

## Paddy Lay Back

*We perform this as a comedy item using a mock Cockney accent but it is actually traditional. Roud 653.*

*Pawl = A metal finger that clicks into notches on the barrel of a winch or capstan to prevent roll-back (ratchet).*

*Crapoos = Crapaud = French for toad. Flipper = hand.*

'Twas a cold and dreary morning in December *December*  
And all of me money, it was spent *Spent spent*  
Where it went to, Lord, I can't remember *Remember*  
So down to the shipping office went *Went, went*

### Chorus

Paddy lay back, *Paddy lay back*  
Take in yer slack, *Take in yer slack*  
Take a turn around the capstan, Heave a pawl *Heave a pawl boys*  
'bout ship's stations, boys, be 'andy *Be 'andy*  
*We're bound for Valperaiser 'round the Horn*

That day there was a great demand for sailors *sailors*  
Fer colonies, fer 'Frisco and fer France *France France*  
So I shipped aboard a Limey ship, the Hotspur *The 'otspur*  
Got paralytic drunk on my advance *Vance Vance*

### Chorus

I woke up in the mornin' sick an' sore *sorwa*  
An' knew that I was outward bound again *bound again*  
When I heard a voice a-bawlin' at the door *the door*  
"Lay aft, men, an' answer to yer names" *Name name*

### Chorus

<more>

'Twas on the quarterdeck that first I saw 'em *saw 'em*  
Such an ugly bunch I niver seen before *sin before*  
For there wuz a bum an' a stiff from every quarter *quarter*  
An' it made me poor ol' heart feel sick an' sore *sore sore*  
Chorus

There was Spaniards an' Dutchmen an' Rooshians *Rooshians*  
An' Johnny Crapoos just across from France *France France*  
An' most of 'em could speak no word of English *of English*  
But answered to the name of 'Month's Advance!' *vance vance*  
Chorus

Well I wished that I was up the Jolly Sailor *sailor*  
Along with Irish Kate a-drinkin' beer *beer beer*  
An' then I thought what jolly chaps are sailors *are sailors*  
An' with a flipper wiped away a tear *boo hoo*  
Chorus