

# Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

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## The Wearin' of the Green (2)

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I met with Uncle Percy, and he shook me by the hand  
I said, "How is our navy, sir, and is it still on land?"  
'Tis the most distressing navy, faith, that ever yet was seen  
'Cause half of them are pay-bobs and the rest are wearin' green."

Oh, I went into the Elgin, not a civvy to be found  
But bags and bags of Navy were sittin' there around  
There were red and whit and blue stripes, not an exec to be seen  
And more than all the others were the wearers of the green.

Each evening in old "Blytown" when the beer is flowing free  
You'll hear more salt sea shanties sung then you ever heard at sea  
They sing of all the ships they've sunk and ports to which they've been  
But truth to tell, they lie like hell, 'cause they're wearers of the green.

Some hand out railway tickets and some run navy shows  
You'll even find two-striper there for washing dirty clothes  
O, send me back to Slackerfax where our ships can still be seen  
I'll gladly leave Headquarters to the wearers of the green.

note: (from Hopkins) Until 1955, naval officers wore, between their rank stripes, a simple coloured strip denoting the branch of the navy to which they belonged: purple for engineers, scarlet for medical officers, white for supply etc. During WWII, a new branch--Special-- was created for everyone that didn't belong anywhere else: intelligence, transport, public relations laundry etc. They wore a green stripe, and they were very numerous, especially on shore.

Uncle Percy was Vice-Admiral Percy Nelles, Chief of Naval Staff  
Pay-bobs are paymasters  
Lord Elgin is an Ottawa hotel  
Bytown was the Ottawa Naval Barracks  
A Two-Striper is a Lieutenant  
Exec means Executive Officer  
Slackerfax was a nickname for Halifax. AH

From Songs of the Front and Rear, Hopkins  
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