

Worksheet 7. Training

The young men who had volunteered to 'Fight for King and Country' in the early days of World War I, and those men who later were conscripted in the army, had all been civilians. Like the men shown in the foreground of this poster, they had no previous experience of soldiering. They needed to be trained...and that's what they came to camp for.



Recruiting poster 1915

. Note how quickly the queue of civilians turns into marching, armed soldiers.

An interesting addition to this poster would be to draw a line across the queue to represent where the training camp would come.

Although some training did take place in rear areas overseas, recruits had to master certain basic military skills at home before they were considered well enough trained to be sent overseas to war. The strict discipline*, which featured throughout the recruits* training, was to ensure that they responded **as a group** with instant, unquestioning* obedience to any order given to them by anyone of senior rank.

Basic military skills

Clockwise from top left

- On parade.
- Rifle practice at Fovant.
- Lobbing hand grenades.
- Bayonet practice.
- Trench digging at Fovant.
- Essential fieldcraft - manning the trenches at Fovant.

