

## Randy Dandy O

1. Now we are ready to head for the Horn  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Our boots and our clothes they are all in  
the pawn,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

□ **Heave a pawl, oh heave away**  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
**The anchor's on board and**  
**The cable's all stored**  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

2. Soon we'll be warping her out through  
the locks,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Them pretty young girls will come down  
in their flocks,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

3. Come breast the bars, bullies, and  
heave with a will,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Soon we'll be driving her off down the hill,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

4. Roust her out, bullies, the wind's  
drawinget free,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Let's get the "glad-rags" on and drive her to  
sea,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

5. It's up them yards, you parish rigged  
bums,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**

Take your hands out your pockets,  
and don't suck your thumbs,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

6. We're outward bound for 'Valipo' Bay,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Get bending, me lads, 'tis a hell of a way,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

**Heave a pawl, oh heave away**  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
**The anchor's on board and**  
**The cable's all stored**  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

[Tom Lewis](https://tomlewis1.bandcamp.com/track/randy-dandy-oh) sings this version on Bandcamp at  
<https://tomlewis1.bandcamp.com/track/randy-dandy-oh>

or hear [Johnny Collins'](https://youtu.be/HkKN0cNUaU) version at  
[youtu.be/HkKN0cNUaU](https://youtu.be/HkKN0cNUaU)

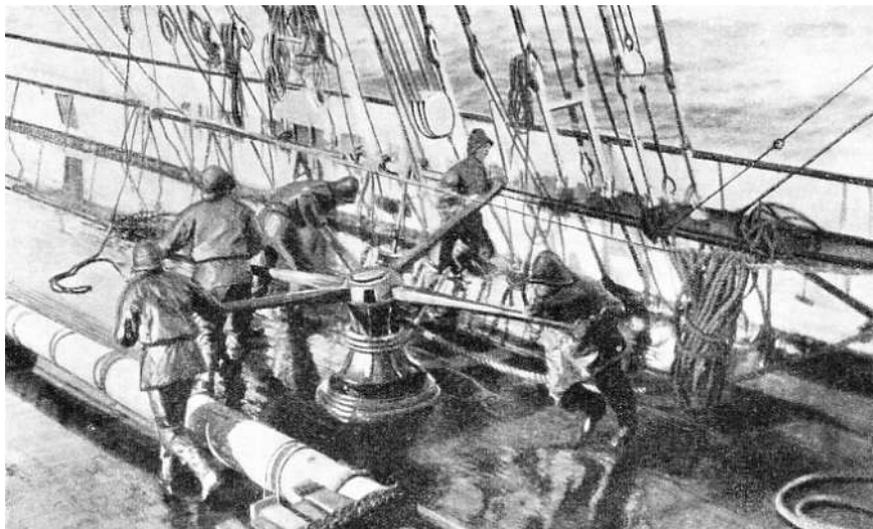
An **Outward Bound** shanty, sung at capstan and pumps.

### Verse variations and additions

Come breast the bars bullies and heave her away  
Soon we'll be rolling away down the bay.

Oh, man the capstan and heave with a will ...  
Soon we'll be driving away down the hill.

Sing goodbye to Sally and goodbye to Sue, ...  
We are the boy-os to soon kick her through.



Photograph "**Haul-Topsail-Heavy**" taken on the [Grace Harwar](#) (1,816 tons), built in 1839 at Port Glasgow. She is 266 ft 8 in long, with a beam of 39 ft 1 in, and a depth of 23 ft 6 in. from web site: [ShippingWondersoftheWorld.com](http://ShippingWondersoftheWorld.com).

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### Notes

This is an **Outward bound** shanty, sung at the **capstan** or **pumps** when preparing to leave port.

**Stan Hugill**, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*, writes:

Randy dandy-O is a capstan and pumps song heard mainly aboard the old Cape-Horners. I had this from Harding, who declared it was very popular aboard the small Nova Scotian barque he once shipped in.

The tune is reminiscent of *The Raggle Taggle Gypsies*.

[Miss [Joanna Colcord](#), *Roll and Go*, 1924] gives a version from [Captain Robinson, John, *Songs of the Chantey Man, The Bellman*] with a similar tune [with] one verse and the original bawdy refrain camouflaged.

\* I do recommend you read about [Joanna C Colcord](#) on Wikipedia, she was born and brought up at sea, amazing!

### Notes on the words

**Rollicking Randy Dandy-o** - sounds good, or perhaps it originally had "B"s instead of "R"s?

**Roll and Go** - no-one knows where this expression came from but it is used a lot in work songs. It has been suggested it may have come from the stevedores who rolled bales of cotton on and off riverboats in their journey from the plantations to the gulf ports. I think it just sounds good; like progress is being made..

**Heave a pawl** - a capstan has pawls that prevent it from spinning backwards. It would be unsafe to relax without heaving all the way to the next pawl.

**Warping** - (or kedging) a way of moving a sailing vessel, typically against the wind or out from a dead calm, by hauling on a line attached to a kedging anchor, a sea anchor or a fixed object, such as a bollard.

**Breast the bars** - the bars attached to the capstan, and perhaps the pump.

Hugill: "I have had to camouflage, but I have left mine in a little nearer to the original suggestive word found in one refrain. Two or three of the verses have had to be altered slightly also."

**Vallipo** - Valparaiso, port in Chile (= Val-i-paraiso)



**Fitz Hugh Lane** (1804-1865): *Clipper Ship "Southern Cross" Leaving Boston Harbor*, 1851

A photographic reproduction from [Wikimedia](#) of a painting in the Athenaeum or Peabody Essex Museum. The artist is also known as Fitz Henry Lane.