

The Voyage of Old Ironsides

Little Known Naval History

Urban legend text file
with meter and rhyme supplied by AI
Final composition by J. William Cupp

"What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor?"
Traditional, arr. J Brown

Original text file:

This was when the Navy had iron men and wooden ships, and their priorities straight.

LITTLE KNOWN NAVAL HISTORY.....

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.

GO NAVY!!!

Lyrics supplied by ChatGPT 23 August 2024 as operated by J. William Cupp

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

f

mp

Tenor

8

Up - on the sea, the Con - sti - tu - tion sail'd With Of - fi - cers and men,
No need for dis - till-ers on this mighty ship With pow-der black and rum

Baritone

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm!

4

Pno.

T.

8

four hun - dred strong, And for - ty eight thou-sand ga - lons fresh draught,
in great sup - ply, Her mis-sion clear: to bat - tle Eng - lish ships,

Bar.

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm!

7

Pno.

T.

8

To last them months while sail - ing far and long. When ir - on men a-board
To bring their ves - sels down or make them cry.

Bar.

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm! When ir - on men a-board

10

Pno.

T.

Bar.

their wood-en ships their spir-its bold, they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow -

their wood-en ships their spir-its bold, they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow -

15

Pno.

T.

Bar.

der at their hips. *ff* GO NA - VY!

der at their hips. *f* *ff* Let their leg - a - cy pre - vail!!

20

Pno.

T.

Bar.

f *mp*

From Bos-ton's port, she cut the waves with pride, In Ju - ly sev'n - teen nine -
On - ward to Ja - mai-ca's shores she flew - www In Oc-tob-er's sun she

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm!

23

Pno.

T.

Bar.

ty - eight, her year With can - non shot and pow - der stack'd in side
took her gain - nnn Eight hun'rd pounds of flou - ur and rum a - new,

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm!

26

Pno.

T.

Bar.

And casks of rum that sai - lors held so dear. When ir-on men a-board their wood-en ships
With bar-rels filled she brav'd the sal - ty main.

pp Hmm! *pp* Hmm! When ir-on men a-board their wood-en ships

30

Pno.

T.

Bar.

their spir-its bold, they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow - der at their hips.
their spir-its bold, they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow - der at their hips.

35

Pno. *ff* *f* *ff* *mp*

T. *ff* *f* *ff* *mp*

Bar. *f* *ff* *pp*

ff GO NA - VY!

By Jan-u-ary's end no
Back home to Bos-ton har-
So Old I-ron-side, w'sto-

40

Pno.

T.

Bar.

shot re - main - ed Yet still she sought the Firth of Clyde, so bold
bor then she steered, In Feb - ru - ar - y's cold her sails were torn.
ries yet un - told, Re - turn - ed to port, Her thirst for glory quench'd

pp
Hmm!

43

Pno.

T.

Bar.

A Scot-tish raid her crew un - re - strain - ed To steal the whis - key for -
No shot, no rum, no food, nor pow - der cheer'd But wa - ter still, e - nough
A ship of leg'nd tales of iron bold, her name in his - tor - y for - ev -

pp *pp* *pp*
Hmm! Hmm! Hmm!

46

Pno.

T.

Bar.

pp
Hmm!

ty thou - sand told. When ir-on men a-board their wood-en ships their spir - its bold,
for journ - neys worn.
er en - trench - ed.

When ir-on men a-board their wood-en ships their spir - its bold,

50

Pno.

T.

Bar.

ff

they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow - der at their hips. GO NA -

they brav - ed the oc-ean's gale Set sail with rum and pow - der at their hips.

55

Pno.

T.

Bar.

f *ff*

VY!

f *ff*

Let their leg - a - cy pre - vail!!