

The Holy Ground

Verse

D A7 D

Fare thee well, my love - ly - Din - ah, A

A7 D D Bm

thou - sand tim - es a - dieu. For we're going a - way from the

G A7 D A7

Ho - ly Ground And the girls we all - love true. We will

D A7 D A7

sail the salt - seas - o - ver And then re - turn for

D D Bm G D

shore And still I live in hope to see The -

Chorus

A7 D Bm

Ho - ly Gro - und once - more. You're the girl that I a -

D A7 D Bm G D

dore, — And still I live in hope to see the -

A7 D

Ho - ly Gro - und once - more.

1. Fare thee well, my lovely Dinah,
A thousand times adieu.
For we're going away from the Holy
Ground
And the girls we all love true.
We will sail the salt seas over
And then return for shore
And still, I live in hope to see
The Holy Ground once more.
[Fine Girl You Are]

Chorus:

You're the girl that I adore,
And still, I live in hope to see
The Holy Ground once more.
[Fine Girl You Are]

2. Now when we're out a-sailing
And you are far behind
Fine letters will I write to you
With the secrets of my mind,
The secrets of my mind, my girl,
You're the girl that I adore,
And still I live in hope to see
The Holy Ground once more.
[Fine Girl You Are]

Chorus

3. Oh, now the storm is raging
And we are far from shore;
The poor old ship she's sinking fast
And the riggings they are tore.
The night is dark and dreary,
We can scarcely see the moon,
But still I live in hope to see
The Holy Ground once more.
[Fine Girl You Are]

Chorus

4. And now the storm is over
And we are safe and well.
We will go into a public house
And we'll sit and drink like hell.
We will drink strong ale and porter
And we'll make the rafters roar,
And when our money is all spent
We'll go to sea once more.
[Fine Girl You Are]

Chorus

These are Irish lyrics to the tune of "Old Swansea Town Once More".

The area known as "The Holy Ground" was the red-light district of Cobh (once known as Queenstown), County Cork. In the 19th century it was a major stopping-off port for trans-Atlantic ships. The tune is also referred to as "The Cobh Sea Shanty". It was popular on the docks of Cork and Cobh as well as on the ships.

Stan Hugill maintains that the tune was originally a capstan chanty - a song sung as sailors turned the capstan to raise the anchor.

Recently it is more of a song to be sung over a pint in the local pub after a long day's fishing or perhaps while sitting and mending nets. The "Fine Girl(s) You Are" phrase is often shouted at the end of each verse and/or chorus (probably depending on the number of pints consumed). It has been recorded by The Clancy Brothers, The Dubliners, The Jolly Rogers, the Poxy Boggards, the Brobdingnagian Bards, Mary Black, Pete Seeger, The Tossers, Beatnik Turtle and others.

I learned it from The Clancy Brothers.

It was printed in Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1961).