

Ship that Never Returned

As sung by
Noble Brown
11-17-1946 Millsville, WI

The ship that never returned 8377 316 B
D. J.

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'Twas a summers day and the waves were rip-pled by a
soft and gen-tle breeze when a ship set sail with a
car-go head-on for a port be-yond the sea

Verse 1.

'Twas a summers day and the waves were
rippled
By a soft and gentle breeze,
When a ship set sail with a cargo
Headed for a port beyond the sea.

Verse 2.

There were fond farewells, loving
demonstrations
By the ones who were most concerned.
Tho' they little knew 'twas the fatal voyage
Of the ship that never returned.

Verse 3.

Did she ever return, no she never returned
And her fate is yet unlearned.
Tho' for years and years there were fond hearts
watching
For the ship that never returned.

Verse 4.

Said the feeble lad to his anxious mother,
"I must cross the deep blue sea
For they say, perchance in some foreign
climate
There is help and strength for me."

Verse 5.

'Twas a gleam of hope in the midst of danger
And her heart for her youngest yearned.
But she sent him forth with a smile and a
blessing
On the ship that never returned.

Verse 6.

"Only one more trip," said a gallant seaman
As he kissed his weeping wife.
"Only one more bag of the gold and treasure
And 'twill last us all through life."

Verse 7.

"Then we'll settle down in our cozy cottage
And enjoy the rest we've earned."
But alas, poor man, for he sailed commander
On the ship that never returned.

Verse 8

Did she ever return? No, she never returned,
And her fate is yet unlearned.
Tho' for years and years there were fond hearts
watching
For the ship that never returned.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 106.

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Noble B. Brown. Learned this from his mother, who was Holland Dutch-Scotch. His father was English. Lived near Millville.

Editor's notes.

This song is by Henry C. Work, published by Root and Cady in 1865, Chicago (Randolph 140).

Sources:

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K.G.