

My Thirty Thousand

Billy Bragg

Words by Woody Guthrie
Music by Billy Bragg and Wilco
From Mermaid Avenue Volume 3

G

Paul Robeson, he s the man

C

That faced the Ku Klux Klan

G

On hollow grove s golfing ground

D

His words come sounding

G

And all around him there

C

To jump and clap and cheer

G

D

I sent the best, the best I had

G

My thirty thousand

G

The Klansman leader said

C

That Paul would lose his head

G

When thirty five thousand vets

D

Broke up that concert

G

But less than four thousand came

C

To side with the Klan

G

D

But around Paul s lonesome oak

G

My thirty thousand

G

A beersoaked brassy band

To the billion hands that love

G

My thirty thousand

G

Each wrinkle on your face

C

I know it at a glance

G

You cannot run and hide

G

Nor duck nor dodge them

G

And your carcass and your deeds

C

Will fertilize the seeds

G

D

Of the men that stood to guard

G

My thirty thousand

G

D

Of the men that stood to guard

G

My thirty thousand