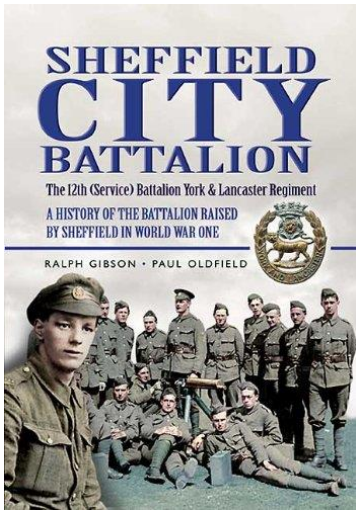


# Y9 Revision: TOPIC 1 – Recruitment

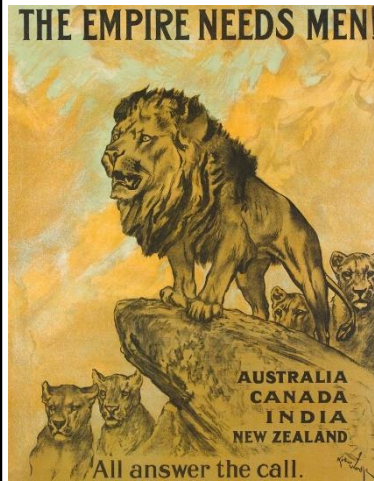
## Pals Battalions:

The government needed men to volunteer for the war. Some men chose to fight because of their patriotic duty, but for others, it was a job and so meant money. There were many other reasons too: adventure, hatred for the Germans, Nationalism etc. However, one final reason was Pals Battalions. The idea was; sign up together, fight together. Many men felt this sounded great as you would go on an adventure with your friends/brothers. They also believed that the war would be over by Christmas. However, once the bodies came home and men were watching their friends die, recruitment dropped.



## Empire Soldiers:

Another way we had men was by recruiting from our Empire. Men came from Canada, India, Australia etc. In total, the Empire provided 3 million men to the British army during the war which was about 2/5 of the total army size. Some countries made a huge impact: for example, Canada provided 1/4 of the RAF pilots, India provided 1/5 of the army on their own and the Australian navy helped keep control of the Pacific Ocean. However, some nations were treated with racism and discrimination such as the West Indies, who were largely given labour jobs and rarely trusted to fight.



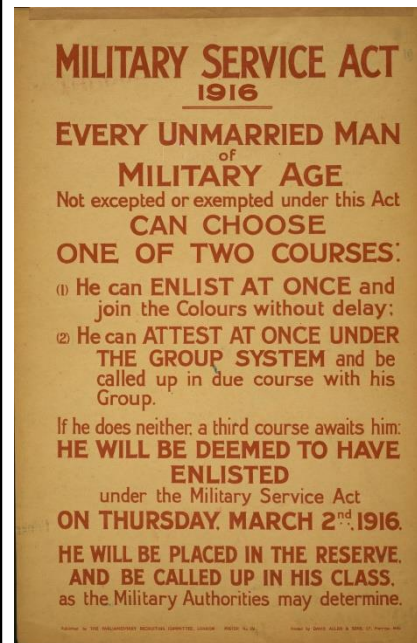
## Propaganda:

The government needed to convince more men to fight if they were going to have a chance at winning. Therefore, a vast amount of propaganda was created. Propaganda is anything that is designed to persuade people to believe in something. In this case it was the government trying to get people to believe in the war and therefore, fight. It worked in two ways; push propaganda played on your guilt and fear and made you feel like you had to fight. Pull propaganda played on either your excitement or anger. Both emotions made the men eager to join up.



## Conscription and Conscientious Objectors:

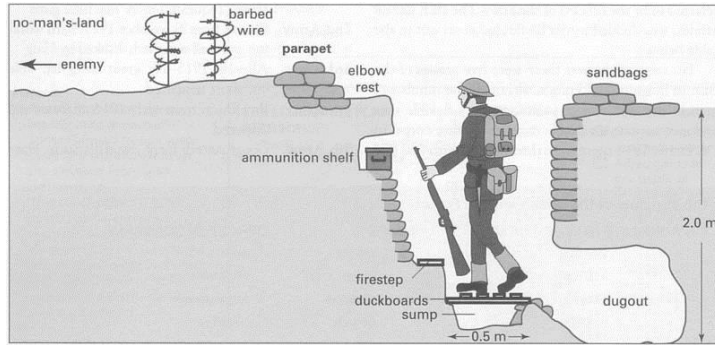
By 1916 it was clear that there were not enough men fighting. So the government passed the Military Service Act which enabled conscription. This is when you must go to war if asked or it is a crime. Some men were exempt due to their age, health, job etc. However, some men refused to fight because of their moral beliefs. These men were called Conscientious Objectors (CO's). CO's would have a tribunal and at the end receive one of the following outcomes: exemption, war work, non-fighting duty or prison. Occasionally they were sentenced to death.



# Y9 Revision: TOPIC 2 – Trenches and the Somme

## Trenches:

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. **Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night.** In the middle, was **No Man's Land**, so-called because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side.



## Life in the trenches:

Soldiers in the trenches did not get much sleep. When they did, it was in the afternoon during daylight and at night only for an hour at a time. They were woken up at different times, either to complete one of their daily chores or to fight. During rest time, they wrote letters and sometimes played card games. The trenches could be very muddy and smelly. There were many dead bodies buried nearby and the latrines (toilets) sometimes overflowed into the trenches. Millions of rats infested the trenches and some grew as big as cats. There was also a big problem with lice that tormented the soldiers on a daily basis.

## Problems in the trenches:

- **Trench foot:** The wet and muddy conditions in the trenches caused feet to swell up and go black. The flesh would go rotten and the soldiers would be in terrible pain.
- **Lice:** The trenches did not have running water or showers, so soldiers found it very hard to keep clean. They soon became infected with lice that lived on all parts of their bodies.
- **Rats:** The dirty conditions and the lack of storage attracted rats to the trenches. The rats ate the soldiers' rations and crawled all over them when they slept. They carried diseases.
- **Toilets:** There was no running water or sewage pipes in the trenches. This meant that proper toilets could not be fitted.

## The Battle of the Somme

By December 1915 it was still a stalemate on the Western Front. Neither side had made any real progress towards victory. In February 1916 the Germans began an attack. They sent soldiers over the top to attack the French forts around the town of Verdun.

In response, the British planned an attack.

At the end of June, a huge artillery bombardment took place for 5 days. On 1<sup>st</sup> July the order to "go over the top" was given. On the first day of the Battle almost 20,000 soldiers died and 40,000 more were injured. In total 1 million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. By November when fighting ended. Only 6 miles of land had been gained by the allies.

## Haig: Hero or Butcher:

Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig was placed in control of the battle. He had to plan how to attack the Germans at the Somme, relieve pressure on the French army at Verdun and win with a very new army of conscripts.

He tried to tire the German army, destroy their lines of communication and reinforcements, blow the trenches and clear the way for the men to cross no-mans land. However, the German trenches were far better built than the British and the German soldiers were well protected. However, he adapted the battle plans and introduced the tank in to battle for the first time to protect the men trying to cross no-mans land. In the end, the Somme was a victory for Britain and her allies but at a great cost. Everyone must decide for themselves, what was more important? The outcome or the loss of life?

# Y9 Revision: TOPIC 3 – 20s America

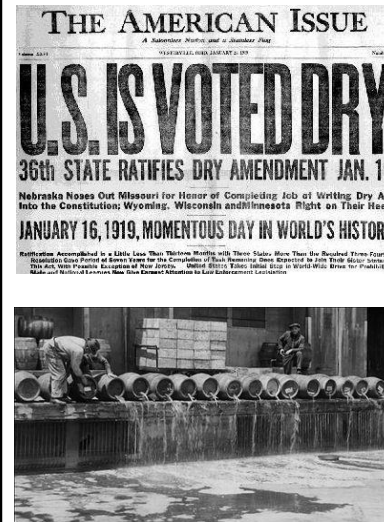
## Economic Boom:

The boom happened because America earned lots of money in WW1. It continued in to the 1920's for a variety of reasons. For example, electricity was now becoming common in homes in US cities. With this, families could now have washing machines, vacuums and radios. It revolutionized people's home lives and gave people a lot more free time (instead of e.g. staying in to hand wash all the dirty laundry). Also, factories were now mass producing items and so they could be made much more quickly and cheaply. This helps lower the price and meet the demand for the product.



## Prohibition:

The Volstead Act (1919) was passed and in 1920, alcohol was banned across all of the 50 states. The law banned the making, transporting and selling of alcohol. The causes of prohibition were a belief that alcohol was corrupting the morality of society and pushing families in to poverty. It was also believed that it made our men worse soldiers in the war. Once the ban came in to being, the effects were surprising. Crime went up and arrests for alcoholism nearly tripled. Speakeasy's (illegal and hidden bars) were set up and became notorious for booze and gangs. Bootleggers (alcohol smugglers) became rich!



## Organised crime:

Not that alcohol was illegal, gangsters focused their business on importing and selling alcohol at a high price. People were willing to pay it because they did not agree with prohibition. Gangsters became unbelievably powerful and had enough money to bribe almost anyone, including police and judges. Probably the most powerful gangster of them all was Al Capone. Capone all but ran Chicago in the 1920's and believed himself untouchable. However, he was eventually caught but morally straight cops who indicted him for tax evasion. Capone went to Alcatraz prison and never regained his power.



## Wall Street Crash an the Depression:

Since times were good in the 20's, people had taken to investing money in the stock market. This is when you put your money in to a company and as long as the company is doing well, your money increases in value. This is a form a gambling. In October 1929, the Stock Market Crashed, causing millions to loose everything they had. Unemployment skyrocketed and families became destitute and starving. Many people ended up living in parks in tents. These makeshift communities were called Hooverville's, named after the President at the time, Herbert Hoover.

