

**It's all for me grog, me jolly, jolly grog,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
For I spent all me tin
on the lassies drinking gin,
And across the Western Ocean I must
wander.**

1. Where are me boots? Me noggin', noggin' boots?

All gone for beer and tobacco.

For the heels they are wore out and the soles are kicked about,
And me toes are lookin' up for better weather.

And it's all for me grog ...

2. I'm sick in the head, I haven't been to bed
Since first I came ashore with me plunder.
I see centipedes and snakes and I'm full of
pains and aches,
And I think that I should push out over
yonder.

3. Where is me shirt? Me noggin' noggin' shirt?

All gone for beer and tobacco.

For the collar is all worn, and the sleeves they are all torn
And the tail is hangin' out for better weather.

4. Where is me hat? Me noggin' noggin' hat?

All gone for beer and tobacco.

Notes:

A **capstan** or **halyard** shanty.

Other names: All for me grog, My jolly jolly tin, My nobby hat, The noggin boots, Western Ocean.

Collected by **Kidson and Moffat** from a Yorkshire sailor and published in **English Peasant Songs**, 1929. A variant collected by **Sharp** in 1904

Notes on the words

Tobacco - is pronounced terbacker - to rhyme with weather!

It was not for smoking, but for chewing. Fire always was the greatest danger on a ship. 'Baccy was chewed and on merchant men, spittoons were provided alongside the wheel for use by the helmsman. Anyone caught spitting on the deck would be flogged.

Western Ocean - the North Atlantic Ocean.

Grog - any alcoholic drink. Initially rum mixed with water as issued in the Royal Navy. It may stand for "Georgius Rex Old Grenada", inscribed on barrels of Grenada rum intended King George III.

The crown it is wore out, the brim is knocked about,
And me hair is lookin' up for better weather.

5. Where is me bed? Me noggin' noggin' bed?

All gone for beer and tobacco.

I lent it to a whore and now it's all a-wore,
And the springs are lookin' out for better weather.

6. Where is me wench? Me noggin' noggin' wench?

All gone for beer and tobacco.

Her lips are all worn out and her front is kicked about,
And her arse is lookin' out for better weather.

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A L Lloyd at https://youtu.be/PU3Mww_gQR4 sings verses 1,2,3 only.

Remaining verses and more are heard at festivals etc where there is no 3-minute time limit.

Watch **The Exmouth Shanty Men** perform at <https://youtu.be/nk67p8Bysbw>

Here's a better story from **Barry Finn**, on mudcat.org



Vice Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, British hero of the 1739 War of Jenkins's Ear, was nicknamed **Old Grog** because of an impressive program cloak he wore on deck in all weathers....

Half the punishments handed down in the British Navy involved drunkenness. In 1740 Old Grog issued an order to curb drunkenness on his ships: that rum be diluted with water, given out in half-pint rations, 6

hours apart. In anger & protest this mix bears his nickname.

Rum does not stay long after being watered down, so there'd be no use to try & save up rations (as I presume was done before this.)