

Chicken on a Raft

By Cyril Tawney.

Chicken on a raft is Royal Navy slang for fried egg on fried bread; which is not very appetising if you have a hangover. 'Dab toes' = Ordinary Seaman, 'Dustman' = stoker/mechanic. Jimmy = First Lieutenant. Comic Cuts = orders (originally WWI British Army slang for Divisional Orders) Pusser = purser (notoriously tight fisted). Whaler = ship's boat.

The Skippers in the ward room drinking gin,
hi ho chicken on a raft.

I don't mind knockin' but I ain't going in,
hi ho chicken on a raft.

The Jimmy's laughing like a drain,
hi ho chicken on a raft.

Been looking at me Comic Cuts again,
hi ho chicken on a raft.

Chorus

*Up! Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see.
Dab toes for'ard and the dustman aft.
A sittin' and a pickin' on a chicken on a raft.*

They gave me the middle and the forenoon too.
And now I'm pulling in a whaler's crew.
There's a seagull weaving overhead.
I ought to be sleeping in a feather bed.

I had a little girl in Doneaglibe.
And she did make a fool of me.
Her heart was like a pusser's shower.
From hot to cold in a quarter of an hour.

<more>

We kissed goodbye on the midnight bus.
And she did not cry and she didn't make a fuss.
Am I the man that she loves best?
Or am I just a Cuckoo in another man's nest?

An Amazon girl lives in Dumfries.
She only has her kids in twos and threes.
Her sister lives in Maryhill.
She says she won't <shout> but I know she will.

Final Chorus

*Up! Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see.
Dab toes for'ard and the dustman aft.
A sittin' and a pickin' on a chicken on a raft.
<Hi ho> chicken on a raft! <Hey ho> chicken on a raft!
<Hi ho> chicken on a raft! <Hey ho> chicken on a raft.*