

The Last Shanty

(Tom Lewis)

Well, me father often told me, when I was just a lad,
A sailor's life was very hard, the food was always bad.
But now I've joined the Navy, I'm aboard a Man o' War
And now I found a sailor ain't a sailor any more.

Chorus

Don't **haul on the rope**. Don't **climb up the mast**.
If you see a sailing ship it might be your last.
Just **get your civvies ready for another run ashore**.
A sailor ain't a sailor, ain't a sailor any more.

We've nearly got a mess. He says we have it soft.
It wasn't like that in his day when we were up aloft.
We like our bunks and sleeping bags, but what's a hammock for?
Swinging from the deckhead or lying on the floor?

Chorus

Well they gave us an engine that first went up and down.
Then with more technology the engine went around.
We know of steam and diesel but what's it mainly for?
A stoker ain't a stoker with a shovel any more.

Chorus

They gave us an Aldis lamp so we could do it right.
They gave us a radio to signal day and night.
We know our codes and ciphers, but what's a semaphore?
The bunting tosser doesn't toss the bunting any more.

Chorus

Two cans of beer a day and that's your bleeding lot.
But now we have an extra one because they've stopped the tot.
So we'll put on our civvy clothes and find a pub ashore.
A sailor's still a sailor, just like he was before.

Chorus