

# The Wellerman

Strumming:

Verse: 1 downstrum/chord

Chorus: per chord: d-du, d-du

## Verse 1

There once was a ship that put to sea  
The name of the ship was the Billy-O-Tea  
The winds blew hard, her bow dipped down  
blow, me bully boys, blow (huh)

## Chorus

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-

## 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 (huh)

## Chorus

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-

## Instrumental

F C Dm Am

F C E7 Am

### Verse 3

<sup>Am</sup> Before the boat had hit the water  
<sup>Dm</sup> The whale's tail came up and caught her  
<sup>Am</sup> All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her  
<sup>E7</sup> When she dived down below (huh) <sup>Am | |</sup>

### Chorus

<sup>F</sup> Soon may the <sup>C</sup> Wellerman come  
<sup>Dm</sup> To bring us sugar and tea and rum <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>F</sup> One day, when the <sup>C</sup> tonguin' is done,  
<sup>E7</sup> We'll take our leave and go- <sup>Am | |</sup>

### Verse 4

<sup>Am</sup> No line was cut, no whale was freed <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>Dm</sup> The captain's mind was not of greed <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>Am</sup> And he belonged to the whaleman's creed <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>E7</sup> She took that ship in tow (huh) <sup>Am | |</sup>

### Chorus

<sup>F</sup> Soon may the <sup>C</sup> Wellerman come  
<sup>Dm</sup> To bring us sugar and tea and rum <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>F</sup> One day, when the <sup>C</sup> tonguin' is done,  
<sup>E7</sup> We'll take our leave and go- <sup>Am | |</sup>

### Verse 5

<sup>Am</sup> For forty days, or even more <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>Dm</sup> The line went slack, then tight once more <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>Am</sup> All boats were lost (there were only four) <sup>Am</sup>  
<sup>E7</sup> But still that whale did go (huh) <sup>Am | |</sup>

### Chorus

**F** **C**  
Soon may the Wellerman come  
**Dm** **Am**  
To bring us sugar and tea and rum  
**F** **C**  
One day, when the tonguin' is done,  
**E7** **Am** | |  
We'll take our leave and go-

### Verse 6

**Am** **Am**  
As far as I've heard, the fight's still on  
**Dm** **Am**  
The line's not cut and the whale's not gone  
**Am** **Am**  
The Wellerman makes his regular call  
**E7** **Am** | | |  
To encourage the Captain, crew, and all (huh)

### Chorus x 2

**F** **C**  
Soon may the Wellerman come  
**Dm** **Am**  
To bring us sugar and tea and rum  
**F** **C**  
One day, when the tonguin' is done,  
**E7** **Am** | |  
We'll take our leave and go-