Roland The Headless
Warren Zevon

Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner
Warren Zevon

[Verse]
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 Am          C                                    F
Roland was a warrior from the Land of the Midnight Sun
 F                      C                G*
With a Thompson gun for hire, fighting to be done
     Am             C                        F
The deal was made in Denmark on a dark and stormy day
 F              C         G            Am
So he set out for Biafra to join the bloody fray
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 Am                  C                      F
Through sixty-six and seven they fought the Congo war
 F              C                       G
Fingers on their triggers, knee-deep in gore
     Am                C                      F
For days and nights they battled the Bantu to their knees
 F                      C            G          Am
They killed to earn their living and to help out the Congolese
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 F          C                   G   Am
Roland the Thompson gunner...
 F          C                   G   Am
Roland the Thompson gunner...
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      Am              C                        F
His comrades fought beside him - Van Owen and the rest
 F                        C                    G
But of all the Thompson gunners Roland was the best
        Am     C                    F
So the CIA decided they wanted Roland dead
 F                  C    G              Am
That son-of-a-bitch Van Owen blew off Roland s head
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Chorus:                               Harmony:
 C         G              F      Am
Roland the headless Thompson gunner   (Time, time, time
 C              G                     For another peaceful war
Norway s bravest son                  But time stands still for
                                      Roland
                                       Til he evens up the score)
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  G        Am      G       C        G     F                        Am
They can still see his headless body stalking through the night
        C                G                  Am
In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun
        C                G                  F         Am
In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun


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


F                     C               G     Am
Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
F                     C               G     Am
Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
F                     C               G     Am
Roland the headless Thompson gunner...


Am                     C                                      F
The eternal Thompson gunner, still wandering through the night
F                C                              G
Now it s ten years later but he still keeps up the fight
    Am          C                          F
In Ireland, in Lebanon, in Palestine and Berkeley
F           F                    F                    C
Patty Hearst heard the burst of Roland s Thompson gun
 G    Am
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]
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