

## The Old Rosemary

Peter Dobbs

Recorded by Gary and Vera Aspey on their "Nightshift Army" LP

3 / 4 time. Intro: [Dm][Dm][C][Dm]

'twas [Dm] way up in Brummagem so [C] I do hear [Dm] say,  
That a [Bb] boat by the [F] name of the [Gm7] Rosemary [A] lay.  
She was [Bb] dressed up and [F] painted tra-[Gm7]-dit-ion-al [A] style,  
But [Dm] she hadn't carried for [C] a very long [Dm] while.

A-[Dm]-long came a [Dm] boat-man, the [C] old boat to [Dm] see,  
Says he [Bb] 'Here is a [F] craft that is [Gm7] useful to [A] me.  
I'll [Bb] load her with [F] coal and for [Gm7] London I'll [A] steer',  
Said the [Dm] boatman to the owner, 'If I [C] take her from [Dm] here'.

The [Dm] owner said 'Yes' and the [C] boatman 'O-[Dm]-kay'  
And [Bb] into the [F] cabin he [Gm7] went straight-a-[A]-away.  
He [Bb] lit up the [F] stove, cleared [Gm7] cobwebs and [A] mould,  
And [Dm] polished the brass 'til it [C] shone like fine [Dm] gold.

He [Dm] sang as he laboured far [C] into the [Dm] night,  
Got [Bb] up in the [F] morning be-[Gm7]-fore it was [A] light.  
(He) put the [Bb] rusty blow-[F]-lamp on the [Gm7] cyl-in-der [A] head,  
'tis a [Dm] fine day for boating', the [C] old boat-man [Bm] said.

He [Dm] primed up the engine, a [C] prayer in his [Dm] heart,  
And [Bb] kicked on the [F] flywheel to [Gm7] see if she'd [A] start;  
With a [Bb] bang like the [F] sound of a [Gm7] ten-pounder [A] gun  
The [Dm] ag-ed old Bol-in-der [C] start-ed to [Dm] run.

He [Dm] cast off the fore-end at the [C] counter he [Dm] stood,  
As [Bb] the Rosemary [F] shook herself [Gm7] free of the [A] mud.  
With [Bb] tears in his [F] eyes says the [Gm7] boatman 'We [A] may  
Get [Dm] right down to Coventry for the [C] end of the [Dm] day.'

On [Dm] dark stormy nights round the [C] fall of the [Dm] year,  
If the [Bb] beat of a [F] Bol-in-der [Gm7] distant you [A] hear,  
It's [Bb] not Clayton's [F] Stour, [Gm7] Youmea or Tay [A]  
It's the [Dm] ghost of the boatman and [C] the old Rose-[Dm]-mary.

