

## All for me Grog

**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 helms-  
man. 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](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](http://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.)