

"THE TANKERMAN'S SHANTY"

WELL MY NAME IS OLE HANSEN
I'M FROM BERGEN
AND I'VE BEEN A SAILOR ALL MY ADULT LIFE
I NEVER WED: IT'S JUST MY SHIP AND I SIR
AND TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS MAKES QUITE A WIFE!

AS A LAD I SAILED AS BOSUN FOR MY UNCLE
THEN I SPENT ELEVEN YEARS AS MATE WITH SHELL
I AM FIFTEEN YEARS THE MASTER OF THIS VESSEL
SO WE KNOW THE SEAS AND OCEANS RATHER WELL

*BUT YOU NEVER HEAR A SONG ABOUT A TANKER
THERE'S JUST NO ROMANCE IN CRUDE OIL OR IN STEEL
NO ICEBERGS CAUSING PANIC
AS ABOARD THE OLD TITANIC
AND WE'RE SURELY NOT AS GRACEFUL
AS THE "HERZOGIN CECILE"*

(ORIGINAL)
NO PIRATES AND NO PARROTS
NO ZOMBIE HELMSMEN AT THE WHEEL:

*YO HO
I THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO SAY
YO HO!*

NOW WE WOULDN'T KNOW A TRADE WIND FROM A TRAIN WRECK
AND THOSE 'MONSTER WAVES' BOUNCE HARMLESS OFF OUR SIDE
OUR G P S WILL TELL US OUR POSITION
AND OUR EMAIL TELLS THE OWNERS HOW WE RIDE

ONCE WE FLEW THE FLAG OF HOLLAND, NOW IT'S CYPRUS
WE HAVE CREW FROM BURMA, GREECE, THE PHILLIPINES
AT THE BERTH THE CHANDLER BRINGS US OUR SUPPLIES SIR
HALF A TON OF RICE AND THIRTEEN KINDS OF BEANS!

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*BUT NO NEED FOR MUSIC MUCH AROUND A TANKER
AS THE COAST GUARD AND THE UNIONS BOTH AGREE
SO WE'RE DULL AND UNROMANTIC
IN PACIFIC OR ATLANTIC
AS OUR SAT'LITE NAVIGATOR
STEERS US THRU THE ROUGHEST SEAS*

*YO HO
I THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO SAY
YO HO!*

*IT'S BEEN NICE TO CHAT BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR WORK SIR
WE'VE JUST HEARD THE HARBOR PILOT'S ON HIS WAY
AND WE'LL TEND OUR SHIP WITHOUT THE SONGS OF OLD SIR
ALL THOSE SHANTIES SAILORS SANG BACK IN THE DAY*

*WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO WEST AFRICA TO LOAD SIR
THEN IT'S EASTWARDS TO KOREA ONCE AGAIN
LOTS OF WHALES ALONG THE ROUTE TO KEEP US COMP'NY
THERE'S A WHITE ONE THAT SWIMS NEAR US NOW AND THEN*

*BUT YOU NEVER HEAR A SONG ABOUT A TANKER
ALL THE SHANTYMEN IGNORE US AS A RULE
THEY WILL SING THEIR LOVELY PHRASES
IN A GRACEFUL SCHOONER'S PRAISES
OR RECALL HEROIC EPISODES
WHEN MEN AND SEAS WERE CRUEL*

*YO HO
I THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO SAY
YO HO!*