

# Sinking of the Reuben James

Johnny Horton

SINKING OF THE REUBEN JAMES

What were their names tell me what were their names  
Did you have a friend on the Good Reuben James

Have you heard of a ship called that good Reuben James  
Stand 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  
(Now tell me) What were their names tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the Good Reuben James  
(Now tell me) What were their names tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the Good Reuben James  
[banjo]

It was here in the dark of that uncertain night  
That we waited for U-boats and waited for that fight  
Then a whine and a rock and the great explosion roared  
And they laid that Reuben James on the cold ocean floor  
(Now tell me) What were their names tell me what were their names

Did you have a friend on the Good Reuben James  
[guitar]

Now tonight there are lights in our country so bright  
On the farms and the cities they're tellin' of that fight  
And now our mighty battle ships will sail the bounding main  
And remember the name of that Good Reuben James  
(Now tell me) What were their names tell me what were their names  
Did you have a friend on the Good Reuben James  
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(Now tell me) What were their names tell me what were their names  
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