

1. Oh! Do, me Johnny Bowker, come rock 'n'
roll me over,

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

2. Oh! do, me Johnny Bowker, from Calais
down to Dover,

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

3. Oh! do, me Johnny Bowker, come roll me
in the clover,

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

4. Oh! do, me Johnny Bowker, the bosun's
never sober.

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

5. - come rock 'n' roll me over,

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

6. - we'll either break or bend 'er.

Oh do, me Johnny Bowker, do!

7. - we're just the men to mend 'er

Do me Johnny Bowker, do!

Other available verses:

— let's all go on a jamboree,
— the watches are cala-la-shee,

— the Old Man he's a soaker.
— the chief mate he's a croaker,

— I bet ye are a rover
— the sails he is a tailor.
— the chips he ain't no sailor.

— in London lives yer lover.
— in Bristol there's another.

— come haul away the bowline.
— the packet she is rollin'.

— we'll either break or bend it.
— we're man enough to mend it.

— we'll haul away an' bend 'er.
— me sweatheart's young and tender.

— we're chasing down to Dover.
— oh one more pull and choke her

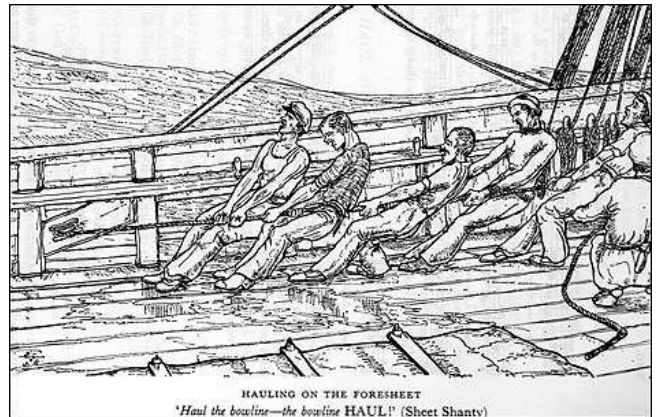
See **Hulton Clint** demonstrate sweating up at
<https://youtu.be/BVpKvft7nv8>.

Hulton's notes explain how this was used.

Notes

Foresheet sweating-up shanty. Hugill gives 23 verses but less than five are needed for a job of sweating up..

Alternatives: Johnny Boker, Johnny Booker, Johnny Bowker, Johnny Poker



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

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

This is a foresheet song, used for "sweating up", to give a final drag on a halyard to gain the last inch, at tacks and sheets and sometimes for bunting a sail, although this latter job was considered for the prerogative of Paddy Doyle.

My friend Mr T.E.Elwell said that in ships he served in it was usually sung when there was an "all hands" job at the fore, main, or crojik sheets. Instead of do he always sang haul.

"Do" was grunted out staccato, or rather the word was sung to its correct note and then a rising, gasped-out "ugh" would follow as the pull came.

Doerflinger believes it related to negro and minstrel ditties as the name Johnny Boker often appears in such songs; he refers to a minstrel song with a refrain which ran:

Oh Jonny Boker, help dat Nigger, do Jonny Boker do!

In the recent story of the Great Eastern – *The Iron Ship* - reference is made to the singing of her seven-foot bosun of "Adieu my Johnny Boker", to which the crew roared out responses, many unfit for the ears of the ladies in the Grand Saloon!

A version once used in Newfoundland to help haul portable huts across the ice and also to move boats on the land is to be found in *Ballads and Sea Songs of Newfoundland* (Greenleaf and Mansfield):

And it's o my jolly poker,
And we'll start this heavy joker,
And it's o my jolly poker-O!