

**LINE UP, BOYS!**



**ENLIST TO-DAY.**

**WW100**  
**SCOTLAND**

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ALL THIS?

B 5  
87

**FROM VOLUNTEERING  
TO CONSCRIPTION**

**1914-1918**

# YOUR KING & COUNTRY NEED YOU



TO MAINTAIN THE HONOUR AND GLORY  
OF THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE

## THE INITIAL RUSH TO JOIN UP

Britain declared war against Germany on 4th August 1914, with Austria-Hungary on 12th August 1914, with Turkey on 5th November 1914 and with Bulgaria on 15th October 1915. Australia, Canada and New Zealand entered the war alongside Britain on 4th August 1914.

By the end of August 1914, 300,000 men had signed up. By the end of September these ranks were swelled by another 450,000, and by the end of December over one million men in Britain had volunteered to fight in the war. Almost four years later, when the war ended on 11th November 1918, in the region of one quarter of the total male population had served in the Armed Forces.

Of course no one knew how this war would turn out and there was a great rush at the start to be part of it, spurred on by a massive advertising campaign featuring Lord Kitchener. However in contrast to its French and German counterparts the British Army was relatively small. While Britain's Naval supremacy was a matter of national pride at the outbreak of war her Army was comparatively small, being traditionally made up from volunteer recruits, and she was in no way prepared for a protracted land war. The French mobilised around 1,600,000 troops in 1914 and the Germans mobilised around 1,800,000.

A prominent feature of the early months of volunteering was the formation of 'Pals Battalions'. 'Pals', men who lived and worked together in the same community, joined up and trained together and were allocated to the same units.

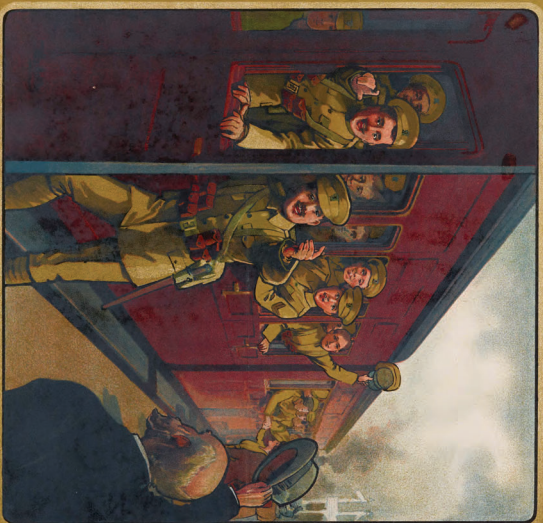
Knowing what we know now, it's hard to understand why anyone would go willingly to the hell of Gallipoli or the Western Front. But people had romantic notions as the story of William Darling from Edinburgh typifies.

# EVERYONE SHOULD DO HIS BIT



# ENLIST NOW

# THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU



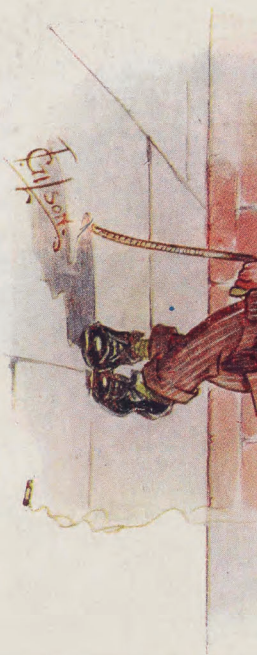
# ENLIST TO-DAY

ILLUSTRATION BY THE ADVERTISING BOARD, BOSTON. COURTESY, THE ADVERTISING BOARD, BOSTON.

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE ADVERTISING BOARD, BOSTON. COURTESY, THE ADVERTISING BOARD, BOSTON.



FOLLOW THE FLAG  
JOIN THE ARMY  
TO-DAY



THE PROBLEM OF TO-DAY.  
"Shall I join the Army or shall I cultivate a Cough?"

## THE LURE OF WAR: “I MUST SOMEHOW, GET INTO UNIFORM”

**O**n the outbreak of war, William Darling, a future Lord Provost of Edinburgh, expressed an attitude that was shared by many young Scotsmen, declaring ‘*I must somehow, get into uniform*’.

Reflecting on the mood of the country he wrote:

*What an urgency there was in these days! How eager men were to enlist! Was it that they were bored with their civil occupations or was it because there had not been any opportunity since 1900 to take part in a war? The excitement was general and it possessed me.*

He joined Kitchener’s new Army, initially serving as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant with the 9th Black Watch. Darling was an educated man and received rapid promotion on account of his background. Like many he held rather romantic ideals of war and what military service entailed, imagining himself ‘a Sir Galahad in the field of battle’. He would soon become familiar with the hard work, training and physical exertion that was the life of a new soldier.

*I recall my circumstances as a new soldier: we had no weapons of war. We had, at this stage, no officers. We had only an ardent willingness to train for battle, and to get into it with the least possible delay. So through the long*



*autumn months, September and October, we rose at dawn and formed fours, marched in column, formed on the left, closed column of platoon and other manoeuvres, ad infinitum. We did physical exercise – running before breakfast, square drill in the forenoon, attempted manoeuvres if the weather permitted it in the afternoon, and attended instruction lectures at night. We ate what we got and how we got it.*

The unprecedented increase in the size of the Army put enormous strain on resources and volunteers experienced many shortages in these early months of the war. In Darling's opinion, K2, Kitchener's second new Army, was 'nobody's child'.

*With civilian overcoat, red tunic, blue trousers with the red stripe, and a postman's hat – such was the equipment of a Royal Highlander of the 9th Black Watch in the early weeks of the Autumn of 1914 ...*

However, it was not long before these civilian volunteers were forged into effective units. Here, a core of ex-regular non-commissioned officers proved invaluable in inculcating into the new recruits a sense of regimental identity and belonging. Darling observed that despite being enlisted for only a few weeks, 'we quickly assumed a new allegiance'.

*I think it very moving that these men, who lately owed no allegiance to anyone ... had somehow accepted the reputation of their recently, not even self-chosen, regiment, as something for which they had a special responsibility, something for which they were prepared to fight for and, as events showed, something for which, when the time came in France and Flanders, they were prepared to die.*

# WHAT BURNS SAID-1782 HOLDS GOOD IN 1915



O! why the deuce should I repine,  
And be an ill foreboder?  
I'm twenty three, and five feet nine,  
I'll go and be a sodger.

## TAKE HIS TIP

**WHAT  
IN THE END  
WILL  
SETTLE  
THIS  
WAR?**

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**TRAINED  
MEN**

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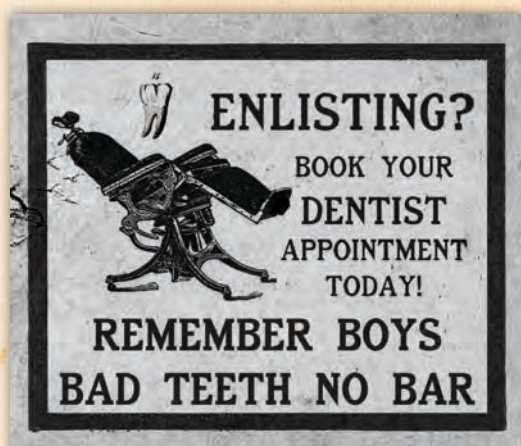
**IT IS  
YOUR  
DUTY  
TO  
BECOME  
ONE**

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**ENLIST  
NOW**



**ENLISTING?**



**ENLISTING?**

**BOOK YOUR  
DENTIST  
APPOINTMENT  
TODAY!**

**REMEMBER BOYS  
BAD TEETH NO BAR**



## ICONIC RECRUITMENT POSTERS

Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, recognised that the war would be long and bloody, and that the strength of the Army must be increased as a matter of urgency. His call for volunteers was first made on 11 August 1914, within days of war being declared. Later that month the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee was established.

The response to the recruitment drive was phenomenal. By Christmas 1914, one million men had answered the call to the ranks of Kitchener's 'new' Army. Kitchener himself was to become a figurehead for the recruitment campaign, his face a prominent feature in what is arguably one of the most iconic images of the war and of any advertising campaign since. As Margot Asquith is quoted to have said, 'If Kitchener was not a great man, he was, at least, a great poster'.

The Parliamentary Recruiting Committee (PRC) was an all-party body formed towards the end of August 1914. Key members included the Prime Minister and leaders of the main political parties. The PRC produced pamphlets, organised mass recruitment drives and produced eye-catching posters to encourage men to enlist.

# We're both needed



# FILL UP THE PILE UP THE

PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE, LONDON. POSTER No. 85c.

# to serve the Guns!



# THE RANKS! MUNITIONS!

PRINTED BY CHORLEY & PICKERSGILL LTD. LEEDS AND LONDON

# YOUR COUNTRY'S CALL



Isn't this worth fighting for?

# ENLIST NOW



At that time the posters were probably the most effective means of communicating with a public that had not yet experienced radio broadcasts nor could afford to regularly buy a newspaper. The earliest posters produced by the Publications Sub-Committee of the PRC were quite simple, based on the decision that elaborate pictorial posters like those used for advertising consumer goods were unnecessary. Whilst initially the posters played on a sense of patriotism, duty and pride, as time wore on they exploited feelings of fear and guilt.

As well as drawing on a sense of duty, to King, Country and Empire, other posters called on a duty to friends or family. These appealed directly to the men they wanted to enlist, such as *'Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?'*, or to members of their family who might persuade male relatives to sign up; see *'Women of Britain say – "Go!"'*. Some depicted idealised images of 'Country', as in *'Your Country's Call'*, in which a kilted soldier points towards what appears to be an idyllic British village. Posters specific to all the home nations were produced.

Some promoted the war as an opportunity to travel and experience a sense of adventure and in *'There's room for you'*, the potential recruit is beckoned towards a waiting train by his smiling comrades. The sense of experiencing this adventure along with your 'pals' drew on a sense of comradeship, heavily tied in with the recruitment of 'Pals Battalions', where large groups of young men signed up together.

In addition to recruiting men for the Armed Forces, some posters encouraged the rest of the population to ensure that they too were contributing to the war effort in some way; *'We're both needed to serve the guns'* illustrates the heavy dependence of the Army on the efforts of munitions workers, whilst other posters appealed directly to women to do their bit in this area.

Some posters used anti-German propaganda to persuade men to enlist. Initially used to justify the war because of Germany's trampling of Belgian neutrality, messages became darker as the war progressed – focussing on specific events such as the sinking of the Lusitania and the bombing of Scarborough. Such posters played very strongly on fear of what would happen should individuals fail to give themselves up for the war effort.



*Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?*

# WOMEN OF BRITAIN SAY - "GO!"



"THIS LITTLE PIG STAYED  
AT HOME"

# RUSHING RECRUITS FROM CIVVY STREET TO PRIVATES ON PARADE IN 1914

After the outbreak of war, Britain recruited a huge volunteer citizens' Army. In just eight weeks, over three-quarters of a million men had joined up. Every volunteer had to undergo a series of medical and fitness tests before being accepted as a soldier. New recruits were then given months of basic training in camps all over the country where they learned to be soldiers. New officers had to learn how to lead their men.

The Army was unprepared for the stampede of volunteers willing to fight, and men were often rushed through the official process for joining up. Conditions in training camps were often basic and supplies of equipment were limited.

Recruiting Offices were besieged. Public buildings were turned into new offices across the country and Administrative and Medical staff were found to process the thousands of volunteers. Some areas experienced such a rush that they sent men away with an appointment to come back another day. Although most men waited patiently for their turn, there were reports of queue jumping and mounted police being sent to control crowds.



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The Army could not accept every volunteer. All new soldiers had to meet age restrictions, nationality criteria and pass a medical examination. This was designed to reject those with health conditions and a physique deemed unfit for the rigours of a soldier's life.

*Enlistment: a recruit undergoing a medical examination - No 4, the eyesight test. Q 30067 © IWM*

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Minimum physical standards fluctuated during the war. When the rush of recruits was at its peak, the height limit was raised from an original 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 6 inches to prevent an unmanageable flood of volunteers. It was subsequently lowered on a number of occasions in response to dwindling numbers of new recruits. But in the chaos of early 1914 a blind eye was often turned to official standards. Examinations could be brief and hasty, allowing many underage or unfit men to slip through into the Army.



*Four young men hold Bibles as they take the oath at a recruitment office. An army officer can be seen on the right of the photograph, reading from a sheet of paper. Q 30071 © IWM*

If successful in the tests, new volunteers had to make a solemn promise to do their duty. In a ceremony led by recruiting officers, new soldiers swore an oath of allegiance to the King. But, with so many men eager to join up, the process was often rushed. Sometimes men were asked to recite the oath simultaneously in groups so as to speed up the process. The oath required every recruit to swear to 'faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and successors... against all enemies'. It also required each man to promise to obey the authority of 'all Generals and Officers set over me'. Recruits pledged to serve as long as the war lasted.



*7th Cameronians in training Grangemouth 1914*

Some new soldiers took on specialist roles if they had a specific skill such as being able to drive but most volunteers became infantrymen in new Battalions, each numbering around a thousand men, which were attached to existing regiments.

A recruit's transformation from civilian to soldier really began in one of the many training camps that were set up all over the country. They learned military discipline, drill and how to fight with rifle and bayonet. Many lived in tents. Men from every walk of life, from clerks and teachers to factory and shop workers, were crammed together. For many it was their first time away from home and the camps sometimes bred tensions, with worries about drunkenness and relationships between soldiers and local women.





*New recruits have their kit fitted following enlistment. One young man is helped into his tunic whilst another has his head measured in order to determine his cap size. Q 30069 © IWM*

The Army struggled to supply new soldiers with uniforms and weapons. While Officers were expected to buy their own uniform from a military outfitter, everything from boots and trousers to caps and vests had to be hurriedly produced and distributed for the other ranks. Thousands were issued with the temporary 'Kitchener Blue' uniform and a cardboard cap badge. Some recruits thought these substitute uniforms made them look like postmen. Others had to wait many weeks before they received any uniform at all and reports of clothing theft in camps were common.

Learning how to use a rifle was a critical part of a new soldier's training but weapons were in desperately short supply.

In a country defined by class, only 'gentlemen' from the upper and middle classes were expected to become new Officers in 1914. Britain's public schools and universities were the main recruiting grounds for the new leaders required to manage the new soldiers in the ranks. Young officers were taught how to control and care for men and how to command their respect. The most junior Infantry Officers, Second Lieutenants, were often only teenagers. Each had to lead a platoon of around thirty men, many older and from much tougher backgrounds than themselves.

The months spent as a trainee soldier improved the health of many men with some putting on weight from the Army food! Training together created a spirit of comradeship and men learned to operate as a cohesive unit. Soldiers departing for the Front were often waved off by patriotic civilians. For most, it would be their first time abroad. Each soldier carried a message from Lord Kitchener in his pay book, reminding him to be 'courteous, considerate and kind' to local people and allied soldiers, and to avoid 'the temptations both in wine and women'.

5.217  
GAA.2/2

# A REASON—or an EXCUSE?

In the Great War  
(the greatest there has ever been)

## Are YOU doing YOUR SHARE?

### IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Perhaps you have what you think is a  
REASON for not joining the Army.  
Are you QUITE SURE it is not an  
EXCUSE?

THINK IT OVER. Every fit man of military age  
who can be spared is wanted for the Great New Army.

## The time to enlist is

not next week, or some time later on, but

## NOW! AT ONCE!!

Published by the PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE, 12, Downing Street, London, S.W., and  
Printed by HAZELL, WATSON & VINEY, LD., 52, Long Acre, London, W.C.

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## FROM ENLISTMENT TO CONSCRIPTION

Recruitment remained fairly steady through 1914 and early 1915, but it fell dramatically during the later years, especially after the Somme campaign (1st July – 18th November 1916) which resulted in 420,000 casualties with nearly 60,000 on the first day alone.

In 1915, as volunteering started to diminish, the Derby or Group Scheme was introduced and then on 27th January 1916 conscription for single men was brought in. Four months later, in May 1916, it was extended to all men aged 18 to 41.

The Military Service Act of March 1916 specified that men from the ages of 18 to 41 were liable to be called up for service in the army, unless they were married (or widowed with children), or served in one of a number of reserved occupations which were usually industrial but which also included clergymen and teachers. With the introduction of conscription, no further 'Pals Battalions' were raised.

By January 1916, when conscription was introduced, 2.6 million men had volunteered for service. A further 2.3 million were conscripted before the end of the war. By the end of 1918, the army had reached its peak strength of four million men.



*Recruiting Officers were paid for each man so some turned a blind eye to underage volunteers and, later, conscripts. Parading for kit inspection, September 1914.*

## WOMEN'S DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT



*A group of land girls about to set out for work. Those wearing a lighter uniform were dairy workers and a darker uniform would usually indicate a land worker.*



Women also volunteered and served in a non-combatant role. By the end of the war 80,000 had enlisted. They mostly served as nurses in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY), the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and from 1917, in the Army when the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), was founded. The WAAC was divided into four sections: cookery; mechanical; clerical and miscellaneous. Most stayed on the Home Front but around 9,000 served in France.

RESERVED OCCUPATIONS

*Lists A, B, C and D*

LIST A

Occupations required for production or transport of munitions supplied by Ministry of Munitions e.g. foundry workers, shipwrights, metal machinists, electricians, sheet metal workers, iron and steel rolling mills.

LIST B

Coalmining - Workers below ground.  
Workers above ground e.g. colliery fitters and mechanics, pump men.

LIST C

Agricultural Workers. Certain occupations in Mining etc.  
Railway servants employed in the manipulation of traffic and in the maintenance of the lines and rolling stock.

LIST D

Supplementary list of occupations of cardinal importance for the maintenance of some other branches of Trade and Industry e.g. newspaper printing, jute trade, lino production, china and earthenware production, condensed milk factories, paint and varnish makers, port and dock workers.

*Also known as essential services, these occupations are considered important enough to a country that those serving in such occupations are exempt from military service.*

# Military Tribunals System

Under the terms of the Military Service Acts of 1916, all adult males within the age limit had to register for military service unless they possessed a certificate of exemption. The system put in place to handle this was the Military Appeal Tribunals and Exemptions Scheme.

## SCHEDULE OF EXCEPTIONS IN THE ACT

1. Men ordinarily resident in the Dominions abroad, or resident in Britain only for the purpose of their education or some other special purpose.
2. Existing members of the regular or reserve forces or of the Territorial Force who are liable for foreign service or who are, in the opinion of the Army Council, not suitable for foreign service.
3. Men serving in the Navy or Royal Marines or who are recommended for exception by the Admiralty.
4. Men in Holy Orders or regular ministers of any religious denomination.
5. Men who had served with the military or Navy and been discharged on grounds of ill-health or termination of service.
6. Men who hold a certificate of exemption or who have offered themselves for enlistment since 4 August 1914 but been rejected.

## CLAIMING EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE

There were four grounds for exemption:

1. If a man was engaged in work of national interest, or being educated or trained for any other work that he should continue.
2. If serious hardship would ensue owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position.
3. Ill health or infirmity.
4. Conscientious objection to military or combatant service.

From 1916, men seeking exemption from military service could apply to various tribunals. There were three types: Local Tribunals, Appeal Tribunals and a Central Tribunal based in London.

7.5a.

Please quote:- W. 3863

CENTRAL TRIBUNAL,  
16, Queen Anne's Gate,  
Westminster,  
S.W.1.

28<sup>th</sup> June 1917.

Sir,

I am desired by the Central Tribunal to inform you that your case has been sent to them by the Army Council in order that the Tribunal may determine, in the light of the information which may now be available, whether you have a conscientious objection to military service based on religious or moral grounds.

The Central Tribunal will attend at an early date, when an opportunity of being heard by them as to your

avail yourself of the opportunity of having been heard, the Central Tribunal you have a conscientious objection to on religious or moral grounds, the Central hat after the completion of your sentence the control of the military authorities.

On the other hand, after consideration of your case and that you have a conscientious objection on religious or moral grounds, your case will be referred to a Civil Control Committee which has been appointed by the Army Council for the purpose of determining whether you that you may be placed on civil work under conditions to be determined by that Committee. If you take up work you will be transferred to the Reserve, whereupon you will cease to be subject to military discipline and the Army Act, as also to draw pay. You will be allowed to continue at civil work if your conduct is satisfactory to the Committee. You must comply with the conditions laid down by the Committee.

SHORTS COMMERCIAL SCHOOL

Principal,  
JAMES F. SHORT.

112 HIGH STREET,  
GLASGOW.

17th October, 1916.

With great pleasure I testify that, for eight or nine years, I have been intimately acquainted with Mr Thomas Hanna, Maryhill, Glasgow, and that it has always been a source of enjoyment to be in his company.

Mr Hanna is a man of irreproachable character and high moral convictions, and I know that he has always been a conscientious objector to war. Further, from my observation of his character and disposition, I am convinced that he would not make a soldier.

*James F. Short*

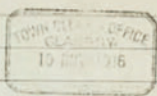
Member of Agr Town Council.

be sent to the Army Council on Sect when you the Ar

Yours

R. 64 Local Tribunal for  
Applicant

Address



Date

NOTICE OF DECISION.

Sir,

The case relating to *H34/H11/P5*  
Name *Thomas Hanna*  
Address *20 Campbell St Maryhill*  
Occupation *Janitor*

has been considered by the Tribunal and they have decided that the application be not granted. *LLV*

Yours faithfully,

*Ch. Allen*

For the Tribunal.

Private Thomas Hanna

(Prison no

*B5/87*

### *Conscientious Objection*

Conscientious Objection mainly relates to the refusal, on grounds of conscience, to fulfil a legally imposed obligation to join and work in one of the armed forces. Historically the main objection has been religious: people felt that war and killing were inconsistent with their faith, even if, as sometimes has been the case, the main body of their religion has accepted war.

In World War I there were 16,000 Conscientious Objectors in Britain amongst whom is the story of one Scots CO who objected on the grounds on his political belief on the next page.

*An organisation called 'Order of the White Feather' would persuade women to present men not wearing uniform with a white feather to shame them into enlisting in the British Army. A white feather is sometimes given as a mark of cowardice.*



## TWO YEARS SEVEN MONTHS BEHIND BARS

John McTaggart\* was 28 when war broke out. He was married to Rebekah and father to Michael and Joshua. He was a trade unionist, President of the Dundee Labour Representation Committee (LRC), long time member of the Independent Labour Party (ILP) and Scottish secretary of the ILP Scouts. After his return from the Socialist International Congress in Basel in 1912 he and fellow ILP delegates pledged to make every effort to prevent war breaking out across Europe.

Just days after war broke out John attended a 'Peace Demonstration' organised by the ILP, the British Socialist Party (BSP) and Glasgow Peace Society at Glasgow Green, August 9 1914. Everyone present realised 'they could not stop the war' but the demonstration might at least act as an antidote to jingoism and war fever sweeping over Europe. The meeting ended with a resolution calling on the Government 'to use every endeavour to restore Peace, and suggest the notion of a General Armistice.'

Meanwhile John's brother Charlie underwent his basic training after volunteering for military service. From May 1915, as Charlie recovered from his injuries at Aubers Ridge,

the anti-war movement was growing in confidence and reputation and in November 1915 the Dundee branch of the No-Conscription Fellowship (NCF) was formed. After the Military Service Act introduced conscription in January 1916, the Dundee Joint Committee Against Conscription was formed.

War resisters in Dundee included the Trades Council, the ILP and BSP, Dundee Socialist Sunday School and ILP Scouts, a 'branch of the Union of Democratic Control (UDC) and, 'peculiar to Dundee', two prohibitionist parties and an 'interesting ecumenical religious body' the Dundee Free Religious Movement which opposed the war and conscription.

John and Charlie had not spoken to each other since war broke out. In September 1915 Charlie fought and survived the Battle of Loos relatively unscathed and came through an attack on German trenches at La Basse in June 1916. He was sent back to Britain after the battle of Beaumont-Hammel in September 1916 just as John was making his first appearance before the local Military Tribunal.

John claimed exemption from military service because as an ILP and NCF member

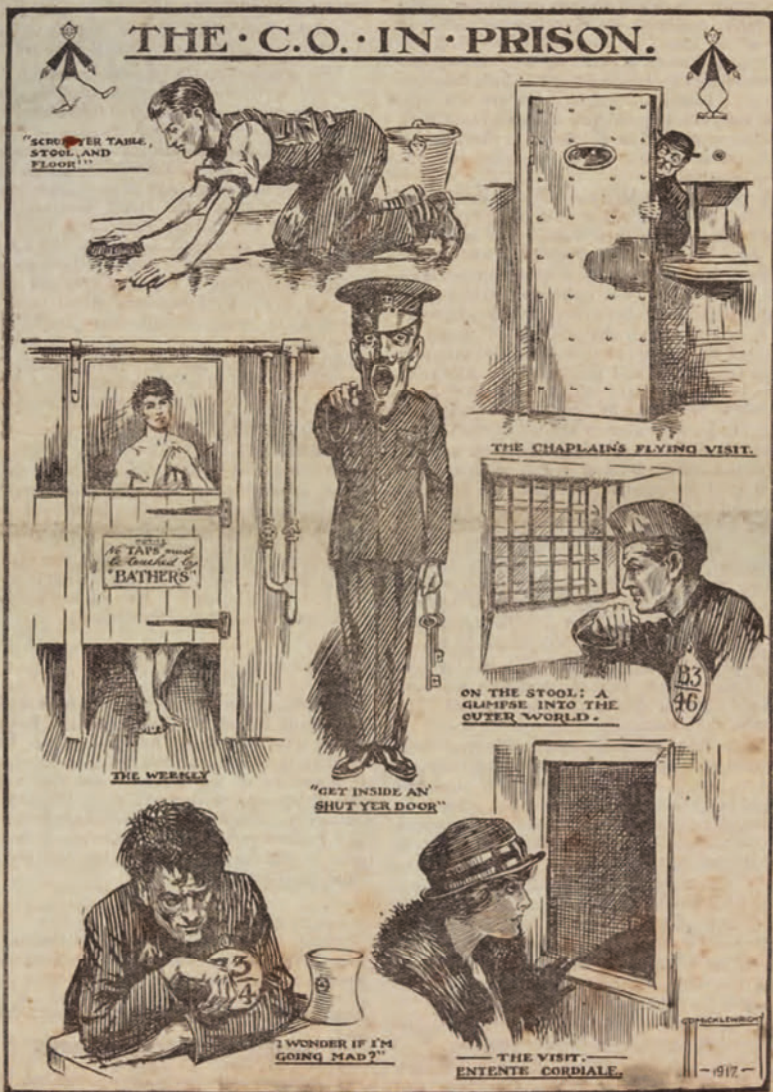
he was politically opposed to a war that he believed was the outcome of 'Capitalism allied with Militarism and Secret Diplomacy'. His application was rejected as was his appeal and in October 1916 he was finally arrested for refusing military service. He was sentenced to six months hard labour less 49 days, which he spent at a number of locations.

He was released on January 22 1917 but was immediately taken into police custody and stood before the court once more. He again refused military service and was given a further prison sentence.

Charlie returned from France in September 1918 and remained in Dundee after contracting and recovering from Spanish Flu. His war was over. But John's war resistance continued. He was now incarcerated in Wormwood Scrubs, where he served out the remainder of his two-year sentence.

He was finally released from prison in April 1919, after serving two years and seven months behind bars. His health had suffered considerably. In the meantime his wife and two sons, like the dependents of all the Dundee Conscientious Objectors, had been maintained by funds raised by the Dundee NCF since 1916.







*The King's Own Scottish Borderers before heading to the front line, 1915*

*Text by Stuart Delves with grateful thanks for contributions and verifications of facts from Dr Derek John Patrick and Dr Billy Kenefick of the University of Dundee, National Library of Scotland, National Records of Scotland and the Imperial War Museum.*

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*Designed by Wolfe.*

*[www.wv100scotland.com](http://www.wv100scotland.com)*

B. S.  
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