

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

or the **Ballina Whalers** at youtu.be/CuAfGE9xcK0
or **Dave Webber** at 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:

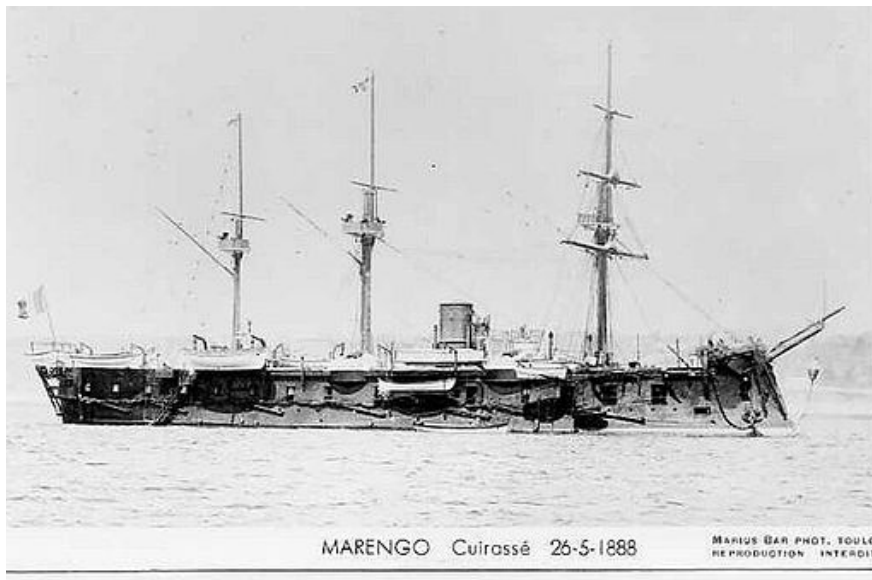
"Doerflinger seems to think that Fire Maringo is of Negro origin, but I feel that Ireland is like as not its birthplace. Maringo is found in many Irish folk-songs, such as the following:

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.
named after the battleground in Northern Italy where Napoleon defeated the Austrian army in June 1800.