

Roll Cotton Down

Tim Walsh retired sailor Devonport Devon

Collected by Cyril Tawney

pub The English Folksinger Sam Richards and Tish Stubbs

Adapted and arranged Paul Wilson

Verse 1

Oh it's ten long years since I left my home

Roll cotton down

Oh ten weary years since I left my home

Roll cotton down

Chorus

And we'll roll her up and we'll roll her down

Roll cot-ton down

And we'll roll her up and we'll roll her down

Roll cot-ton down

Verse 2

Oh I shipped aboard of a Yankee clipper

Roll cotton down

'Twas the first time I sailed with a blue nosed skipper

Roll cotton down

Chorus

Verse 3

Oh the mate was drunk and the skipper not sober

Roll cotton down

And he drunk more rum till he keeled right over

Roll cotton down

Chorus

Verse 4

Now when you go to sea try a blue nosed schooner

Roll cotton down

You'll pay off in hell either later or sooner

Roll cotton down

Chorus