

The Wellerman (Hm)

Whaling Shanty

There once was a ship that put to sea,
and the name of the ship was "*Billy o' Tea*".
The wind blew hard, the sea run high.
We'll do the job or die.

Wooh! Omkv.:

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

She had not been two weeks from shore,
when down on her a Rightwhale bore.
The Captain called all hands and swore,
he'd take that whale in tow.

Wooh! Omkv.:

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

Wooh! Omkv.:

No line was cut, no whale was freed,
the Captain's mind was not of greed.
For he belonged to the whalemens' creed,
he took the ship in tow.

Wooh! Omkv.:

For forty days – or even more – the line went slack,
then tight once more.
All boats were lost (there where only four),
but still that whale did go.

Wooh! Omkv.:

As far as I've heard, the fight's still on,
the line's not cut, and the whale's not gone.
The Wellerman make his regular call to
encourage the ship and crew.

Wooh! Omkv.: (x 2).

