# Wellerman (Soon May The Wellerman Come)

Traditional New Zealand folk song c. 1860-70 (as recorded by The Longest Johns 2018)

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [Am] / [Am]**

There **[Am]** once was a ship that put to sea

And the **[Dm]** name of the ship was the **[Am]** Billy o’ Tea

The **[Am]** winds blew hard, her bow dipped down

**[E7]** Blow, my bully boys **[Am]↓** blow, huh!

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

She **[Am]** had not been two weeks from shore

When **[Dm]** down on her a **[Am]** right whale bore

The **[Am]** captain called all hands and swore

He’d **[E7]** take that whale in **[Am]↓** tow, huh!

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

Be-**[Am]**fore the boat had hit the water

The **[Dm]** whale’s tail came **[Am]** up and caught her

All **[Am]** hands to the side, harpooned and fought her

When **[E7]** she dived down be-**[Am]↓**low, huh!

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

No **[Am]** line was cut, no whale was freed

The **[Dm]** Captain’s mind was **[Am]** not on greed

But **[Am]** he belonged to the Whaleman’s creed

She **[E7]** took the ship in **[Am]↓** tow, huh!

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

For **[Am]** forty days or even more

The **[Dm]** line went slack, then **[Am]** tight once more

All **[Am]** boats were lost, there were only four

But **[E7]** still that whale did **[Am]↓** go

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

As **[Am]** far as I’ve heard, the fight’s still on

The **[Dm]** line’s not cut and the **[Am]** whale’s not gone

The **[Am]** Wellerman makes his regular call

To en-**[Dm]**courage the Captain **[Am]↓** crew and all

**CHORUS:**

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]↓** go-**[G]↓**o

**[F]** Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come

To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum

**[F]** One day, when the **[C]** tonguin’ is done

We’ll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]↓** go

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