

Now We're Off to Sea Once More

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate accompaniment.

E B E B E F#m B
Some say that sail-ing's a cheer-less job, But they know on-ly half the score. When you

E F#m A F#m B
work on deck to— earn your keep, You can say you're a man of war. Now— we're

E A E E B E
off to sea once more, once more, Now we're off to sea— once more.

Some say that sailing's a cheerless job,
But they know only half the score.
When you work on deck to earn your keep,
You can say you're a Man-of-War.

*Ch: Now we're off to sea once more, once more,
Now we're off to sea once more.*

I've been hanging round Portsmouth this past six weeks
Drinking rum and ale each day,
And if I keep on living much longer like this
I'll end up in an early grave.

For life on shore is full of care,
There are dangers at every turn,
And just when you think that all is well,
You find you've a lot to learn.

When you're on a ship with the ensign high,
You know you are in safe hands.
The Navy will always look after you
When you venture to foreign lands.

And should we meet an enemy ship
We all know what to do.
We work as a team to do the job,
For we are a fully-trained crew.

Now I will admit that life on board
Isn't always just plain sailing,
But even if the Captain's mean
It's still much better than whaling.

So pack your bag and go on board,
You know there a welcome awaits,
And pray for a kind wind from the shore
As you sail out of the straits.



Here's an evocative picture of a sailing ship, and I have no doubt that someone looking at it will know exactly what it is, but I haven't a clue.

Conditions on board many ships must have been dreadful, but there was probably a real sense of camaraderie at times - the sort you get when a group of people is in it together - just like the Coalition Government (and the rest of us!). However miserable the food and accommodation, it is highly likely that there was no shortage of alcohol on board!!