

Load 'em and Stack 'em

**Load 'em and stack 'em -
(you can't do it later)**

**Load 'em and stack 'em
on a Japanese freighter.**

**Load 'em and stack 'em -
(the hold's a-gettin' higher)**

**Load 'em and stack 'em
till the sun goes down.**

1. You work all day (Load dem beans!)
To earn your pay, (Load dem beans!)
But another pallet's comin'

(Load dem beans!)
Down into the hold so you gotta work on...

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2. Your hands are sore, (Load dem beans!)
Your back even more, (Load dem beans!)
But another pallet's comin'

(Load dem beans!)
Down into the hold so you gotta work on...

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Notes:

Song written by Jerry Cassault

Other names: Japanese Freighter, Load em and Stack em,

[GoodOldBoat](#) magazine wrote in 2003;

Load 'em and Stack 'em is the story of singer Jerry Cassault's summer loading Japanese freighters with 100-pound bags of Michigan navy beans. The liner notes describe the backbreaking and dangerous work and the ultimate payoff for a very fit songwriter who used the money saved to backpack through Europe.

3. Break away! break away!

(Load dem beans!)

Clear the way! clear the way!

(Load dem beans!)

From dawn to dusk (Load dem beans!)

Seven days a week, so you gotta work on...

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4. She's a-filled to the top.

(Load dem beans!)

It's time to stop. (Load dem beans!)

The last pilot's gone, (Load dem beans!)

Get out o' the hold, there's another freighter
comin'...

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This song by **Jerry Cassault** can be heard at youtu.be/6PuEd_B9ZKU, sung by Liz Porter and the **Hastings Shanty Singers**.

Photo:

U.S. food being loaded onto freighters at Lake Charles, Louisiana, to be shipped overseas. US National Archives and Records Administration. May 1972.

via [Wikimedia commons](#).

