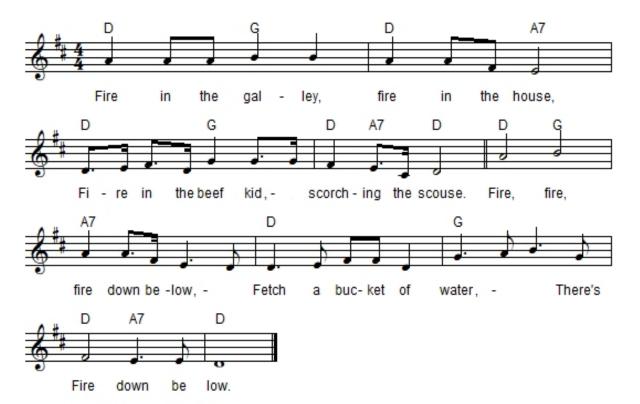
Fire Down Below



1. Fire in the galley, fire in the house, Fire in the beefkid, scorching the scouse.

Chorus

Fire, fire, fire down below, Fetch a bucket of water, Fire down below.

- 2. Fire in the cabin, fire in the hold, Fire in the strong room melting the gold. **Chorus**
- 3. Fire round the capstan, fire on the mast, Fire on the main deck, burning it fast. **Chorus**

- 4. Fire in the lifeboat, fire in the gig, Fire in the pig-stye roasting the pig. **Chorus**
- Fire in the store room spoiling the food,Fire on the orlop burning the wood.Chorus
- Fire on the waters, fire high above,Fire in our hearts for the friends that we love.Chorus

Vocabulary:

beefkid = small wooden tub in which beef salt is served

scouse = mixture of salt beef and crushed biscuit

orlop = the name of a lower deck

"Fire Down Below" is a pumping shanty. When wooden ships were replaced by iron ships, the shanty was used for the capstan. Hugill states it was one of the shanties sung aboard a British squarerigger. He was the shantyman who sang it on the four masted barque Garthpool a week or so before it wrecked on Ponta Reef, Cape Verde Islands in October 1929. Hugill gives three different tunes for the shanty. The song was printed in Davis' **Fifty Sailors' Songs or "Chanties"** (1870) and Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1987).