

# We Will Haul

As sung by  
**Noble B. Brown**  
11-17-1946 Millford, WI



The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. A small number '9' is placed at the beginning of the second staff, indicating the start of a new line of music. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

We will haul, we will pull, we will all heave a - way. Heave a - way, a - way, blow the man down. We will  
9  
haul in the night and we'll pull dur-ing day, oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 1.

We will haul, we will pull, we will all heave away.  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We will haul in the night and we'll pull during day,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 2.

We will pull, we will haul, hearty healthy and gay.  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
Like husky strong seamen to earn able pay,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 3.

We will pull, the commands of our skipper obey,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We will haul 'til we hear the command to belay,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 4.

We'll expend all the energy we can afford,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We'll joyfully heave the dead horse overboard,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 5.

We will heave with all might we will heave with all main,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We will heave 'til the main brace needs splicing again,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 6.

We will heave when we're sick and by roughness of sea,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We will heave when recovering from a big spree,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down

## Verse 7

We will heave when the salt horse and hog becomes rank,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We will heave for good treatment, our officers thank,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 8.

To heave is what seamen should know how to do,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
And sometimes a vessel is forced to heave to,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 9.

We'll heave heaving line to a tender ashore,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
Leave heaving of cargo to strong stevedore,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 10.

We'll heave everywhere on a world surface round,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We'll heave the most joyfully when homeward bound,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

## Verse 11.

Blow the man down, bullies, blow the man down,  
Heave away, away, blow the man down.  
We'll heave the most joyfully when homeward bound,  
Oh give us some time to blow the man down.

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## Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by MB and HST.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*(Blow the Man Down)*

*Sung by Noble B. Brown, age 61, Millville, 1946.*

*Mr. Brown gave his explanation of the line, "We'll joyfully heave the dead horse overboard." It was customary to pay the sailor's a month's pay in advance before going on board. This meant that the men worked a month without pay. When the month was up and they had paid for the "dead horse," there was a celebration and some effigy of a dead horse was thrown overboard.*

*"To splice the main brace" meant to issue the men a drink of rum or "grog." This was often done after a bad storm at sea. Mr. Brown's melody parallels that of Blow the Man Down as collected by Colcord and by Linscott. Except for the lines of the choruses, there is no similarity in the text.*

### Editor's notes:

Linscott writes of the related song, "Blow the Man Down," that "the earliest version of this song concerns the Black Ball Line, which began its maritime service in 1818" (Linscott 128).

Alternate titles/related songs: "Blow the Man Down."

### Sources:

Doerflinger, William Main, coll. *Shantymen and Shantyboys: Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman*. New York: Macmillan, 1951. "Blow the man down," several versions. Tune similar, but lyrics are very different from HST version.

Linscott, Eloise Hubbard, coll. and ed. *Folk Songs of Old New England*. New York: Macmillan, 1939. "Blow the man down," different words.

Buck, Percy C., coll. and arr. *The Oxford Song Book*. Vol. 2. New York: Oxford University Press, H. Milford, 1916-27. "Blow the man down" tune nearly identical, words similar.

Hugill, Stan. *Songs of the Sea: The Tales and Tunes of Sailors and Sailing Ships*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1977. "Blow the man down" tune similar but words are different.

K.G.