In the summer of '44, the sea was running a swell, We were crossing the channel in the morning
The wind howled down the river like the seven squalls of hell And the storm cones were hoisted as a warning.

The wind was up, the rain came down, you'd never 'ave thought it was June We were crossing the channel in the morning
Then Billy sniffed the wind and said that it'd be changing soon
And the storm cones were hoisted as a warning.

Stormy winds behind us and the storm of war ahead We're bound for stormy weather in the morning

When we got down to the dock, our kit was piled on the quay Our captain said "Load all your gear, and then get ready for sea"

Some dockers said "You can't do that, that's dockers' work you see" "We're not at work 'til half past four and it's only a quarter to three"

Stormy winds behind us and the storm of war ahead We're bound for stormy weather in the morning

"She's out of bounds, the gates are locked, we haven't got the key"
"You'll have to wait 'til half past four, 'cos now we're breaking for tea"

Our captain said, "Now take your gun and blow that lock to hell" "And if any docker gets in the way, you can shoot him as well"

Stormy winds behind us and the storm of war ahead We're bound for stormy weather in the morning

Well, the docker he went white and green, and soon produced the key Which was just as well, 'cos all our ammo was locked up on the quay

We sailed away at break of day, to do our bit for the war Our captain died in sight of land, and never made the shore

Stormy winds behind us and the storm of war ahead We're bound for stormy weather in the morning

There's a hundred and five got on that ship, all good friends of mine We were crossing the channel in the morning

By the time that we could break for tea, we were down to seventy nine And the storm cones were hoisted as a warning.

And it's all very well to shrug and say, "It's nothing to do with me" We were crossing the channel in the morning
But some poor beggar is having to die while you're sat having your tea
And the storm cones were hoisted as a warning.

Stormy winds behind us and the storm of war ahead We're bound for stormy weather in the morning