Roll Up, Sailorman

Paul Robeson

Oh the harbour sharks they lie in wait
As they prowl around by the big dock gate
They're all lined up for an easy job
For a sailor man is easy to rob

It's roll up sailorman you're everybody's friend
The moment that you land upon the shore
It's roll up sailor when you've got a dime to spend
You're just the man your pals are waiting for

Buy them beer and get em singing
Lead the chorus with a roar
But it's scram you sailor when your money's at an end
Get off with you to sea and earn some more

Oh the dockside rats
The ale house toughs[?]
And a scrounging crowd
Who can make things rough
They'll all be there when your ship comes in
With their teeth all bare in a welcoming grin

It's roll up sailorman from all the rotten scum
The moment that you land upon the shore
It's roll up sailor you can pay for all the rum
So nobody will have to order more

Crimps[1] and runners rob your pocket
While you're helpless on the floor
and it's scram you sailor man to or kingdom come
Your just the boob? the sharks are waiting for

[1] Crimp - An agent making it his business to procure seamen, soldiers, etc., esp. by seducing, decoying, entrapping, or impressing them. - Oxford English Dictionary

Lyrics submitted by mampam.

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