

**‘Away from the Western Front’ has launched two national projects and is offering everyone a chance to make a contribution to this First World War centenary commemoration**

A National Music project and a Creative Writing Competition are part of the Heritage Lottery funded First World War 'Away from the Western Front' centenary programme. This aims to increase understanding of what made the conflict into a World War and raise awareness of the often overlooked campaigns in the Balkans, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Africa, Italy and elsewhere.

The Creative Writing Competition is inviting entries from all age groups. These can be poems or short stories and the main criterion is that they must be inspired by the First World War away from the Western Front.

The winner of each category will receive a £50 book token, with additional prizes for runners up. The deadline for entries is 14th September 2018.

Ideas for possible topics, a flyer and an entry form can all be found on the website: <https://awayfromthewesternfront.org/projects/creative-writing-competition/>

The Away from the Western Front National Music Project invites community choirs, musicians, singers and brass bands to perform its new First World War song ‘No Parades’, which has been inspired by the experience of West Indian men who fought in the First World War.

Two battalions of the British West Indies Regiment served in Palestine and Egypt, and at the end of the war they joined the rest of the Regiment in the Italian port of Taranto. After poor treatment by their British officers the soldiers mutinied, demanding equal pay and conditions to the white troops they had served beside for four years. The mutineers were punished and the Regiment disbanded, sent home under guard and barred from the victory parades. The song continues the story:

*From the islands and mainland we came  
To fight and to show our allegiance  
But returned to our homelands in shame  
While for some there'll be honour and glory  
The West Indian will have no parades*

Musicians, community choirs and brass bands can join the project in two different ways. They can record their performances of ‘No Parades’ by using the score and lyrics freely provided or use the song and accompanying information on the 'Away from the Western Front' website to inspire their own compositions. The project will produce a CD of the best performances, as well as promoting the performances through the website and social media.

For more information about how to participate in this exciting project and to listen to our demo of the song please visit <https://awayfromthewesternfront.org/projects/national-music-project/> or contact [info@awayfromthewesternfront.org](mailto:info@awayfromthewesternfront.org)

### Images available

#### Creative writing project

- World War I Daily Mail Official War Photograph, Series 16, No. 123, titled "British Chaplain Writing Home for Tommy" (Wikimedia Commons in public domain) [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Daily\\_Mail\\_Postcard\\_-\\_British\\_Chaplain\\_Writing\\_Home\\_for\\_Tommy.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Daily_Mail_Postcard_-_British_Chaplain_Writing_Home_for_Tommy.jpg)
- Copy of First World War postcard published by 'The Cairo Postcard Trust', sent home to England (© Lyn Edmonds)

#### Music project

- Recruits in Jamaica 1916 © IWM (Q 52423).jpg (This item is available to be shared and re-used under the terms of the IWM Non Commercial Licence) <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205090952>
- Poster for the British West Indies Regiment, showing a small portrait of King George V 1915.jpg (Rights Advisory: No known restrictions on publication). <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003675299/>

### Contacts for information only:

#### Away from the Western Front

Away from the Western Front is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Association (CIO). It is governed by a Board of Trustees and it does not employ any staff. Registered Charity Number 1167582.

Mrs Lyn Edmonds, Trustee

Tel: 07788 416928

email: [lyn@awayfromthewesternfront.org](mailto:lyn@awayfromthewesternfront.org)

Twitter: [@aftwf1418](https://twitter.com/aftwf1418)

#### Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HLF), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HLF) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HLF) and use #HLFsupported.