

Whisky Johnnie

1. 1. Oh, whisky is the life of man
Whisky! Johnny!
Whiskey from an old tin can
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

Whisky straight and whisky strong
Whisky! Johnny!
I'll drink whisky all day long.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

Whisky hot and whisky cold
Whisky! Johnny!
Whisky new and whisky old.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

If whisky comes too near my nose
Whisky! Johnny!
I tip her up and down she goes.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

I wish I knew where whisky grew
Whisky! Johnny!
I'd eat the leaves and the branches too.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

If the sea was whisky & I could swim
Whisky! Johnny!
I'd say "here goes" & dive right in
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

I thought I heard the old man say
Whisky! Johnny!
"I'll treat my crew in a decent way.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

A glass of grog for every man
Whisky! Johnny!
A bottle full for the shantyman."
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

Whisky made me pawn my clothes
Whisky! Johnny!
Whisky gave me this red nose.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!

Whisky took my brains away
Whisky! Johnny!
The old man calls and I'll Belay.
Here's whisky for me Johnny!



Photograph "**Haul-Topsail-Heavy**" taken on the [Grace Harwar](#) (1,816 tons), built in 1839 at Port Glasgow. She is 266 ft 8 in long, with a beam of 39 ft 1 in, and a depth of 23 ft 6 in. from web site: [ShippingWondersoftheWorld.com](#).

Notes

Whisky Johnnie is a **Halyard Shanty**

According to **Shipping Wonders of the World**: "Hauling on the topsail halyards was a heavy job, and the halyards were often taken to the capstan" as shown in the photograph overleaf.

Sometimes the shanties went with such a swing that the officer of the watch had to be careful to sea that nothing aloft was carried away."

1. "Morn', Mr Fisherman"; "Morn' " says he,
Whisky, Johnnie
"Ha' you got a crayfish to sell to me?"
There's whisky for me Johnnie.
2. "Oh yes", says he, "I have got two,
Whisky, Johnnie
One for me and th' other for you."
There's whisky for me Johnnie.
3. I took the crayfish home but I couldn't
find a dish
Whisky, Johnnie
I put it in the place where me missus used
to piss.
There's whisky for me Johnnie.
4. Early next morning, as you may guess,
Whisky, Johnnie
The missus got up for an early piss.
There's whisky for me Johnnie.
5. The missus gave a howl, a groan and a
grunt,
Whisky, Johnnie



A crayfish ([wikimedia](#))

Listen on [YouTube](#).

Notes on the words:

Stan **Hugill**, in **Shanties from the Seven Seas**, 1994, gives four versions of Whisky Johnnie, from 30 verses down to eight; together they take four pages of his book. I do not have recording that matches any of these. Below is the fourth version (d). I've put back *some* of the words Hugill had to change:

She danced around the room with the
crayfish on her snout.

There's whisky for me Johnnie.

6. I grabbed a scrubber - the Missus
grabbed a broom

Whisky, Johnnie

We chased the bloomin' crayfish round and
round the room.

There's whisky for me Johnnie.

7. We hit it on the head, we hit it on the
side,

Whisky, Johnnie

We hit the blooming crayfish until the
blighter died.

There's whisky for me Johnnie.

8. The end of my story - the moral is this
Whisky, Johnnie

Always have a look-see before you have a
piss.

There's whisky for me Johnnie.



A chamber pot ([wikimedia](#))