

Chicken on a Raft

By Cyril Tawney (1967) and on his 1972 LP "In Port".

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 Skipper's 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

Said Hiho chicken on a raft! Said Heyo chicken on a raft

Said Hiho chicken on a raft! Said Heyo chicken on a raft <no slow>

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 me feather bed

I had a little girl in Donnea Beigh

And she did make a fool of me

Her heart was like a pusser's shower

Blows 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

*Ooh! 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
Said Hiho chicken on a raft! Said Heyo chicken on a raft
Said Hiho chicken on a raft
Said Heyo <slow down> chicken on a raft*

