

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

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

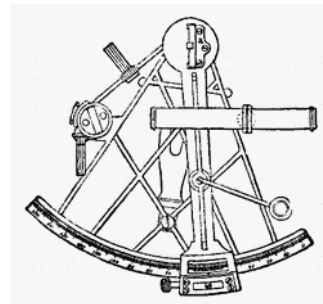
Nobody knows who Ranzo might be.

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

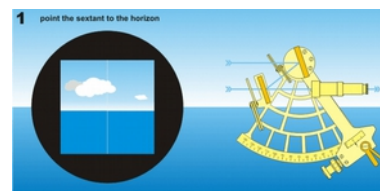


A Sextant,

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

This sextant is one of many to be seen at commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Sextant.

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)