Chords in parentheses – Guitar capo II

Bm (Am)There once was a ship that put to seaEm (Dm)Bm (Am)The name of the ship was the 'Billy o' Tea'	
The winds blew up, her bow dipped down Em (Dm) F♯ (E) Bm (Am) Oh! Blow, my bully boys, blow — Huh!	
$ \begin{array}{ccc} \textbf{G}(\textbf{F}) & \textbf{D}(\textbf{C}) \\ \textbf{CHORUS:} & \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Soon may the Wellerman come} \\ \textbf{Em}(\textbf{Dm}) & \textbf{Bm}(\textbf{Am}) \\ \textbf{To bring us sugar and tea and rum} \\ \textbf{G}(\textbf{F}) & \textbf{D}(\textbf{C}) \\ \textbf{One day when the tonguin' is done} \\ \textbf{Em}(\textbf{Dm}) & \textbf{F} \# (\textbf{E}) & \textbf{Bm}(\textbf{Am}) \\ \textbf{We'll take our leave and go} \\ \end{array} $	
Bm (Am) She had not been two weeks from shore Em (Dm) Bm (Am) When down on her a right whale bore	
The captain called 'All hands!' and swore Em (Dm) F♯ (E) Bm (Am) He'd take that whale in tow — Huh!	CHORUS
Bm (Am)Before the boat had hit the waterEm (Dm)Bm (Am)The whale's tail came up and caught her	
All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her Em (Dm) F # (E) Bm (Am) When she dived down low — Huh!	CHORUS
Bm (Am)No line was cut, no whale was freedEm (Dm)Bm (Am)The captain's mind was not of greed	
For he belonged to the whaleman's creed Em (Dm) F# (E) Bm (Am) She took that ship in tow — Huh!	CHORUS
Bm (Am)For forty days or even moreEm (Dm)Bm (Am)The line went slack then tight once more	
All boats were lost, there were only fourEm (Dm)F# (E)Bm (Am)But stillthatwhale did go — Huh!	CHORUS

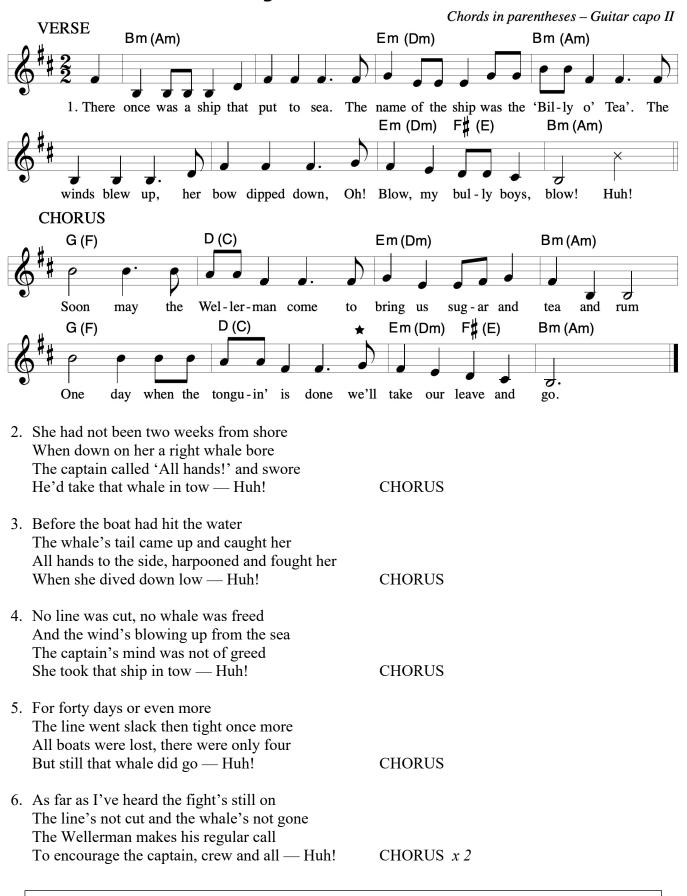
Bm (Am)As far as I've heard the fight's still onEm (Dm)Bm (Am)The line's not cut and the whale's not gone

The Wellerman makes his regular callEm (Dm)F♯ (E)Bm (Am)To encourage the captain, crew and all

G (**F**) **D**(**C**) CHORUS: Soon may the Wellerman come Em (Dm) Bm (Am) To bring us sugar and tea and rum **G** (**F**) **D** (**C**) One day when the tonguin' is done $Em (Dm) F^{\ddagger} (E) Bm (Am)$ We'll take our leave and go-oh-oh-oh! **G** (**F**) D(C)Soon may the Wellerman come Em (Dm) Bm (Am) To bring us sugar and tea and rum **G** (**F**) **D** (**C**) One day when the tonguin' is done Em (Dm) F# (E) Bm (Am) We'll take our leave and go

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Traditional



The song Soon May the Wellerman Come is a New Zealand folksong and was collected in the mid-1960s by Neil Colquhoun (1929-2014). According to Colquhoun its source was a Mr. F. R. Woods who, at that time, was aged in his 80s and had learned the song from his uncle. Neil Colquhoun led the early New Zealand folk group The Song Spinners.

Around 1833 three English brothers – Edward, George and Joseph Weller – established a provision supply base for the whalers at 'Otago' (an approximation of the Maori name Otakou). A visit from the 'Wellermen' or 'Wellerman' was always looked forward to by the whalers.