

## The Wreck of the Mary Jane

Come all ye dry land sailors bold,  
That never went out in the rain  
And I will sing in praise of a ship  
That was called the Mary Jane,  
The Mary Jane was a one-mast ship  
She was built in the town of Taghmon,  
She carried a crew of a hundred and two  
With a cargo of farmer's dung.

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The captain he was a Dutchman  
And he hailed from Barrack Lane,  
And his wife was the 'man behind the mast'  
On board the Mary Jane,  
The mate was a great navigator,  
And his nose was as red as a tart;  
He belonged to the Wexford Militia  
And he knew every pub on the chart.

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We had a French cook from Nullinavat,  
Pat Murphy was his name;  
And he was chief cook for spoiling the soup  
On board of the Mary Jane,  
The morning that we left Taghmon  
Our ship ran short of wind  
So the crew had to get right out in the wet  
And everyone shove behind.

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When going around Long Stone Cross  
A terrible storm blew,  
So we tightened her sails with a horse's reins,  
And we steered for Timbuctoo.  
Next morning our cargo shifted,  
So the captain cried, "We're done."  
But every man took a sprong in his hand  
And went down for to turn the dung.

Next day we ran short of tobacco,  
We hadn't a bit in the bag;  
So when the captain and crew had ne'er a chew  
They started to 'chaw the rag',  
And now we were short of lime juice  
And the herrings they were so salt,  
The skipper he told the mate so bold  
When he'd come to a pub to halt.

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The mate he kept a sharp look-out,  
For he was fond of a drop,  
When he saw the green light he shouted, "Hold tight,  
We're into a doctor's shop."  
The Mary Jane took a stitch in her side,  
And so did the rest of the crew,  
So she went ashore at the doctor's door,  
And she never reached Timbuctoo.

### **Wreck of the Mary Jane – comedy sailor song**

The Wreck of the Mary Jane is a comical sailor song, in similar vein to the much more famous Irish Rover.

The song begins with the tongue in cheek statement that it's being sung for "dry-land sailors that never went out in the rain".

This is a kind of in joke among real sailors who would scoff at landlubbers, who might talk of their adventures at sea as a way of gaining prestige but in reality had probably never even been on board a ship.

Having announced that the song is for dry land sailors, the song proceeds to make fun of them and their ignorance at every opportunity.

For more information about The Wreck of the Mary Jane, visit [www.irishmusicforever.com/wreck-of-the-mary-jane](http://www.irishmusicforever.com/wreck-of-the-mary-jane)