

Notes:

A popular deepwater song (not a shanty)

Alternative Titles: Go to sea *no* more, Go to sea *once* more, *Off* to sea once more, Jackie Brown, Shanghai Brown

This version as sung by Dave Earl.

Doerflinger, William Main, 1951, *Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman*, revised 1990:

"In San Francisco, before the earthquake, most of the boarding masters were notorious Shanghaiers. Their well-armed runners, in small boats, met incoming sailing vessels down the bay. Forcing their way on board, they used either persuasion or violence to make sailormen go with them to their respective houses. Arriving there, the men were quickly knocked out with liquor, usually doped, and put aboard outward-bounders, often before having been ashore more than a few hours. The crimps [boarding masters], of course, took not only the advance, but also "blood money", ranging from \$30 to \$50 or more, for each hand they supplied.

"Shanghai" Brown

"Prominent among the Frisco crimps was Shanghai Brown, whose boarding house is said to have been running full blast in the seventies. [This] popular deepwater song has the ruthless Brown taking revenge on a sailor who has offended him by his independent ways – the man actually chalked no score with Brown on first leaving his ship but insolently let his money be stolen by woman.

Shanghai takes the offender in but teaches him a lesson by shipping him out in one of the port's many Bering Sea Whalers. This meant spending two or three years in the Arctic, and what was worse, perhaps being paid off with a dollar by wily captain when the ship finally did get back to Frisco. Despite the apparent

humour of the song, it was meant as a serious warning that few sailors ever took to heart."

See also my notes on how boarding masters operate, given for the [Dead Horse Shanty](#).

Notes on the words:

ran up no score / chalked no score - did not get into debt - so "Shanghai" Brown did not get his usual money.



Pratt, Mara L., **Impressment of American Sailors, from American History Stories Vol 3, The War of 1812.**
via GatewaytotheClassics.com

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