

Wareham Whaler's Songbook

Rio Grande

A traditional capstan shanty, collected by Cecil Sharp from John Short (Yankee Jack) from Watchet in Somerset amongst others.

(Pete Watts' Version)

The ship went a sailing out over the bar, wey hey Rio,
We've pointed 'er bow to the southern star,
And we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus:

***And away boys away, wey hey Rio,
So fare thee well me pretty young girls,
And we're bound for the Rio Grande.***

Say, was ye never down Rio Grande, wey hey Rio,
'tis there that the river runs on golden sand,
And we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus

So it's pack up your donkeys and get under way, wey hey Rio,
Them Judies we're leaving will draw our half pay,
As we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus

We've a bully good ship and a bully good crew, wey hey Rio,
We've bully good mates and a good skipper too,
And we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus

Cheer up Mary Ellen and don't look so glum, wey hey Rio,
On wash stocking day you'll be drinking up rum,
When we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus

It's farewell to Sally and farewell to Sue, Wey hey Rio,
You girls we are leaving we love you all too,
As we're bound for the Rio Grande.

Chorus x 2