

Don't Forget your Old Shipmate

British naval traditional song from the Napoleonic Era. It is sung in the wardroom scene in the film Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, and is still sung aboard some surface combatant ships of the Royal Navy.

Earring = Small lines, used to secure uppermost corners of large sails to the yardarms.

Safe and sound at home again, let the waters roar, Jack
Safe and sound at home again, let the waters roar, Jack

Chorus

*Long we've tossed on the rolling main
Now we're safe ashore, Jack
Don't forget your old shipmate
Fal dee ral dee ral dee rye eye doe!*

Since we sailed from Plymouth Sound, four years gone, or nigh, Jack
Was there ever chummies, now, such as you and I, Jack?

We have worked the self-same gun: quarterdeck division
Sponger I and loader you, through the whole commission

Oftentimes have we laid out, toil nor danger fearing,
Tugging out the flapping sail, to the weather earring

When the middle watch was on, and the time went slow, boy
Who could choose a rousing stave, who like Jack or Joe, boy?

There she swings, an empty hulk, not a soul below now
Number seven starboard mess, misses Jack and Joe now

But the best of friends must part, fair or foul the weather
Hand yer flipper for a shake, now a drink together.

Chorus

Ohhh! Chorus