

# BLOW THE MAN DOWN

12

ANONYMOUS

WHEN A SAILING SHIP weighs anchor, every man in the crew is affected by the excitement of departure. Sails are set, and the pull on the halyards finds the sailors singing to a lively rhythm. This is one of the best known of the chanteys. It was originally called the *Black Ball Liner Song*. The Black Ball Line was a line of packets sailing between New York and Liverpool, and this chantey was sung in heavy hauling. BLOW THE MAN DOWN has always been directly identified with "Jack Tar," as between the lines we can hear the boast of the professional seaman, who recognizes in his mate singing and working beside him a brother sailor, a man like himself.

SOLO

D

1. Come all ye young fellows that fol-low the  
 2. 'Twas on a Black Ball-er I first served my  
 3. With the tin-kers and tailors and sol-diers and

CHORUS

B7

Em

A7

sea, } To me way - hay, Blow the man down! } And  
 time, } all, } That

paysome at - ten-tion and lis - ten to me,  
 in the Black Ball-er I wast-ed my prime, Oh,  
 ship for good sail-ors a - board a Black Ball,



CHORUS

D A7 D Em (sus4) Em D A7 D

give me some time to blow the man down!

4. 'Tis when a Black Baller's preparing for sea,  
 To me way-hay, blow the man down!  
 You'd split your sides laughing, the sights you would see,  
 Oh, give me some time to blow the man down.
5. 'Tis when a Black Baller is clear of the land,  
 To me way-hay, blow the man down!  
 The crew musters aft at the word of command,  
 Oh, give me some time to blow the man down!
6. 'Tis larboard and starboard, on the deck you will sprawl,  
 To me way-hay, blow the man down!  
 For 'Kicking Jack Williams' commands the Black Ball,  
 Oh, give me some time to blow the man down!

The BLACK BALL LINE was a famous line of packets between New York and Liverpool.