

## The Black Gang

*Author Unknown*

But here I be heaving coal at sea.  
In bunkers dusty and small,  
and it's as hot as hell,  
and I might as well  
wear no clothes at all!

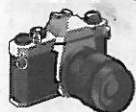
I often think of my morning drink  
and of my evening bowl,  
but I awake from my dream  
when I hear a scream,  
Ahoy! there Jack, more coal!

My voice is weak,  
I scarce can speak,  
my lungs are out of whack,  
my hands are wore,  
my bones sore,  
disjoined is my back.

I scarce can smell,  
I can't hear well,  
I'm a wreck, upon my soul!  
But its work or die,  
when you hear them cry,  
Ahoy! there Jack, more coal.

Right soon I know I have to go,  
just where I cannot tell,  
but night or day I hope and pray,  
they burn no coal in hell!

Submitted by,



### Tin Can Sailors Photo Gallery

was on the surface. In order to save his sub and its crew, he ordered an immediate dive without attempting to save himself. Hollywood has integrated his heroic action into several films, but to you it is not worthy of a mention. I have known members of the MacKenzie

*Four retired ships awaiting their fates: USS COLLETT (DD-730), USS JOHN A. BOLE (DD-755), USS BLUE (DD-744), and USS MANSFIELD (DD-728). The photo is undated but was probably taken in 1973. COLLETT was sold to Argentina in 1974, JOHN A. BOLE was sold to Taiwan in 1974, BLUE was sunk as a target in 1977, and MANSFIELD was sold to South Korea in 1973.*

