

# The Bonny Ship the Diamond

*Verse*

Am Em

The - Dia - mond is a ship, my lads, For the  
Thomp- son gives the ord - er To -

Am Em Am

Da - vis Strait she's bound, And the quay it is all  
sail the oc - ean wide, Where the sun it ne - ver

Em C G Am

gar - nish - ed With bon - ny las - ses 'round. Cap - tain  
sets, my lads, Nor dark - ness dims - the

1. Am

*Chorus*

Am Em Am

sky. And it's cheer up my lads, Let your

C

hearts ne - ver fail, For the bon - ny ship, the

Em Am Em Am

Dia - mond, Goes a hunt - ing for - the whale.

1. The Diamond is a ship, my lads,  
For the Davis Strait she's bound,  
And the quay it is all garnished  
With bonny lasses 'round.  
Captain Thompson gives the order  
To sail the ocean wide,  
Where the sun it never sets, my lads,  
Nor darkness dims the sky.

## Chorus:

And it's cheer up my lads,  
Let your hearts never fail,  
For the bonny ship, the Diamond,  
Goes a-hunting for the whale.

2. Along the quays of Peterhead,  
The lasses stand around,  
Their shawls all pulled about them  
And the salt tears running down.  
Now don't you weep, my bonny wee lass,  
Though you be left behind,  
For the rose will bloom on Greenland's ice  
Before we change our mind.

## Chorus

3. Here's health to the Resolution,  
Likewise the Eliza Swan,  
Here's a health to the Battler of Montrose  
And the Diamond, ship of fame.  
We wear the trousers of the white,  
The jackets of the blue,  
When we return to Peterhead,  
We'll have sweethearts enou'.  
**Chorus**

4. It will be bright both day and night  
When the whaling lads come hame,  
In a ship that's full of oil, my boys,  
And money to our name.  
We'll make the cradles all to rock  
And the blankets for to tear,  
And every lass in Peterhead  
Sing, "Hushabye, my dear."  
**Chorus**

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"The Bonny Ship the Diamond" is an old Scottish song about the West Greenland right whale fishing in the 1820s. Over-harvesting in the Greenland Sea (off the north-eastern coast of Greenland) during the early 19th century had a devastating toll on the whale stocks. A new hunting ground was discovered in the region of the Davis Strait (between Greenland and Baffin Island) and it was mostly here that The Diamond sailed. In 1830 The Diamond, Eliza Swan and The Resolution along with seventeen other whaling ships were caught in the ice of Melville Bay (off north-western Greenland) in Baffin Bay. The ships were lost and many sailors lost their lives.

The chorus is slightly reminiscent of "Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill".

Other whaling songs in this section are:

Greenland Whale Fishery

Blow, Ye Winds

Rolling Down to Old Maui

It was recorded by Ewan MacColl, A.L. Lloyd, The Clancy Brothers with Louis Killen, John Roberts, Judy Collins, The Hardtackers and others.

I first heard it from the Judy Collins recording.