

Anchor Up (Stormbound Version)

Shipyard workers toiling, see each flash and spark
Hammering in the night, welding in the dark
They gave me one great engine, a hull of finest steel
Cast in mighty Motherwell, like many a British keel

*Anchor Up, Engines thump, Pilot is onshore
Feel her move beneath your feet, we're out to sea once more*

See the hard - pressed riveter and the plater too
Their eyes are lined with sleepless nights with their job to do.
With comfort and fine luxury, I'm built for speed and style
Fit to sail the empire round, many a thousand miles.

They're building ships in Belfast, a purpose to fulfil
To keep the Empire busy with tea and food and oil
Tea for the shipyard worker who gave to me my soul
Food for soldier's wives and bairns, and the miners digging coal

I'm bound for distant places such that you would never dream
Heard the water rush beneath my hull, my anchor chain a gleam
My funnel and hull a shining black, my flag the flag of fame
A ship of the British and India, 'Rohilla' is my name.

Richard Grainger
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Anchor Up (Stormbound version) notes.

Built for the Colonial trade and operated under the flag of B&I, Rohilla was a passenger and cargo vessel plying the trade between East Africa?? and the UK.

She had only operated this route for a few years before WW1 broke out. The same officers and B&I crew stayed with her, after she was requisitioned and converted into a 'state of the art' Hospital Ship.

Unfortunately, 'Rohilla' was unable to complete her first mission, to evacuate a number of wounded British and Belgian soldiers from Dunkirk, instead coming to grief en-route at Saltwick Nab, close to Whitby harbour at the height of a severe gale in October 1914.

This version of the song was written as part of 'Stormbound', my musical play telling the story of the ship, the tragic wreck and the ensuing rescue mounted by RNLI crews along the Yorkshire Coast. It appears on the CD 'Stormbound'.