

## Bully in the Alley

Verse 1 and Chorus:

**So help me Bob I'm bully in the alley**  
**(Way, hey, bully in the Alley) □**  
**Help me Bob I'm bully in the alley**  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

2. Sally is a girl down in our alley  
**(Way, hey, bully in the alley)**  
 Sally is a girl in Shinbone Alley  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

3. Sally is a girl that I love dearly,  
**(Way, hey, bully in the alley)**  
 Sally is the girl that I spliced nearly,  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

4. I left my gal to go a-sailing  
**(Way, hey, bully in the alley)**  
 I left my Sal to go a-whaling  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

5. When I get to St Lou, I'm gone tie up at  
her quay  
**(Way, hey, bully in the Alley)**  
 She says that there's a place there just for me  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

6. Gonna visit my Sal as often as I'm able  
**(Way, hey, bully in the Alley)**  
 I hope I get there before I slip my cable  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

7. For seven long years I've courted Sally,  
**(Way, hey, bully in the alley)**  
 All she did was dilly dally,  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

**So help me Bob I'm bully in the alley**  
**(Way, hey, bully in the Alley)**  
**Help me Bob I'm bully in the alley**  
**(Bully down in Shinbone AI)**

### Notes

Halyard shanty

**Alternative Titles:** Bully in the Alley, Help me Bob,

**This version:** CD: *Good Times*, Graeme Knights.

### Notes on the words

**Bully** - Bully is normally used to mean a fellow-sailor.

Could 'bully' be a synonym for 'drunk'? it could equally be synonymous with 'bullish' (aggressive) which, in Short's version, might account for leaving your jacket in an alley after taking it off for a fight. [[MainlyNorfolk.info](http://MainlyNorfolk.info)]

**Shinbone AI** - a place often referred to in negro songs. There are Shinbone Alleys in Longboat Key, Florida, St. George's, Bermuda, in Antigua, in Pittsburgh and probably more.

**Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:**

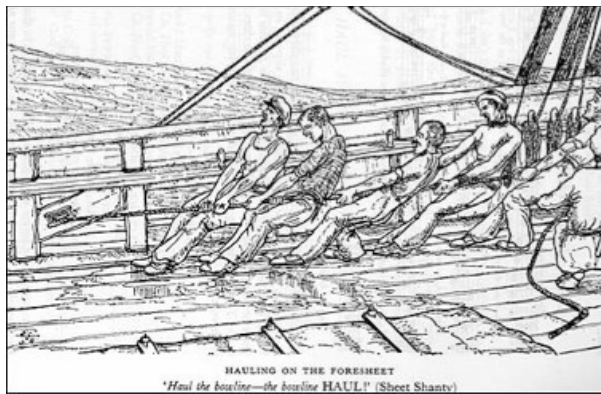
This shanty is of Negro origins which I came across in the Wet Indies. ...It may have been one used originally by cotton screwers.

1. So 'elp me bob, I'm bully in the alley  
 Way-ay-ay, ay-ay-ay, bully in the alley  
 So 'elp me bob, I'm bully in the alley  
 Bully down in Shinbone al.

2. Sally am de gal down in our alley  
 Sally am de gal that I spliced nearly.

3. I'll leave my Sal an' I'll go a-sailin'  
 I'll leave my Sal an' go a-whalin'.

My informant "Harry Lauder" told me that from verse 3 onwards improvisation was the thing.



**Hugill, Stan: *Hauling on the Foresheet***  
*"Haul on the bowline - the bowline - HAUL"*  
 from ***Shanties from the Seven Seas***, 1994.

**Brown, Tom: *Short, Sharp, Sharp Shanties***, 2012

"There are three other shanties of this title in the **Carpenter** collection, with first lines that seem to be related:

1. Edward Robinson of Sunderland - John Brown's body in the alley
2. Cptn. Robinson of Sunderland - I lost my jacket in the alley
3. Mr. Forman of Leith, Edinburgh - I lost my coat in Story's Alley."