

Talking Ben Tre Blues

Words: Jan Davidson

Music: Traditional Talking Blues

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Tell you all a story from across the sea
Bout a little town they call Ben Tre
Set on a river bank, peaceful as you please
Till it got caught between two ideologies
Con-front-ation! Western civilization at stake.

Down by the river came a-marching along
The local chapter of the Viet Cong
Went into towns with their flags a-wavin
It was easy to see that the town needed savin
they walked into town like they lived there

Our boys saw what was going on
So they called up the general on the telephone
Said, Which ones are the enemy? We cant tell?
Said, I dont know either. Blow em all to hell.
dont mater much anyway once youve seen one youve seen em all.

The general watched the fighting about all day
Said, Weve got to save that town some way.
Its time for a humanitarian act,
Well call in a full scale bombing attack.
Napalmbig bombsreal prettyjust like the 4th of July.

The houses burned the whole day long,
Boy, we really cooked them Viet Cong!
And we burned about two thousand others
But they were just old folks, children and mothers.
good thing we saved emsome of them kids mightve grown up to be Communists!

When the smoke cleared away, the town was clean,
No Viet Cong were to be seen.
Just 30,000 grateful friends, glad we did right,
Each one looking for a place to spend the night.
not much to do when your house is burned down
guess they stood around singing. . .the Star Spangled Banner.