

THE RATS' NEST

Have you heard about the Sheffield Arms, yon side of Riby Square?
The copper's say there' been some funny goings-on in there
The Watch Committee's calling it the shame of Grimsby Town
They say the place is a disgrace - they'd like to close it down

**They're closing down the best in town
I reckon it's a crime
Last orders for The Rats' Nest
The gaffer's calling time**

The landlord never turned away a sailor with a thirst
And when the doors were opened it was: Women & children first!
Last Friday night the public bar was full by nine o'clock
The gaffer at the door declaring: Plenty of room on top!

There must've been seventy sailors in, all shouting out for rounds
There would've been seventy more as well, but the pub was out of bounds
The coppers' narks were mekkin' notes between their halves of beer
And lots of things were taken down that night as you shall hear!

There was Polish Mary on the table giving the lads a treat
She could pick up more trade in the pub than she could on the street
She'd dance for you for fourpence as her skirts aside she drew
And for an extra threepenny bit she'd show you her tattoo!

Now Cuddly Kate & Trouser Nel were 'avin' a bit of a bet
Whichever one standin' on their head could smoke a whole cig'rette
Nel soon declared she must give in, but drew the crowd's applause
Sayin': Cuddly Kate is bound to win, cos she teks bigger drawers!

One matelot performed a song while standing on a chair
As bits of nautical uniform went flying through the air
He proudly then revealed the source of England's naval power
This bein' nineteen-forty & our nation's finest hour!

So the brewers & the licensee must answer to the law
And the poor old English serviceman will be done down once more
And Grimsby Town is headed for a thirsty time I think
For there's only a hundred and eighty places left to get a drink!

Censored verse (not on the CD):

Now Trouser Nel was on the plush, her head in a sailor's lap
Whatever it was she was upto, he looked quite a happy chap
When challenged by the constable she simply smiled & said
She'd only been mending his trousers & was bitin' off the thread!

Note: Thanks to local historian George Black for the story that inspired this song