

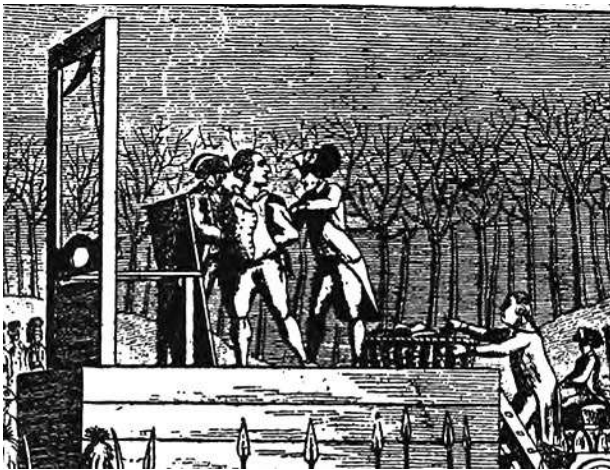
## Haul Away Joe

See **David Coffin** performing this short version at [youtu.be/FMfZWfpusVk](https://youtu.be/FMfZWfpusVk), where he shows people when and how it helped to pull together.,

1. Now when I was a little boy or so me  
mother told me,  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE!**  
That if I didn't kiss the girls my lips would  
grow all mouldy.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

**'Way haul away, haul for better weather**  
**'Way, haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away together**  
**'Way, haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

2. King Louis was the King of France  
before the revolut-aye-on,  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
But then he got his head cut off,  
it spoiled his constitut-aye-on.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**



Fleischman, Hector: *Exécution de Louis XVI, époque révolutionnaire* (detail), 1908  
via [wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Exécution_de_Louis_XVI_(1908).jpg).

3. Once I loved a Killarney\* girl, but she was  
fat and lazy  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
Then I met a Portsmouth\* girl, she  
nearly drove me crazy  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

**'Way haul away haul for better weather**  
**'Way, haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away together**  
**'Way, haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

\* Different town names are chosen to reflect where the crew comes from.

Here is a longer version, as sung by the [Portsmouth Shantymen](#) on their CD: *Hangin' Round the Yard*,

1. Now when I was a little boy me mammy  
always told me,  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!**  
That if I didn't kiss the girls my lips would  
all grow mouldy.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!**

**'Way - Hey! - Haul 'em away,**  
**We'll haul for better weather**  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

2. I sailed the seas for many a year  
not knowin' what I was missing,  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
Until I set me sails 'fore gales an' started in  
a-kissing.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

**'Way - Hey! - Haul 'em away!**  
**We'll haul for better weather**  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

3. First I had a Yankee girl, she was fat and  
lazy  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
And then I had Dago girl, she damned near  
drove me crazy.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

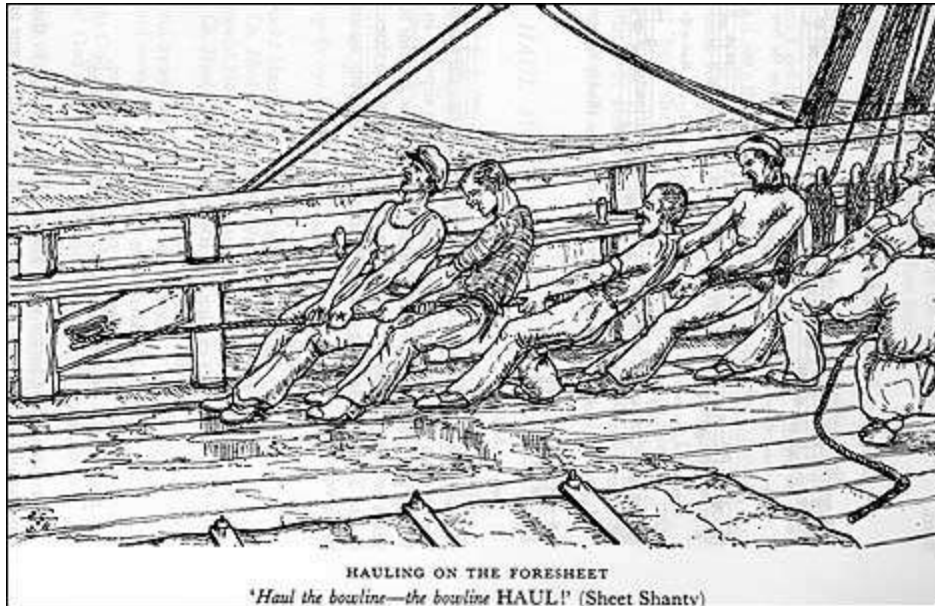
4. Once I had a nagging wife and she was far  
from civil  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
So I clapped a plaster on her mouth and I  
sent her to the devil.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

5. Listen awhile I'll sing to you about my  
darling Nancy,  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
She's copper-bottomed, clipper-built, she's just  
me style and fancy.  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE** □

6. 'Way, haul away we'll haul away the bowline  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**  
Way, haul away, we'll keep the packet rollin',  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

**'Way - Hey! - Haul 'em away,**  
**We'll haul for better weather**  
**'Way haul away, we'll haul away JOE**

## Haul Away Joe



**Hugill, Stan: *Hauling on the Foresheet***  
from ***Shanties of the Seven Seas***, 1994.

### Notes

This is a tack and sheet, foresheet, short pull, sweating up, or possibly a halyard shanty

Clearly it was popular!

Stan **Hugill**'s version gives 20 verses, then he mentions 3 more.

\* As with many shanties different town names are chosen to reflect where the crew comes from.

William Main **Doerflinger**, ***Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman***, revised 1990, says

Haul Away Joe was well liked for its cheery humour. Dick Maitland "never heard it used at anything but hauling aft the foresheet after reefing the foresail, when you needed a short pull and a hard one."

The pull came on the last word in the chorus, a word that was more grunted than sung, all the effort going into the drag on the rope.

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

"This is another famous **tack and sheet** shanty. I learnt much of my version from Paddy Griffiths, who told me it was used mainly for hauling aft the foresheet after reefing the foresail.

"On account of the numerous couplets known to fit this shanty\* I am inclined to think that at some time or other it was used as a **halyard** song, since any sheet shanty employed at the most no more than three or four verses.

"My friend T E Elwell told me that "pull" or "haul" was often song instead of "Joe" at the end of the refrain. It was on this word that the vigorous, concerted "drag" came.

"With some crowds the word was not sung but grunted out staccato, with others the final note was given its full value followed by an upward groan of the voice as the pull came, i.e. "Joe-ugh!".

Richard Runciman **Terry**, 1921, ***The Shanty Book, Sailor Shanties*** says it's a **foresheet** shanty (see illustration).

Capt W.B, **Whall** 1913, ***Ships, Sea songs and Shanties***, says it is used as a last **short pull** for sweating up.

Terry includes this verse reminiscent of the collier song Byker Hill:

Geordie Charlton had a pig and it was double jointed  
He took it to the blacksmith's shop to get its trotters pointed.