

The Titanic (2)

Oh they built the ship Ti - tan - ic to
sail the oc - ean blue; And they thought they had a ship that the
sea would not - leak through; But the Lord's al - migh - ty hand knew that
ship would ne - ver stand. It was sad - when that great - ship went
down. Oh it was sad, Oh it was sad, Oh It was
sad when that gr - eat ship went down To the bot - tom of the...
Hus bands and wives, lit - tle child - ren lost their lives. It was
sad - when that gr - eat ship went down.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. Chord symbols (D, G, E7, A7) are placed above the notes to indicate the accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

1. Oh they built the ship Titanic to sail the ocean blue;
And they thought they had a ship that the sea would not leak through;
But the Lord's almighty hand knew that ship would never stand.
It was sad when that great ship went down.

Chorus

Oh it was sad, (it was sad,)
Oh it was sad, (it was sad,)
It was sad when that great ship went down
To the bottom of the...
Husbands and wives, little children lost their lives.
It was sad when that great ship went down.

2. Well, the ship set sail from England, and not very far from shore.
When the rich folks refused to associate with the poor.
So they sent them down below where they'd be the first to go.
It was sad when that great ship went down.

Chorus

3. Oh, the boat was 'bout to sink, and the sides about to burst,
When the captain shouted out, "All women and children first!"
Oh, the captain tried to wire, But the wires were on fire,
It was sad when the great ship went down.

Chorus

4. Oh, they swung the lifeboats out o'er the deep and raging sea,
When the ship's band struck up with "Nearer My God to Thee."
Little children wept and cried, as the waves swept o'er the side,
It was sad when the great ship went down.

Chorus

"The Titanic", also known as "It Was Sad When That Great Ship Went Down" and "Titanic (Husbands and Wives)" is an American folk song and children's song.

"The Titanic" is about the sinking of RMS Titanic which sank on April 15, 1912 after striking an iceberg. The first folk songs about the Titanic disaster appeared within weeks after the disaster. Recordings of various songs about the disaster date to as early as 1913.

This is not the same as "The Titanic" as sung by the Carter Family.

There are several regional variations on the song. According to Newman I. White's 1928 book **American Negro Folk-Songs**, "The Titanic" has been traced back to 1915 or 1916 in Hackleburg, Alabama. Other versions from around 1920 are documented in the **Frank C. Brown Collection** at Duke University in North Carolina. Early recordings include Ernest Stoneman's "The Titanic" in September 1924 and William and Versey Smith's "When That Great Ship Went Down" in August 1927.

According to Jeff Place, in his notes for the **Anthology of American Folk Music**: "African-American musicians, in particular, found it noteworthy and ironic that company policies had kept Blacks from the doomed ship; the sinking was also attributed by some to divine retribution."

It was recorded by William and Versey Smith on **Anthology of American Folk Music** (1952), Lead Belly on **The Titanic** (Volume 4), Bessie Jones on **The Alan Lomax Collection Sampler** (1997),

Woody Guthrie on **The Asch Recordings, Vol. 1: This Land Is Your Land** (1999), Pert Near Sandstone on "Paradise hop" version called "Sad When the Great Bridge Came Down" (2011), Ernest Stoneman on **The Face That Never Returned / The Sinking of the Titanic** (singles) (1924), Mance Lipscomb on **Texas Songster Volume 2** (1964), Pete Seeger on **Headlines and Footnotes: A Collection of Topical Songs** (1999).

It appears on a number of "folk song" websites including www.scoutarama.com.