

## Fire Marengo

1. Lift him up and carry him along  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
Put him down where he belong  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
2. Ease him down and let him lay  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
Screw him in and there he'll stay  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
3. Stow him in his hole below  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
Stay he must and there he'll go  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
4. When I get back to Liverpool Town,  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
I'll pass the line to little Sally Brown.  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
5. I'll haul her high and I'll haul her low.  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
I'll bust her blocks and make her go.  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
6. Sally, she's a pretty little craft,  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
Cut sharp to the fore with a rounded aft.  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**
7. Screw the cotton, screw him down.  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**  
Let's get the hell from Shilo [Hilo] Town  
**Fire Marengo, fire away.**

Hear **The Dreadnoughts** sing this version at [youtu.be/HrrXUeAqagk](https://youtu.be/HrrXUeAqagk)

or the **Ballina Whalers** at [youtu.be/CuAfGE9xcK0](https://youtu.be/CuAfGE9xcK0)  
or **Dave Webber** at [youtu.be/S2\\_9mpRaC70](https://youtu.be/S2_9mpRaC70)

### Notes

**Names:** Fire Marengo, Fire Maringo

This song has mixed origins, with the sailors' fear of ghosts (v1-3) and cotton-screwing so likely negro (v7).

Stan Hugill, , *Shanties from the Seven Seas*, 1994 writes in his Introduction, p16:

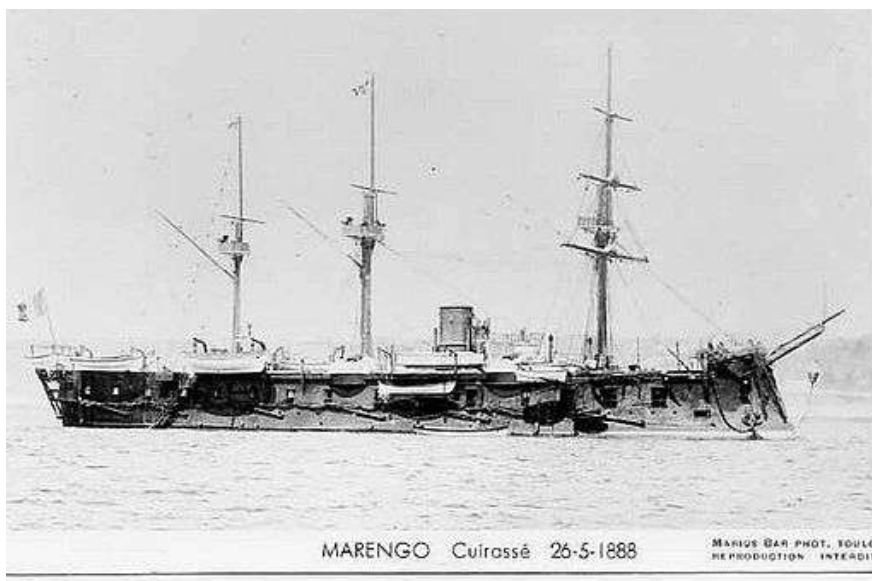
"Doerflinger seems to think that Fire Maringo is of Negro origin, but I feel that Ireland is like as not its birthplace. Maringo is found in many Irish folk-songs, such as the following:

As I was going along the road,  
As I was going out walking,  
I heard a Lassie in the shade;  
To a young man she was talking.  
Ch: With a maringo do-a-day,  
With a maringo do-a-daddy oh

The tune of Fire Maringo has been lost."

See also

<http://www.afolksongaday.com/?p=1325>



French ship *Marengo* photographed by Marius Bar in 1888, via [commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org). named after the battleground in Northern Italy where Napoleon defeated the Austrian army in June 1800.