

# The Sinking of the Graf Spee

(Tune 1)

South of the bor - der, down Mon-te - vid - eo way, The po-cket

ba-ttle-ship Graf Spee came out one day. To sink inn-o-cent mer-chant-men

who were on their way South of the bor - der, down the Ri-ver Plate way.

(Tune 2)

The Jerr-ies smiled when their 'leven-inch guns star-ted. They thought the fight would soon be

ov - er. But the Ex-e-ter she dashed in light - heart-ed, Though out - gunned in ev - ery way:

(Tune 3)

So Jack a - hoy. Keep the flags on high. The Nel-son spir-it will ne-ver die.

(Tune 1)  
 South of the border, down Montevideo way  
 The pocket battleship Graf Spee went out one day  
 To sink innocent merchantmen who were on their way  
 South of the border, down the River Plate way.

(Tune 1)  
 Captain Langsdorff thought the Formose easy prey  
 He didn't know for him it was the day.  
 When over the skyline came steaming their way  
 Three British cruisers to keep him at bay.

(Tune 2)  
 The Jerries smiled when their 'leven-inch guns started.  
 They thought the fight would soon be over.  
 But the Exeter she dashed in light-hearted  
 Though outgunned in every way.

(Tune 1)

Then came the Ajax, the Achilles as well.  
What they done to that hun, history will tell.  
For eighteen long hours they fought her like hell.  
Made her a pack-it-up battleship  
It was her death knell.

(Tune 1)

From the British navy she started to run.  
Up the River Plate it was the fate of this naval hun.  
For the Urugales ("Uruguays") told her that she musn't stay  
Longer than seventy-two hours in Montevideo Bay.

(Tune 1)

To her inglorious end, they took her that night.  
Hitler told them to scuttle her, for they dare not fight.  
Whilst the British white ensign floats proud and free,  
South of the border and on every sea.

(Tune 1)

Rear Admiral Harwood and his crew  
Exeter, Ajax and Achilles too, we're proud of you.  
For those who have fallen, we say a silent amen.  
They died doing their duty like sailors and men.

(Tune 3)

So Jack ahoy. Keep the flag on high,  
For the Nelson spirit will never die.

Source: Sung by Ernie Payne, Hawkesbury Upton. Collected by Gwilym Davies 24 June 1980.

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