When I Was A Fair Maid

Sally Rogers III-124

D G A
When I was a fair maid about 17, I listed in the navy for to serve the queen
D A D A
I 'listed in the navy a sailor lad to stand
G D A D
For to hear the cannons rattling and the music so grand
A D A
The music so grand, music so grand,
G D A D
For to hear the cannons rattling and the music so grand.

Well the officer that 'listed me was a tall and handsome man
He said you'll make a sailor, so come along my man
My waist being tall and slender, my fingers long and thin
And the very soon they learned me, I soon exceeded them
I soon exceeded them, soon exceeded them, very soon…..

Well they sent me to bunk and they sent me to bed
To lie with the sailors, I never was afraid
But taking off my blue coat sure oft made me smile
For to think I was a sailor and a maiden all the while
A maiden all the while, maiden all the while…

Well they sent me up to London for to guard the Tower
And I'm sure that I might be there till my very dying hour
But a lady fell in love with me, I told her I was a maid
She went unto the Captain and my secret she be-trayed
My secret she betrayed…..

Well, the Captain he came up to me and he asked if this was so
I dare not, I dare not, I dare not say no
It's a pity we should lose you, such a sailor lad you made
It's a pity we should lose you, such a handsome young maid
A handsome young maid…..

So it's fare thee well Captain you've been so kind to me
And likewise my shipmates I'm sorry to part with thee
But if ever the navy needs a lad, a sailor I'll re main
I'll put out my hat and feathers and I'll run the rigging a gain

I'll run the rigging….