

## Leave Her Johnny

*Related to 'Across the Western Ocean' (Hugill p216). Could be sung during a voyage but more often to air grievances at the end when warping the ship across harbour or doing the final pump of the bilges after docking. "Many unprintable stanzas were sung directed at the afterguard." Roud 354.*

I thought I heard the Old Man say  
*Leave her Johnny, leave her*  
Tomorrow you will get your pay  
*It's time for us to leave her*

Oh the work was hard and the voyage long  
The seas were high and the gales were strong

She'd neither stay nor wear nor steer  
She shipped it green and made us swear

The bunks were hard and the watches cold  
The meat was green and the biscuit old

{The grub was bad and the wages low  
But now on shore once more we'll go}

I hope that I will never be  
On a hungry ship the likes of she

We'll make her fast and stow our gear  
The girls are waiting on the pier

Leave her Johnny, you can leave her like a man  
Oh leave her Johnny, oh leave her while you can

Now I thought I heard the old man say  
One more good pull and then belay

*Leave her, Johnny, leave her*  
*Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her*  
*For the voyage is done and the winds don't blow*  
*And it's time for us to leave her*