

On a Four-masted Warship

On a four - mas - ted war - ship we once sailed to sea. I'll tell you the
tale of what ha - ppened to me. In the midst of the oc - ean we
turned back the boat, for the cap - tain to go home for his wat - er - proof coat. Oh ger -
al, oh, ger - al. You can't get five hams off one pig ev - ery day.

2. The first eighteen months we got on right enough
The weather began to get awfully rough.
In the midst of a storm we had to turn back the boat,
While the captain went home for his waterproof coat.
3. At the Cape of Good Hope, well our luck it was bad
When some sharks got aboard of our old iron clad
So our crew struck a match and the cargo took fire
And we all walked ashore on a telegraph wire.
4. Last summer, next winter, the week before last
A man with a stone hammer he was breaking fast
Some cast-iron steel cakes he was trying to digest
When he fell down and broke the backbone of his chest.
5. He sent for the doctor and he stated his case
While the tears from his eyes they burned holes in his face.
He filled the holes up with some sawdust and tar,
And then with a cricket he lit his cigar.
6. Well he jumped out of bed and his candle he lit,
He had a revolver and he loaded it.
"I'll stand this no longer", he savagely said.
Then he blew out his brain and he got back to bed.

Source: Sung by Tony Ballinger of Brockworth.

Collected by Gwilym Davies 14 April 1977 at Upton St Leonards.

Notes: Mr Ballinger's version was fragmentary so it has been completed with words from a Suffolk version.