

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

C

Did snortle round the grounds

G

Four hundred noblest souls

D

Westchester s manhood

G

And they looked exactly like

C

The fleas on a tiger s back

G **D**

Lost fish in the waters of

G

My thirty thousand

G

When Paul had sung and gone

C

And the kids and babies home

G

Cops came with guns and clubs

D

And they clubbed and beat em

G

Well, I d hate to be a cop

C

Caught with a bloody stick

G **D**

Cause you can t bash the brains

G

Out of thirty thousand

G

Each eye you tried to gouge

C

Each skull you tried to crack

G

Has a thousand, thousand friends

D

Around this green grass

G

If you furnish the skull someday

C

I ll pass out the clubs and guns

G **D**

