

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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The Whale

The Whale

(Terry Fielding and Fred Dyer)

(Am) (G) (Am)

Di Di Di Di DA Di DE Di Di

(Am) They sailed from port one morning the (G) weather it was (Am) fair

A gentle breeze it pushed them and (G) no one gave a (Am) care

They sang and danced and (Am7) laughed that night and D opened up a (E) keg

They're (Am) out to catch the monster whale that (G) took the captain's

(Am) Di Di Di Di Da (G) Di DE Di (Am)Di

(Am)The Captain said "a piece of gold for (G)him who sees me (Am)whale"

So bend your backs and row me boys I(G) know that we won't (Am)fail

Chorus (chords as Verse1)

So bend your backs and row me lads and take me to me whale.

Tonite we'll sing and dance and tomorrow nite we'll sail.

We'll sail into the harbour no prouder man ther'll be;

We'll show them all we captured the monster from the...

Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di

They saw the whale one morning the weather it was fair

the men were white as ghosts, the Captain didn't care

I'll take this whale meself he cried the weak can stay behind

The strong can share my glory and tonight they'll share my..

Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di

The whale it came so close it was bigger than the sky

they lowered down the longboat and they heard the captain cry

Chorus

Bend your backs and row me lads and take me to me whale.

Tonite we'll sing and dance and tomorrow nite we'll sail.

We'll sail into the harbour no prouder man ther'll be;

We'll show them all we captured the monster from the...

Di Di Di Di Di Da Di Di

Chorus

The whale it came so close it almost tipped the boat

The captain took his spear and he rammed it down it's throat

the whale it gave a mournfull cry and tifted it's great tail a

and brought it down a crushing their small boat like a gale

(spoken) Now 100 years have passed since the Captain and his men

went down to spend their days in Davy Joneses' den

The whale it goes on living but inside it bears a scar
And if your ever neat that place a voice calls from afar

Chorus twice, last line:

We'll show them all we captured the monster from the sea

I just got the definitive reply on this song from Russ Hannah - universal organiser/stage manager/folk club doer from the Illawarra Region (south of Sydney):

"The Whale was written by Terry Fielding and Fred Dyer and produced as a single in 1972 when it reached the top five (It could have been on top in some charts) in the national charts. It was followed by another single called The Ghost. Terry Fielding in fact did live in the Illawarra (I think at Corrimal).

... In 1992 (maybe ~3) EMI produced their first album (on Axis) called Fielding and Dyer #7243 8 14786 2 2. Terry appeared at Jamberoo [the Illawarra Folk Festival] a few years ago and I have not seen him since. Fred's whereabouts I do not know ... "

My other enquiries with friends in working folk groups indicates that the song remains a (local, at least) standard with groups ranging from Folk to Rock - almost as much of a hardy perennial as Running Bear! BB

TB