

Sally Brown

This capstan shanty is also known as Roll 'n' Go. There are several obscene verses in some versions. The shanty is probably from Jamaica where it was often sung ashore. According to Stan Hugill, the earliest reference is in a description of a passage to America in the 1830s.

I shipped on board of a Liverpool liner.

Chorus

*Way hey roll'n go,
And we rolled all night and we rolled till the day,
I'm gonna spend me money along the Sally Brown.*

Sally Brown is a fine young lady.

Her mother doesn't like her tarry sailor.

She wants her to marry a one legged captain.

Sally couldn't have me so I shipped across the water.

I shipped on board of a Liverpool liner.