

Grey Funnel Line

By Cyril Tawney (1959) on his 1972 LP "In Port". "Grey funnel line" is slang for the British Navy. "Peter's shoe" refers to St Peter walking on water from a boat on the Sea of Galilee - so if a sailor had St Peter's shoes he could escape from the ship. Roud 39305.

Don't mind the rain or the rolling sea
The weary nights never bother me
But the hardest time in a sailor's day
Is to watch the sun as it dies away
It's one more day ... on the Grey Funnel line

The finest ship that sailed the sea
Is still a prison to the likes of me
But give me wings like Noah's dove
I'd fly up harbour to the girl I love

There was a time my heart was free
Like a floating spar on the open sea
But now the spar has washed ashore
It came to rest at my real love's door

Every time I gaze beyond the screw
Makes me long for old Peter's shoe
I'd walk right down that silver rain
And take my love in my arms again

Oh lord if dreams were only real
I'd put my hands on that wooden wheel
With all my heart I'd turn around
And tell the boys "we're homeward bound"

I'll pass the time like some machine
Until blue water turns to green
Then I'll dance on down that walk ashore
And sail the Grey Funnel line no more
And sail the Grey Funnel line no more