U3A Shanties

Drunken Sailor

Hugill, Stan, 1994, Shanties from the Seven Seas:

Way, hay, an' up she rises Patent blocks of different sizes Way, hay an' up she rises Ear-lie in the morning.

- 1. What shall we do with a drunken sailor? (x3) Ear-lie in the morning.
- 2. Put him in the long-boat till he gets sober
- 3. Keep him there and make him bale her
- 4. Trice him up in a running bowline
- 5. Tie him to the taff-rail when she's yard-arm under
- 6. Put him in the scuppers with the hose-pipe on him

Notes:

A walk-away / run-away or stamp 'n' go shanty Can be used at windlass and capstan (Terry)

Alternative Titles: Drunken sailor, What shall (or will) we do with the drunken sailor?

E.g. Fisherman's friends <u>youtu.be/rPL_TzIDbGo</u> or Irish Rovers youtu.be/qGyPuey-1Jw, ...

* Doerflinger, W M, 1951, Songs of the sailor and Lumberman, says:

On the words 'Way, hay and up she rises' the men would stamp loudly on the deck. Because of this custom, walkaway songs were sometimes known as 'stamp and go' shanties.

Hugill, Stan, 1994, Shanties from the Seven Seas:

"A stamp-n-go shanty was the only type of work-song allowed in the King's Navee.

It was popular in ships with big crews when at halyards the crowd would seize the fall and stamp the sail up.

Sometimes when hauling a heavy boat up, the falls would be "married" and both hauled on at the same time as the hands stamped away singing this rousing tune.

In latter days, in bigger ships with smaller crews, it was mainly used at the braces when "going about" or to hand aloft a light sail ... as a hand over hand song.

"Normally only two or three verses were used, but there were many more, some of them obscene and even sacrilegious, the Virgin Mary being referred to in one version.

- 7. Take him, shake him, try and wake him.
- 8. Give him a dose of salt and water
- 9. Give him a taste of the bosun's rope-end
- 10. Stick on his back a mustard plaster
- 11. What'll we do with a limejuice skipper?
- 12. Soak him in oil 'til he sprouts a flipper.
- 13. Shave his chest with a hoop-iron razor
- 14. What shall we do with a drunken soldier?
- 15. Put him on the barrack-room til he's sober
- 16. What shall we do with the queen of Sheba?

Alternative chorus first lines:

Way, hay, an' up she rises (x3) ...

Hooray and up she rises (x3) ...

"It was a very old shanty, having been sung in the Indiamen of the John Company [East India Company].

"The air is from a traditional Irish dance as well as a march tune."

Notes on the words

Blocks - pulleys

Early - always pronounced earl-eye. Hugill says Sailormen liked the sound, as can be seen from his pronunciation of California in Sacramento - Californeye-O.

Way-hay - a savage yell hard to put in print. [Hugill]

Trice - to haul up or in and lash or secure

Running bowline - a knot; it creates a noose which slides easily and can also be slid undone easily. It is recommended when retrieving lumber or rigging which has fallen overboard.

Watch how it works on <u>YouTube</u> or see <u>animatedknots.com</u>.



Taff-rail - rail at the stern of the ship

Yard-arm - the end of a yard (a yard lies across a mast), where the rigging is placed.

Scuppers - holes cut through the ship's side for letting any water run overboard off the decks.

Eight bells - the ship's bell is rung after each half-hour in a shift, starting with one bell, two bells etc.. Eight Bells is the most welcome, signifying the end of the watch.