

## Worksheet 4 – Training

Britain's relatively small standing army suffered tremendous loss of life during the early battles of World War I. Prompted by these horrendous casualty statistics, Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, launched his 'Your King and Country Needs You' campaign.



British volunteers answer Kitchener's call in 1914

In response volunteers flocked to sign on, and they were joined shortly after by thousands more men who had been conscripted\* into the army.

**Problem** – how to turn all these civilian previously working class lads from the industrial cities, agricultural workers from the shires and middle class clerks, into a war winning force in a short time.

**Solution** - intensive basic training at home before going to war.

### The essential elements of basic training



Physical training



Digging trenches at Fovant



Manning trenches at Fovant



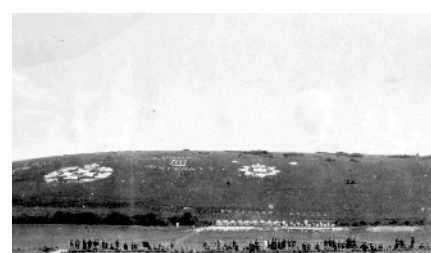
Disciplined marching

Basic training taught a man individual and unit discipline, how to follow commands, how to march, some basic field skills and how to handle his weapons safely.

Once a British infantryman had mastered these skills he was considered well enough trained to go to war, although further training did take place in some rear areas of the conflict.

Many men, especially the volunteers, believed there was a programmed intention to suppress the individual spirit, ingenuity and initiative out of the men.

Many men arrived at the fighting fronts relatively unprepared for the experience of actual warfare.



Firing practice at Fovant rifle ranges



Lobbing hand grenades



Bayonet practice

\* Use a dictionary