

*Commissioned by **Away From The Western Front**  
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# "No Parades"

*Mento version for voice and flexible ensemble*

Music & lyrics by Chris Hoban

*'No Parades' was created as part of the 'Away from the Western Front' project (2017-19).  
This was set up to highlight the global reach of the First World War, which did not just take place in the trenches  
of France and Flanders, and led to massive changes across the world.*

*For more information, see <https://awayfromthewesternfront.org/>. 'Away from the Western Front'  
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**Away from the  
Western Front**



# No Parades

Lyrics & music by  
Chris Hoban

Mento ♩ = 80

Introduction (clarinet, cuatro etc)

C G C G C G  
[Accomp. starts]



1. We were raised up as sons of the em-pire, To King George we were loy - al and  
want - ed to prove as a sol - dier That the black man's as good as the  
scrub-lands of Me - sa - po - ta - mia And the de - serts of E - gypt we  
wait - ed de - mo - bi - li - sa - tion All that win - ter of nine - teen eight -  
grace and dis - armed and dis - ban - ded For our mu - ti - nous ways we were



true, And when war was de clared, with - out ques - tion, Vo - lun - teer was the least we could  
white; If an in - fan - try man has no ri - fle, Well then, how in the hell can he  
worked; When they gave us a chance for some fight - ing, We de - feat - ed the Hun and the  
een, While we toiled in the grime of Ta - ran - to Load - ing am - mo and clean - ing la -  
spurned, But through hard ship and hu - mi - li - a - tion A po - li - ti - cised sol - dier re -



do. So at Up Park Camp, King - ston, Ja - mai - ca, We were schooled in the tools of our  
fight? They as - signed us in "La - bour Bat - ta - lions"\* With a mop and a buck - et and  
Turk. But when ar - mis - tice came in No - vem - ber We were told our re - turn was de -  
trines. When they treat - ed the whites to a pay rise, It was like some - one lobbed a gre -  
turned. Some were pu - nished or forced in - to e - xile, Oh, but ma - ny a ve - te - ran



trade, And we sang all our songs of old Eng - land, And we dream - ed of our wel - come pa - rades.  
spade, Far a - way from the trench es and fight - ing, Far a - way from the march - ing pa -  
laid, And they shipped us a - way to Ta - ran - to, Where we missed all the vic - tory pa -  
nade, All our years of re - sent - ment ex - plo - ded, Saying, to hel with their rules and pa -  
stayed, And we led them to - wards in - de - pen - dence, We old sol - diers who had no pa -



2. How we rades. No pa rades, — for us, — boys, The West In - dian will have no pa  
rades.  
rades!  
rades.

28 C G C /E D7 /F# G

rades, From Ja-mai-ca, Bar-ba-dos, Gui-a-na, From the is-lands and main-land we came, To  
The Ba-ha-mas, Hon-du-ras, Gre-na-da,  
From the Lee-wards, Saint Lu-cia, Saint Vin-cent,  
Out of Tri-ni-dad and from To-ba-go,

33 C [Accomp. stops] G C C7 F

fight, and to show our al-leg-iance, But re-turned to our home-lands in shame, While for

37 F C/G /A

some there'll be ho-nour and glo-ry, The West

39 G/D G 1.-3. C G C G 4. C Fine

In-dian will have no pa-rades. 3. In the rades.  
4. We a-  
5. In dis-

\* For more information about the "Labour Battalions", please see <http://westindiacommittee.org/caribbeansgreatwar/map/africa/topics/labour-battalions/>