

ACCORDING TO THE ACT

If you want a merchant ship and sail the sea at large
You'll not have any trouble if you have a good discharge
Signed by the Board of Trade with everything exact
And then you'll get your months advance according to the Act.

Chorus:

*So haul boys your weather mainbrace and ease away your lee
Hoist jib and topsails lads and let the ship go free
Hurrah boys Hurrah we'll sing the jubilee
And it's damn and bugger the Navy lads- the merchant ships for me*

2. Now when you join the ship me boys you'll here your Articles read
They'll tell you of your pork and beef your butter and your bread
Your coffee, tea and sugar boys your peas and beans exact
Your lime juice and your vinegar boys according to the Act.

Chorus:

*So haul boys your weather mainbrace and ease away your lee
Hoist jib and topsails lads and let the ship go free
Hurrah boys Hurrah we'll sing the jubilee
And it's damn and bugger the Navy lads- the merchant ships for me*

3. Now it's watch and watch the first day out according to the Act
Ten days out we all lay aft to get our lime juice whack
Break out a Handy-Billy boys and slap her on a tack
For we're going to set the mainsail-o according to the Act.

Chorus:

*So haul boys your weather mainbrace and ease away your lee
Hoist jib and topsails lads and let the ship go free
Hurrah boys Hurrah we'll sing the jubilee
And it's damn and bugger the Navy lads- the merchant ships for me*

4. Now it's up on deck me bully boys with many a curse we go
Waiting to hear that eight bells struck, that we may go below
Eight bells is struck, the watch is called, the log is hove exact
Relieve the wheel and go below according to the Act.

Chorus:

*So haul boys your weather mainbrace and ease away your lee
Hoist jib and topsails lads and let the ship go free
Hurrah boys Hurrah we'll sing the jubilee
And it's damn and bugger the Navy lads- the merchant ships for me*