

## Randy Dandy O

1. Now we are ready to head for the Horn  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Our boots and our clothes they are all in  
the pawn,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

Chorus:

□ **Heave a pawl, oh heave away**  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
**The anchor's on board and the cable's**  
**all stored**  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

2. Soon we'll be warping her out through the  
locks,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Them pretty young girls will come down in  
their flocks,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

3. Come breast the bars, bullies, and heave  
with a will,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Soon we'll be driving her off down the hill,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

4. Roust her out, bullies, the wind's blowing  
free,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Let's get the "glad-rags" on and drive her to  
sea,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

5. It's up them yards, you parish rigged  
bums,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Take your hands out your pockets,  
and don't suck your thumbs,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

6. We're outward bound for 'Valipo' Bay,  
**(Way, hey, roll and go)**  
Get bending, me lads, 'tis a hell of a way,  
**(To me rollicking randy dandy-O)**

An **Outward Bound** shanty.  
sung at capstan and pumps.

### Verse variations and additions

Come breast the bars, bullies, and heave her away -  
Soon we'll be rolling away down the bay.

Man the capstan and heave with a will -  
Soon we'll be driving away down the hill.

Sing goodbye to Sally and goodbye to Sue,  
We are the boy-os to soon kick her through.



**Capstan Shanty**  
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### Notes

This is an **Outward bound** shanty, sung at the **capstan** or **pumps** when preparing to leave port.

This version: CD **Poles Apart** by Tom Lewis

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

Randy dandy-O is a capstan and pumps song heard mainly aboard the old Cape-Horners. I had this from Harding, who declared it was very popular aboard the small Nova Scotian barque he once shipped in.

The tune is reminiscent of *The Raggle Taggle Gypsies*. [Colcord, Miss Joanna, *Roll and Go*, 1924] gives a version from [Captain Robinson, John, *Songs of the Chantey Man, The Bellman*] with a similar tune [with] one verse and the original bawdy refrain camouflaged.

### Notes on the words

**Rollicking randy dandy-o** - sounds good, or perhaps it originally had "B"s instead of "R"s?

**Roll and Go** - no-one knows where this expression came from although it is used a lot in work songs. It has been suggested it may have come from the stevedores who rolled bales of cotton on and off riverboats in their journey from the plantations to the gulf ports. I think it just sounds good; like progress is being made..

**Heave a pawl** - a capstan has pawls that prevent it from spinning backwards. It would be unsafe to relax without heaving all the way to the next pawl.

**Breast the bars** - the bars attached to the capstan, and perhaps the pump.

Hugill: I have had to camouflage, but I have left mine in a little nearer to the original suggestive word found in one refrain. Two or three of the verses have had to be altered slightly also.

**Valipo** - Valparaiso (or Valli-paraiso)



Fitz Hugh Lane (1804-1865): *Clipper Ship "Southern Cross" Leaving Boston Harbor*, 1851

A photographic reproduction from Wikimedia of a painting in the Athenaeum or Peabody Essex Museum. The artist is also known as Fitz Henry Lane,