

1. O, Renzo was no sailor,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
He was a stitchin' tailor,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
2. He was pressed on board a whaler,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
He was but a hopeless failure.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
3. The Captain gave him thirty,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
His daughter begged for mercy.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
4. She took him to her cabin,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
Which got the crew a-jabbrin'  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
5. She gave him cake and water,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
And a bit more than she ought-ter.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
6. She gave him rum and whiskey,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
Which got him spry and frisky.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
7. She taught him navigation,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
That cursed occupation.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
8. Now Renzo is the skipper,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
Of a leaky Blackball clipper.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**
9. He's known wherever whalefish blow,  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**  
As the worst damned captain on the go.  
**Renzo, boys, Renzo!**

Sing along with **Seán Dagher** at  
[youtu.be/jMKVs0XZr3A](https://youtu.be/jMKVs0XZr3A)

**Seán** uses verses from different sources and has added a few of his own for this version (just like a shantyman would).

## Notes

A **Halyard** shanty.

**Names:** Ranzo, Renzo, Reuben Ranzo

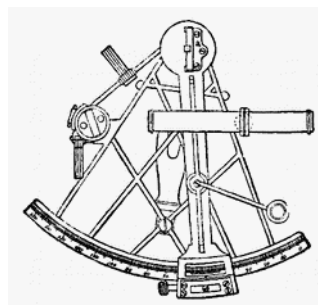
Nobody knows who Ranzo might be.

Although Ranzo is (now at least) an Italian name, Stan **Hugill** in *Shanties from the Seven Seas*: 1994, lists these four theories:

- it is a short version a Lorenzo,
- it refers to the Danish sailor Daniel Rantzau\*,
- it was an Eastern European Jew with a name like Reuben Ronzoff, or that
- Reuben derives from the description "Rube" for an inexperienced hand.

\* [Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Rantzau) says Daniel Rantzau is the name of a soldier hero of the Seven years' War though.

## Images relating to Navigation

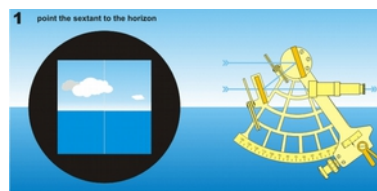


A Sextant,

Image from *Nordisk familjebok* (1904), vol.2, p.296

This sextant is one of many to be seen at [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sextant](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sextant).

It's worth going there and tapping on the first image shown: "**Using the sextant to measure the altitude of the sun**" which looks like this at first but it is animated



(or go straight to [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sextant#/media/File:Using sextant swing.gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sextant#/media/File:Using_sextant_swing.gif))