

Tommy's Gone to Hilo

Hugill says this was a tops'l halyard song and it never found favour with the afterguard as it took too long to hoist a yard to it on account of the slow and lethargic way in which it was sung by a good shantyman. Even so it was popular with the men particularly for heavy lifts. The game played by the shantyman was to take Tommy to as many ports of three syllables that he could think of ... Hugill gives 19 verses. Roud 481.

Tommy's gone, what shall I do?

Away, Hilo

Tommy's gone and I'll go to

Tommy's gone to Hilo

Tommy's gone on a whaling ship

Tommy's gone it's a damn long trip

Oh Tommy's gone to Callao

He won't come back from there I know

Tommy's gone to Old Rio

To see them Spanish girls I know

Tommy's gone to Singapore

He won't be back for evermore

<Repeat 1st verse>