

## Paddy Doyle

**1. Timme way ay-ay-ay ya!**  
We'll pay Paddy Doyle for his **boots!**

**2. Timme way ay-ay-ay ya!**  
We'll all drink whisky and **gin!**

**3. Timme way ay-ay-ay ya!**  
We'll all shave under the **chin!**

**4. Timme way ay-ay-ay ya!**  
We'll all throw muck at the **cook!**

**5. Timme way ay-ay-ay ya!**  
We'll pay Paddy Doyle for his **boots!**

Hugill adds that other last lines were:

Who stole poor Paddy Doyle's **boots!**

We'll bouse her up and and be **done!**

We'll order brandy and **rum!**

The dirty Old Man's on the **poop!**

Hear **Tommy Makem** and the Clancy Brothers sing this at <https://youtu.be/yC3nKnpNOZg>.  
**The Valparaiso Men's Chorus** sing a longer version with explicit lyrics at <https://youtu.be/E2cNYAGxRHM>.

### Notes

A **Bunt** shanty - see below

**Other names** - Paddy Doyle, Paddy Doyle's boots

**Paddy Doyle** was a boarding master (crimp) and apparently not very popular, as he took more than his fair share of the sailors' advance money.

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

"This song or rather "chant" was dedicated to one job only - that of getting the mass of sodden, bellying canvas rolled up on the the yard, or "**tossing the bunt**" as it was called.

It was a job common in the older class of ships that carried single topsails or else had double topsails with "bunt-stow" t'gans'ls [topgallant sails] and royals.

The song was also used on courses when they had clew lines leading into the quarters of the yard and not to the yard-arms, as was the later practice.

Some ships combined both yardarm and bunt-stow.

The haul usually came on the word **Boots!** or the word **Ya!** or on both.

Normally there was no need for more than two or three verses at the most.

**Terry**, Richard Runciman, 1921, *The Shanty Book, Sailor Shanties*) explains:

It was used for one operation only, viz. **bunting up** the foresail or mainsail in furling. In this operation the canvas of the sail was folded intensively until it formed a smooth conical bundle. This was called a bunt, and a strong collective effort (at the word "boots") was required to get it on to the yard.

**Bunt** - the central portion of a furled sail, especially a square sail, or the belly of a full-cut one.

**to bunt a sail** - to haul up the middle part of the sail and secure it (by the bunt-gasket).

**Buntline** - a line tied to the bottom of a top sail, used to gather up the sail up to spill its wind so that it may be furled.

**Bunt-stow** - the bulk of a sail dragged up to the centre, or bunt, of the yard and secured.  
[www.abandos.com/?page\\_id=149](http://www.abandos.com/?page_id=149)



**Furling a sail on the main yard of the Parma**, between 1932 and 1933.  
Part of the Alan Villiers collection at the [National Maritime Museum, Greenwich](#)  
Photo via [wikimedia commons](#).

The order of sails, starting at the deck, are:

1. Course (eg main course or mainsail, forecourse or foresail, etc)
2. Lower topsail
3. Upper topsail
4. Topgallant sail (t'gans'l)
5. Royal sail