

# Galveston Bay

written and recorded by Bruce Springsteen  
Album: The Ghost of Tom Joad, 1995

Fifteen years Le Bing Son  
Fought side by side with the Americans  
In the mountains and deltas of Vietnam

In '75 Saigon fell  
And he left his command  
And brought his family to the promised land

Seabrook Texas and the small towns  
In the Gulf of Mexico  
It was delta country and reminded him of home

He worked as a machinist, put his money away  
And bought a shrimp boat with his cousin  
And together they harvested Galveston Bay

In the mornin' 'fore the sun come up  
He'd kiss his sleepin' daughter  
Steer out through the channel  
And casts his nets into the water

Billy Sutter fought with Charlie Company  
In the highlands of Quang Tri  
He was wounded in the battle of Chu Lai  
And shipped home in '68

There he married and worked the gulf fishing grounds  
In a boat that'd been his father's  
In the morning he'd kiss his sleeping son  
And cast his nets into the water

Billy sat in front of his TV as the south fell  
And the Communists rolled into Saigon  
He and his friends watched as the refugees came  
Settle on the same streets and worked the coast they grew up on

Soon in the bars around the harbor was talk  
Of America for Americans  
Someone said, "You want 'em out, you got to burn 'em out"  
And brought in the Texas Klan

One humid Texas night there were three shadows on the harbor  
Come to burn the Vietnamese boats into the sea  
In the fire's light shots rang out  
Two Texans lay dead on the ground  
Le stood with a pistol in his hand

A jury acquitted him in self defense  
As before the judge he did stand  
But as he walked down the courthouse steps  
Billy said "My friend, you're a dead man"

One late summer night Le stood watch along the waterside  
Billy stood in the shadows  
His K-bar knife in his hand  
And the moon slipped behind the clouds

Le lit a cigarette, the bay was as still as glass  
As he walked by Billy stuck his knife into his pocket  
Took a breath and let him pass

In the early darkness Billy rose up  
Went into the kitchen for a drink of water  
Kissed his sleeping wife  
Headed into the channel  
And casts his nets into the water  
Of Galveston Bay

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriter: Bruce Springsteen

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