

Roland The Headless
Warren Zevon

Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner
Warren Zevon

[Verse]

Cm **Eb** **G#**
Roland was a warrior from the Land of the Midnight Sun
G# **Eb** **Bb***
With a Thompson gun for hire, fighting to be done
Cm **Eb** **G#**
The deal was made in Denmark on a dark and stormy day
G# **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
So he set out for Biafra to join the bloody fray

Cm **Eb** **G#**
Through sixty-six and seven they fought the Congo war
G# **Eb** **Bb**
Fingers on their triggers, knee-deep in gore
Cm **Eb** **G#**
For days and nights they battled the Bantu to their knees
G# **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
They killed to earn their living and to help out the Congolese

G# **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
Roland the Thompson gunner...
G# **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
Roland the Thompson gunner...

Cm **Eb** **G#**
His comrades fought beside him - Van Owen and the rest
G# **Eb** **Bb**
But of all the Thompson gunners Roland was the best
Cm **Eb** **G#**
So the CIA decided they wanted Roland dead
G# **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
That son-of-a-bitch Van Owen blew off Roland s head

Chorus:

Eb **Bb** **G#**
Roland the headless Thompson gunner
Eb **Bb**
Norway s bravest son

Harmony:

(Time, time, time
For another peaceful war
But time stands still for
Roland
Til he evens up the score)

Bb Cm Bb Eb Bb G# Cm
 They can still see his headless body stalking through the night
Eb Bb Cm
 In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun
Eb Bb G# Cm
 In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun

Cm Eb G#
 Roland searched the continent for the man who d done him in
G# Eb Bb
 He found him in Mombassa in a barroom drinking gin
Cm Eb G#
 Roland aimed his Thompson gun - he didn t say a word
G# Eb Bb Cm
 But he blew Van Owen s body from there to Johannesburg

G# Eb Bb Cm
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
G# Eb Bb Cm
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
G# Eb Bb Cm
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...

Cm Eb G#
 The eternal Thompson gunner, still wandering through the night
G# Eb Bb
 Now it s ten years later but he still keeps up the fight
Cm Eb G#
 In Ireland, in Lebanon, in Palestine and Berkeley
G# G# G# Eb
 Patty Hearst heard the burst of Roland s Thompson gun
Bb Cm
 And bought it

All the A cords can be played as a regular A or 0 0 2 2 0 0, [I forget the name of this cord]