(SINKING OF THE) REUBEN JAMES - w. Woody Guthrie
4/4 1234 12 (without intro) - m. Joseph Philbrick Webster

Intro: | | ✕ | | | (X2)

Have you heard of the ship called the good Reuben James?
One hundred men went down to their dark and watery graves
It was there in the dark, on that cold and watery night

Run by hard fighting men, both of honor and of fame
When that good ship went down, only forty-four were saved
That they watched for the U-boats, and they waited for a fight

She flew the Stars and Stripes of the land of the free
T’was the last of October, they saved forty-four
Then a whine, and a rock, and a great explosion’s roar

But tonight she’s in her grave at the bottom of the sea (refrain and 2nd verse)
From the dark, icy waters of that cold Iceland shore (refrain and 3rd verse)
They lay the Reuben James on the cold ocean floor (refrain, instrumental verse, then go on)

Refrain:

Tell me, what were their names, tell me, what were their names?

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?
p.2. Reuben James

Tell me, what were their names, tell me, what were their names?

Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?

Instrumental verse

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!

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? (repeat last line)