

THE AIR SHANTY

Chorus

(leader): For a Short haul *(all):* A short haul

(leader): Or a Long Haul *(all):* A long haul

(All): Short haul Schipol, Charles de Gaul or a long haul to Australia

Verses

(each line sung first by leader then repeated by all)

Wide-bodied gal comes down from the sky
Undercarriage down and her tail up high
Batman Charlie waves her in
Parks her nosewheel under his chin
For a short haul etc...

Under her belly let the work begin
Open up her hatches and get stuck in
Kerosene Stan he's a dangerous man
Pumps forty tons into her if he can
For a short haul etc....

Heave that baggage all out and then
Heave another lot in again
Raise those catering packs up high
Trays of chicken and shepherds pie
For a short haul ... etc

We're the boys to turn her round
Till she's fit to leave the ground
Keep those ear defenders on
Chocks away and then she's gone
For a short haul.. etc.

A "call and response" type shanty, not of the sea but of aviation, first done in Act One's revue "Departure Lounge". This song is now also part of the repertoire of the Kent shanty group Swinging the Lead.