# The Wellerman

Composer: Traditional



Am

There once was a ship that put to sea And the name of that ship was the Billy of Tea The winds blew hard, her bow

dipped down

Gm Am O blow, my bully boys, blow

## [CHORUS]

F C
Soon may the Wellerman come
Dm Am
To bring us sugar and tea and rum
One day, when the tonguin' is done,
Gm Am
We'll take our leave and go

## [VERSE 2]

She 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

## [REPEAT CHORUS]

Before the boat had hit the water
The whale's tail came up and caught
her
All hands to the side, harpooned and
fought her
When she dived down below

#### [REPEAT CHORUS]

No line was cut, no whale was freed;

The Captain's mind was not of greed But he belonged to the whaleman's creed;

She took the ship in tow

#### [REPEAT CHORUS]

For forty days, or even more
The line went slack, then tight once
more
All boats were lost (there were only
four)
But still that whale did go

## [REPEAT CHORUS]

As far as I've heard, the fight's still on; The line's not cut and the whale's not gone

The Wellerman makes his regular call To encourage the Captain, crew, and all

## [REPEAT CHORUS 2X]

A "Wellerman" was an employee of the Sydney-based Weller Brothers' shipping company, which from 1833 was the major