

Rollicking Randy

Traditional capstan shanty with murky origins. Shore songs are known from 1810s using the phrase "randy dandy o" as a refrain, but it is unclear whether the shanty came earlier or later. Earliest evidence of the modern shanty is in Capt. John Robinson's Songs of the Chantey Man (1917), which places it in late C19. Roud 4702.

*The Chorus is not sung after every verse in order to stop it getting too long.
A 'pawl' is the ratchet lock on the deck to stop the capstan turning backwards.*

Now we are ready to head for the horn *wey hey roll 'n go*
Our boots and our clothes they are all in the pawn

Chorus

To me rollicking Randy Dandy O

Heave a pawl O heave away

Wey hey roll 'n go

Two anchors on board and the cables all stored

To me rollicking Randy Dandy O

Soon we'll be taking her up through the locks *wey hey roll 'n go*
Where the pretty young girls all come down in their frocks

Man the stout capstan and heave with a will *wey hey roll 'n go*
'cause soon we'll be driving her way down the hill *to me ..*

Heave away bullies you parish rigged bums *wey hey roll 'n go*
Take your hands from your pockets and don't suck your thumbs *to me ..*

Roust her up bullies the winds drawing free *wey hey roll 'n go*
Let's get the glad rags on and drive her to sea *to me ..*

We're outward bound for Valipo Bay *wey hey roll 'n go*
Get cracking me lads it's a hell of a way *to me ..*