels of raw meat that have been thrown in were ravished before I could move my lifeless limbs.

If I ease my right arm slightly I can see that my little finger has turned a vibrant white since the blood has been abruptly cut off. I close my eyes and wriggle my shoulder to relax, you know, remember the good times, when I was with my family. Oh how I miss them dearly. How did I let this happen to them? My son has asthma? What if he has an attack?

A wave of emotions wash through me, tears dribbling unevenly down my dirty swollen face. Anger is the next emotion that decides to make itself heard. I've let this happen. Why cant I do anything right? Where's my boldness? Along with power and courage they seem to have trotted off and left fear, grief and powerlessness in its place.

The moans and groans echo throughout the ship as the other captives writhe in agony. I can't hear myself think through the noise and stench. I just want to sleep, but I am too scared to close my eyes. If I close my eyes I may not wake like the others. Who knows what visions will my eyelids replay to me. I can't feel my arms or legs anymore. The moans and groans seem to be fading now. My eyelids are becoming heavy.

The stench of excretion is now overpowered by the fragrant smell of my wife's scent. I can hear my son's laughter in the far distance, which is getting closer.

There they are I can see them now.

God its good to be with them again, I feel alive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & SPECIAL THANK YOU

God – For making things possible

Lord Mayor Glynn Evans

City Treasure Richard Paver

Trinity Church of England High School pupils: Vimbainashe Mutero, Simeon Ricketts,
Caine Smillie, Alomah Amuntung, Cherria Davis and Camunelle Fletcherman
Teacher: Isabelle Vallade

Shola Brown pupil of Stretford High School

Manchester City Council Staff Angela Weekes, Ivor Akuoko and Stephen
Broadhead and Jennifer McKeller

M4 short run print

Lisa Jones of Liverpool Museum – Pictures of the Amistad Ship in Liverpool

UK Print Ltd – Production of the Bicentenary Freedom Flag

Elouisa Edwards MBE, MA – For inspiration

All supporters and participants of Black History Month