

Resource F: **LASCAR SONG, ACT 1 SCENE 1**

Scene 1

A ragged group of Asian sailors (Lascars) busily scrub the deck with soap and water. The Lascars are from all different corners of the Asian sub-continent – Chinese, Indian and some black Africans too. All of them are barefooted and look undernourished and dirty. They sing as they scrub the deck.

LASCARS:

SONG

There's a Clan boat just leaving **Bombay**,
Bound for old Blighty's **shore**;
Heavily loaded with bum **engineers**,
Bound for the land they **abhor**.
She's down by the head, she's listing to **port**,
She's making three knots with the **tide**;
But you'll get no enjoyment from Clan Line
employment,
So come on, me lads, **bless 'em all!**

Bless 'em all, **bless 'em all**;
The Tindal, the Kasab and **all**;
Bless all the "Sparkies", they're all round the **twist**;
Bless all the pursers, and their tight **fists!**
If the engineers can get us **home**,
The "Kali Pani" no more will I **roam**;
'Cause you'll get no promotion, this side of the
ocean,
So cheer up, me lads, **bless 'em all!**

There is the "Old Man", he's counting the **days**
'Til they will let him **retire**;
There stands the Chief; he's gnashing his **teeth**
All the coal that he's bought just won't **fire**.
But there's many a 'prentice just starting his **time**,
There's many a fool's just **begun** -
That's signed with "Scots Navy" for four years of
slavery,
Out here on the **Hooghli run**.