

John Kanakaa

D

I thought I heard the old man say John Ka

A7 D

nak- a nak- a, tu - lai e To -morr - ow is a sail - ing

A7 D *Chorus*

day John Ka nak- a nak- a, tu - lai e Tu - lai

A7

e, oh, tul - ai e, oh John Ka nak- a nak- a, tul - ai

D

e.

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| <p>1. I thought I heard the old man say
John Kanaka naka, tulai e
Tomorrow is a sailing day
John Kanaka naka, tulai e
Chorus
Tulai e, oh, tulai e, oh
John Kanaka naka, tulai e,</p> | <p>7. We're outward bound for 'Frisco Bay,
We're outward bound at the break of day.</p> |
| <p>2. I thought I heard the First Mate say,
You'll work tomorrow, but not today.</p> | <p>8. We're bound away around Cape Horn,
Where you wish to God you'd not been born!</p> |
| <p>3. We're outward bound from Frisco Bay,
We're outward bound at the break of day.</p> | <p>9. We're outward bound from London Town,
Where all the girlyies they come down.</p> |
| <p>4. It's rotten meat and weevily bread,
In two months out you wish you were dead.</p> | <p>10. We're a Yankee Ship with a Yankee crew,
And we're the boys to push her through.</p> |
| <p>5. I thought I heard the Bosun say,
It's one more pull and then belay.</p> | <p>11. We're a Yankee Ship with a Yankee mate,
Don't stop to walk or he'll change your gait.</p> |
| <p>6. We'll work tomorrow, but no work today,
For today, today is a holiday,</p> | <p>12. And when we get to 'Frisco Bay,
We'll pay off ship and draw our pay.</p> |
| | <p>13. O haul, oh haul, oh haul away,
O haul away, an' make yer pay!</p> |

This was a "long haul" chantey, used at the halyards for hoisting up the sails. In the 19th century large numbers of Melano-Polynesians were "recruited" as indentured laborers to work, not only as sailors, but ashore all across the west coast of America from Chile to Canada, as well as in Queensland, Australia. Many were "hired out" by the Hawaiian king. Over 60,000 were recruited in Australia from 1863 on, but most were subsequently deported in 1906-08 under the "White Australia" policy. Those in Canada fared much better, where they were employed by the Hudsons Bay Company, and many inter-married with the Native American population. Many Kanakas were also employed on farms and ranches in the Pacific states of the USA. They were also prominent in all the nineteenth century gold-rushes, jumping ship along with their white shipmates to seek their fortunes ashore. English-speaking sailors often had difficulty pronouncing their names, however, and so called them by the Hawaiian name "*Kanakaa*", which means "Hawaiian Man". The same word is found only slightly changed in the Maori language of New Zealand as "*tangata*". I learned this from the singing of The Hardtackers.