

Kunapipi

Volume 18 | Issue 2

Article 10

1996

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Recommended Citation

Rodriguez, Judith, ZOUAVE MARCHING TEAM, ROLLINS COLLEGE, 1913-1914, *Kunapipi*, 18(2), 1996.
Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol18/iss2/10>

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ZOUAVE MARCHING TEAM, ROLLINS COLLEGE, 1913-1914

Abstract

'Quick and spirited drill' they repeat, no doubt, weekly on campus. And try their costumes out, wrong in detail, but always look to the spirit. War is turning this way- prepare, prepare it! They have looked for their rig to the Civil War and the young, would-be grandfathers it did for.

NOTES

1. The *Northam Advertiser* reported Hugo Throssell's speech. This is quoted in Ric Throssell's *My Father's Son* (Melbourne: Heinemann, 1989), p. 74.

Captain Throssell VC, who received an enthusiastic reception, in thanking the people for the warm welcome, said it was good to be back in old Northam again and receive dozens of warm-hearted hand shakes. He made humorous references to his exploits on the football ground and in the arena of the ring and, then becoming intensely earnest, said during the past five years he had seen much of the world. They had known him as a sort of irresponsible lad, but he claimed now to be a man. Nearly five years ago he had ridden through the streets of Northam in charge of eighteen men, who were amongst the first to enlist. With him were the late Harry Eaton and the speaker's brother Eric. Of that eighteen, seven were lying either in Gallipoli, Palestine or France. His hearers would realise the feeling within him when greeted by happy faces on his welcome home. War had made him a Socialist ... He had seen enough of the horrors of war and wanted peace.

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'Quick and spirited drill' they repeat, no doubt,
weekly on campus. And try their costumes out,
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War is turning this way – prepare, prepare!
They have looked for their rig to the Civil War
and the young, would-be grandfathers it did for.

Look at the shy, lit faces having fun;
only this might pass as the least bit Algerian.
Busty for jackets, put off by puttees,
Injun headbands for caps, a gipsy wheeze
the cross-tied pumps, and of course skirts,
quite short. Like the recollection that war hurts.

In Perth, the Boer Wars past, my aunt was twelve,
in Assembly with teachers and scores boys who fell –
the State's best these, the first scholarship school.
Husbands never to wed. And War was announced, and the girls
leapt to their feet and gloriously sang
'Rule Britannia' – this was before Anzac.
