

Sinking of the Reuben James

The Kingston Trio

Have you heard of the ship, called the good Reuben James
Run by hard fighting men, both of honor and fame
She flew the stars and stripes for the land of the free
But tonight she's in her grave at the bottom of the sea

Oh, tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?
Tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names
Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?

One hundred men went down to their dark and watery graves
When that good ship went down only forty-four were saved
T'was the last of October, they save the forty-four
From the dark, icy waters of that cold Iceland shore

Oh, tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?
Tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names
Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?

It was there in the dark, of that cold and water night
They watched for the U-Boats, they waited for a fight
Then a whine and a rock and a great explosion's roar
They laid the Reuben James on that cold ocean floor

Oh, tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?
Tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names
Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?

Many years have passed since those brave men are gone
Those cold, icy waters, they're still and they're calm
Many years have passed and still I wonder why
The worst of men must fight and the best of men must die

Oh, tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?
Tell me what were their names, tell me what were their names
Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?