

Haul Away Joe

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 knowing 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 and 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!

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

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

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

9. Away, haul away we'll haul away the bowline,

'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe! **'Way,**
haul away, we'll keep the packet rolling

'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!**

Other popular verses

I got myself an Irish gal and her name was Flannigan,
'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!
She stole me boots, she stole me clothes, she pinched me plate an' pannikin.

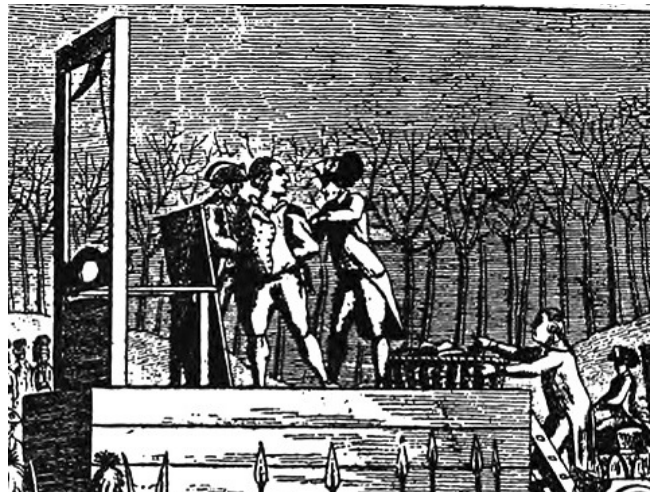
'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!

King Louis was the King of France, before the revolution-aye-on,

'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!

But then he got his head cut off which spoiled his constitut-aye-on.

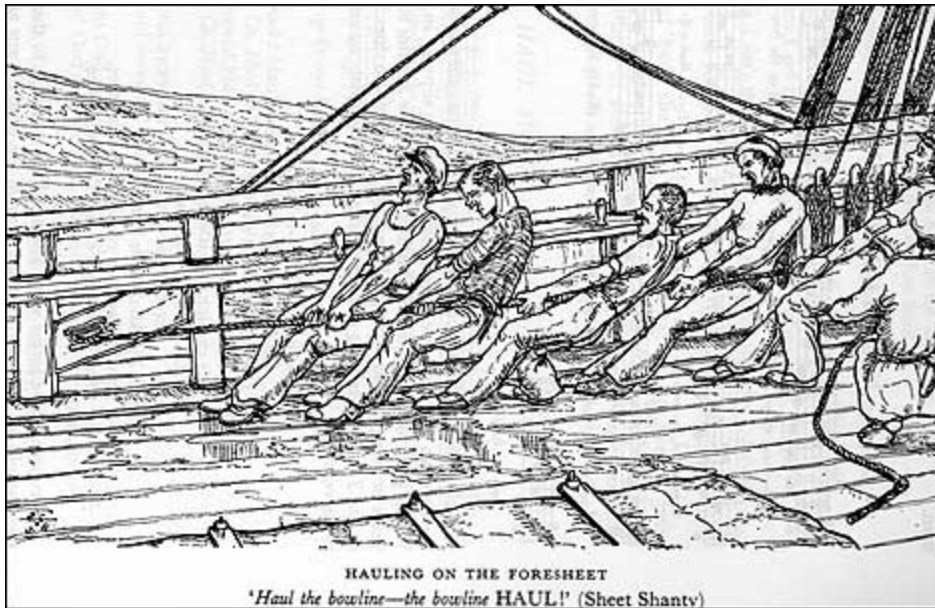
'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!



Fleischman, Hector:
Exécution de Louis XVI, époque révolutionnaire (detail), 1908

via [wikimedia Commons](#).

Haul Away Joe



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

Notes

This is a tack and sheet, short pull, sweating up, or possibly a halyard shanty (see below). Clearly it was popular!

This version: CD: **Hangin' Round the Yard, Portsmouth Shantymen**

Doerflinger, William Main, *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.

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

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

Hugill, Stan, 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!".

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