

*Commissioned by **Away From The Western Front**
with funding from the **Heritage Lottery Fund***

"No Parades"

For voice and piano/guitar

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 HobanLiltingly, not too fast $\text{♩} = 58$

F C⁹/E^b C/E^b C Dmi⁷ G⁷ C

5

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 eigh -
t grace and dis - armed and dis - band - ed For our mu - ti - nous ways we were

G⁷ C G⁷ C C /D /E

9

true,
white";
worked;
teen,
spurned;

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

F /E Dmi 7/C G/B G⁷

13

do.
fight?
Turk.
trines.
turned;

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

C G⁷ C G⁷ C C /D /E

17

trade, And we sang all our songs of old Eng - land — And we dreamed of our wel - come pa -
 spade, Far a - way from the tren - ches and fight - ing, — Far a - way from the march - ing pa -
 layed, 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 hell with their rules and pa -
 stayed, And we led them to - wards in - de - pen - dence, — We old sol - diers who had no pa -

21

1. rades. 2. How we rades. No pa - rades — for us, boys, — The West
 rades. rades!
 rades.

ten. a tempo

26

Ind - ian will have no pa - rades, From Ja - mai - ca, Bar - ba - dos, Gui - a - na, — From the
 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, —

30

is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al - le - giance — But re -

34

turned to our home-lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho-nour and glo-ry, — The West

C /E F /C F C°/E^b C/E^b C

38

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

Dmi⁷ G⁷ C G⁷

1.-3. 4. rit. Fine

1.-3. 4. C rit. Fine

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