

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

## Cyprus Brig

Cyprus Brig

Poor Tom Brown from Nottingham Jack Williams and poor Joe  
They were three gallant poacher boys their country well does know  
And by the laws of the Game Act that you may understand  
Were fourteen years transported boys unto Van Diemen's Land

When we landed in this colony to different masters went  
For little trifling offences boys to Hobart Town gaol were sent  
Now the second sentence we received and ordered for to be  
Sent to Macquarie Harbour that place of tyranny

Down Hobart Town streets we were guarded on the Cyprus Brig conveyed  
Our topsails they were hoisted boys our anchor it was weighed  
The wind it blew a nor nor west and on we steered straight way  
Till we brought her to an anchorage in a place called Research Bay

Now confined in a dismal hole those lads contrived a plan  
To take possession of that brig or else die every man  
The plan it being approved upon we all retired to rest  
And early next morning boys we put them to the test

Up steps bold Jack Muldemon his comrades three more  
We soon disarmed the sentry and left him in his gore  
Liberty Oh Liberty it's Liberty we crave  
Deliver up your arms my boys or the sea shall be your grave

First we landed the soldiers the captain and his crew  
We gave three cheers for Liberty and soon bid them adieu  
William Swallows he was chosen our commander for to be  
We gave three cheers for Liberty and boldly put to sea

Play on your golden trumpets boys and sound your cheerful notes  
The Cyprus Brig's on the ocean boys by justice does she float

-----  
The seizure of convict ships by convicts happened a number of times.  
This particular event occurred in August 1829, and a manuscript in the  
Mitchell Library has a poem of 48 lines that commemorates the seizure.  
Titled 'Seizure of the Cyprus Brig in Recherche Bay' it is printed in  
Geoffrey Ingleton's True Patriots All and attributed to Frank MacNamara  
(Frank the Poet).

Collected by Lloyd Robson from J.H.Davies of Newtown, Tasmania.  
MG

apr97