

# The Water Witch

Recorded from the singing of JH Davies of Newtown Tas by Lloyd Robson, published in Aust'n Trad'n 1965. Text extended by Brad Tate.  
The Water Witch was a whaling barque of 236 tons built in 1820, commandeered by convicts in 1840. She last hunted whales in 1892.

## Verse

**capo 2**

O, a neat Lit - tle pack - et from Ho - bart set sail,  
On a cruise round the west - 'ard for mon - ster sperm whale;  
For a cruise round the west - 'ard where storm - y winds blow,  
Bound a - way in the Wat - er - witch to the west - 'ard we'll go.  
**Chorus**  
Bound a - way, bound a - way, where the storm - y winds blow,  
Bound a - way in the Wat - er - witch to the west - 'ard we'll go.

O, it's early one morning just as the sun rose  
A man from her masthead cries out: "There she blows!"  
"We're away" cries our skipper and springing aloft.  
Three points on the lee bow and scarce three miles off.

We sailed off the west wind and came up apace;  
The whaleboats were lowered and set on the chase.  
"Get your lines in your boats, me boys, see your box-line all clear,  
And lower down, me bully boys, and after him we'll steer."

We fought him alongside, harpoon we thrust in,  
In just over an hour he rolled out his fin.  
The whale is cut in, boys, tried out and stowed down,  
He's worth more to us, boys, than five hundred pound.

Now the ship she gets full, me boys, and to Hobart we'll steer  
Where there's plenty of pretty girls and plenty good beer;  
We'll spend our money freely with the pretty girls on shore,  
And when it's all gone, we'll go whaling for more.