

Stormalong John

1. O Stormy's gone, that good old man
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 O Stormy's gone, that good old man
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John
2. His heart was gold and kind and soft
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 And now he's gone way up aloft
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John
3. When Stormy died he made a will
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 Who gives us sailors neat gin to swill
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John
4. He slipped his anchor round Cape Horn
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 Close to the place where he was born
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John
5. We dug his grave with a silver spade
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 And marked a place where he was laid
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John
6. O Stormy's gone, that good old man
Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 O Stormy's gone, that good old man
Way, hay, come along, get along,
Stormy along John.

Sing this Stormalong song with **Hughie Jones** at <https://youtu.be/3rHAEIASJh0>

Hear '**Way Stormalong John** sung by **Redd Sullivan** at <https://youtu.be/G0uaJdq5gh4>

Notes

For halyards, pumps or capstan

Names: Six songs about Stormalong John are given by shantyman Stan **Hugill** in ***Shanties from the Seven Seas***, 1994, the second being ours.

Mister Stormalong (Stormalong / Captain Stormalong) with 18 verses, refrain being -
 To me way, you Stormalong
 Ay, ay, ay, Mister Stormalong.

Stormy, Along John (Stormalong John / Come along, git along, Stormalong John) with 4 verses.
 Stormy along, boys, Stormalong John
 Way, hay, come along, get along, Stormy along John.

Stormalong Lads Stormy (Oh Stormalong, Old Stormalong, Wo Stormalong) with 9 verses.
 Ol' Stormalong
 Stormalong, lads, Stormy.

'Way Stormalong John (Mister Stormalong John) with 5 verses

'Way Stormalong John
 'Way-ay, Mister Stormalong John.

Redd Sullivan at <https://youtu.be/G0uaJdq5gh4>

Walk me along Johnny (Walk him along John / General Taylor) with 8 verses.

Walk him along, John, carry him along
 Carry him to his burying ground

With this verse used as chorus:

Way, ay, Stormy. [or Storm and blow]
 Walk him along, John, carry him along
 Way, ay, Stormy
 Carry him to his burying ground.

Yankee John Stormalong with 6 verses

Yankee John Stormalong
 Yankee John Stormalong.

No-one knows who Stormalong John is, but stories abound. You can read a number of theories - with references - by Mudcat commentators at <https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=39676,39676>

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

[Some people] believe Stormalong was built around John Willis, the owner of the Cutty Sark, but Hugill is in no doubt that it is of much older vintage than the Cutty Sark period. He says

"The song is older than that and is of Negro origin ... Negro songs are found with Stormy / Stormalong refrains dating back to the 30s and 40s in the "Ethiopian Collections" of Negro folk-song. Nordhoff gives one form sung in the 30s by the hoosiers of the Gulf Ports.

All the variants of this song have come from or ... passed through and have been moulded in, the "shanty mart" of Mobile Bay.

Many of the carpets found in Stormalong are in other Negro songs. [Hugill] heard the American folksinger **Burl Ives** singing over the radio "**Go on blue, I finally got there too**", in which the following lines were used:

Lowered him down with a golden chain
 and
 Dug his grave with silver spade.