

The British Man-o'-War

As I walked out one morn__ ing, I did in - cline to stray,___

(a) (b)

There I be - held a la - - dy fair with her young sail - or gay: ___

(a)

"Oh, Su - - san, love - - ly Su ___ san, I soon must leave the shore

For to cross the brin - y oc - ean in a Brit - ish man - o' - - war."

Variation (a)

Variations (b)

2. Now Susan fell a-weeping, to the sailor she did say:
"How can you be so venturesome to throw your life away?
You know when I am twenty-one I shall receive my store,
Jolly sailor, do not venture in a British man-o'war."
3. Jolly sailor do not venture to fight the proud Chinese
For they will prove as treacherous as any Portuguese
And by some sword or dagger you might receive a scar
So turn your inclination from the British man o-war.
4. "Oh, Susan, lovely Susan, the truth to you I'll tell:
The British flag insulted is; Old England knows it well.
I may be crowned with laurels but, like some jolly tar,
I'll face the wars of China in a British man-o'war."
5. "Oh, Susan, lovely Susan, the time will quickly pass,
We'll go down to the ferry house and take a parting glass.
My shipmates they are waiting for to row me from the shore,
For it's for old England's glory in a British man-o'-war."

6. The sailor took his handkerchief and cut it fair in two,
And Susan took her neckerchief, "I'll do the same for you."
When bellows they surround me and the cannons loudly roar
Then I'll fight for England's glory on a British Man o' War.

7. A few more words; were spoken and then they both shook hands
The sailors gently manned their oars and quickly rowed from land
And Willie waved his handkerchief till they were far from shore
Saying, "Farewell my lovely Susie from a British Man o' War."

Source: Mr Hacklett, Winchcombe, 5th April 1908, collected by Percy Grainger

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