

Roland The Headless
Warren Zevon

Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner
Warren Zevon

[Verse]

Bbm **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
Bbm **C#** **F#**
The deal was made in Denmark on a dark and stormy day
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
So he set out for Biafra to join the bloody fray

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

F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
Roland the Thompson gunner...
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
Roland the Thompson gunner...

Bbm **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
Bbm **C#** **F#**
So the CIA decided they wanted Roland dead
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
That son-of-a-bitch Van Owen blew off Roland s head

Chorus:

C# **G#** **F#**
Roland the headless Thompson gunner
C# **G#**
Norway s bravest son

Harmony:

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

G# **Bbm** **G#** **C#** **G#** **F#** **Bbm**
 They can still see his headless body stalking through the night
 C# **G#** **Bbm**
 In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun
 C# **G#** **F#** **Bbm**
 In the muzzle flash of Roland s Thompson gun

Bbm **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
Bbm **C#** **F#**
 Roland aimed his Thompson gun - he didn t say a word
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
 But he blew Van Owen s body from there to Johannesburg

F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...
F# **C#** **G#** **Bbm**
 Roland the headless Thompson gunner...

Bbm **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
 Bbm **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# **Bbm**
 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]