

# The Sinking Of The Reuben James

by Woody Guthrie

Have you heard of a ship called the good Reuben James  
Manned by hard fighting men both of honor and fame?  
She flew the Stars and Stripes of the land of the free  
But tonight she's in her grave at the bottom of the sea.

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

Well, a hundred men went down in that dark watery grave  
When that good ship went down only forty-four were saved.  
'Twas the last day of October we saved the forty-four  
From the cold ocean waters and the cold icy shore.

[chorus]

It was there in the dark of that uncertain night  
That we watched for the U-boats and waited for a fight.  
Then a whine and a rock and a great explosion roared  
And they laid the Reuben James on that cold ocean floor.

[chorus]

Now tonight there are lights in our country so bright  
In the farms and in the cities they're telling of the fight.  
And now our mighty battleships will steam the bounding main  
And remember the name of that good Reuben James.

[chorus]

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