

# The Last Shanty (A Sailor Ain't a Sailor)

**Words and Music Tom Lewis**

Well me father often told me when I was just a lad  
A sailor's life was very hard, the food was always bad  
But now I've joined the navy, I'm aboard a man-o-war  
And now I've found a sailor ain't a sailor any more

**Chorus:**        *Don't haul on the rope, don't climb up the mast  
If you see a sailing ship it might be your last  
Just get your civies ready for another run ashore  
A sailor ain't a sailor, ain't a sailor any more*

Well the killock of our mess he says we've had it soft  
It wasn't like this in his day when he was up aloft  
We like our bunks and sleeping bags, but what's a hammock for?  
Swinging from the deckhead, or lying on the floor?

**Chorus**

Well they gave us an engine that first went up and down  
Then with more technology the engine went around  
We know our steam and diesel but what's a mainyard for?  
A stoker ain't a stoker with a shovel anymore

**Chorus**

Well they gave us an Aldiss lamp so we could do it right  
They gave us a radio, we signaled day and night  
We know our codes and ciphers but what's a semaphore?  
A bunting-tosser doesn't toss the bunting anymore

**Chorus**

Two cans of beer a day and that's your bleeding lot  
Now we get an extra one because they've stopped the tot  
So we'll put on our civvy clothes and find a pub ashore  
A sailor's still a sailor just like he was before

**Chorus**