

Wellerman

Trad. New Zealand

(T) There once was a ship that put to sea
And the name of that ship was the Billy O'Tea
The winds blew hard, her bow dipped down
Blow my bully boys blow

*Soon may the Wellerman come
To bring us sugar and tea and rum
One day when the tonguin' is done
We'll take our leave and go*

(T) They had not been two weeks from shore
When down on her a right whale bore
The captain called all hands and swore
He'd take that whale in tow

Chorus

(TB / SA-hum) Before the boat had hit the water
The wha-ale's tail came up and caught her
All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When she dived below

Chorus

(TB / SA-hum) No line was cut the whale was free
The Captain's mind was not on greed
For he belonged to the Whaleman's creed
She took that ship in tow

Chorus

(SA/TB-oooh) For forty days or even more
The line went slack then tight once more
The boats were lost there were only four
And still that whale did go

Chorus

(TB) As far as I've heard the fight's still on
The line's not cut and the whale's not gone SA

The Wellerman makes his regular call
(Repeat line 2 tune) To encourage the captain crew and all SA

Chorus x2