

The Pilots of Tiger Bay

'T was in the year of '94 and I think of March the 20th day,
I thought I'd have a little cruise from the Well Street home to Tiger Bay.
As I rolled through ol' Wappin street, 't was there I met a pretty maid.
She gave me a kiss and she lifted her skirts, her legs were all in fine array.

Chorus:

**Whack fol the looray looray laido whack fol the looray looray lay,
Whack fol the looray looray lay hurrah for the pilots of Tiger Bay!**

When we set sail it was quite late, it was the hour of ten at night,
We never slacked a tack or a sheet 'til we came to the house of Mother Wright.
And when I saw that cosy room, I there resolved to stay next day.
So I took that gal for me harbour dues and she piloted me down to Tiger Bay.

Chorus

Then in the morning when I woke, I found m'eself in doldrum grounds.
But the madam wouldn't let me go until I had spent twenty pounds.
Says I to me'self: this'll never do, I'll jump this bark without delay.
So I took a slant for the Well Street home from the rocks and shoals of Tiger Bay.

Chorus

Now when I got back to the Well Street home I met my mate in the smoker there.
He shouted: Jack, where the hell have you been? You seem to be in ballast there.
I hung my head, not a word I'd say, I got me another ship that day,
And if I ever go to London again I'll take another cruise down to Tiger Bay.

Chorus

To all you young fellers in this room I've only got one word to say.
Whenever you meet a pretty little maid just lead her gently by the way.
There's many an ups and downs in the world, and many a pretty girl down the
highway,
But the prettiest ones that you'll ever see are the pilots down in Tiger Bay.

Chorus

To you young ladies in this room I've only got one word to say.
Whenever you meet a sailor hard up just give him a leg up on the way.
For if you do you'll never rue he'll have some money another day.
And he'll pay you back when he hoisted his Jack to a pilot down to Tiger Bay.

Chorus