



Think about War



2. Conscripted

The First World War... the Great War... the War to end all Wars?

From early in 1916 men were called up. They could appeal to a... **Military Service Tribunal** for exemption. There were 4 possible results...

2: Non-Combatant Corps

This was for men willing to join the army, but not to kill - a compromise.

They were soldiers, wore uniforms, obeyed orders... but used no weapons.

Mostly behind battle lines, they built roads and worked in food supply, and freed regular soldiers to fight.



Their officers were always fighting soldiers.

1: Very few received absolute exemption

This was rare as 'not fighting' was seen as wrong



GO!

- IT'S YOUR DUTY LAD

3: Home Office Scheme

Another exemption from 'fighting' was to be accepted to do work that was 'Nationally important' in order to keep the country going.

This too was a difficult choice. Devised as an option for Conscientious Objectors (C.O's) in prison who refused to participate in the army in any way. Promoted as work of national importance, most of the work was in practice a form of punishment - using human labour instead of more efficient machinery for example. Many preferred to return to prison.



4: Prison

But some men could not support the war in any way. They spent the war in prison condemned to hard labour.

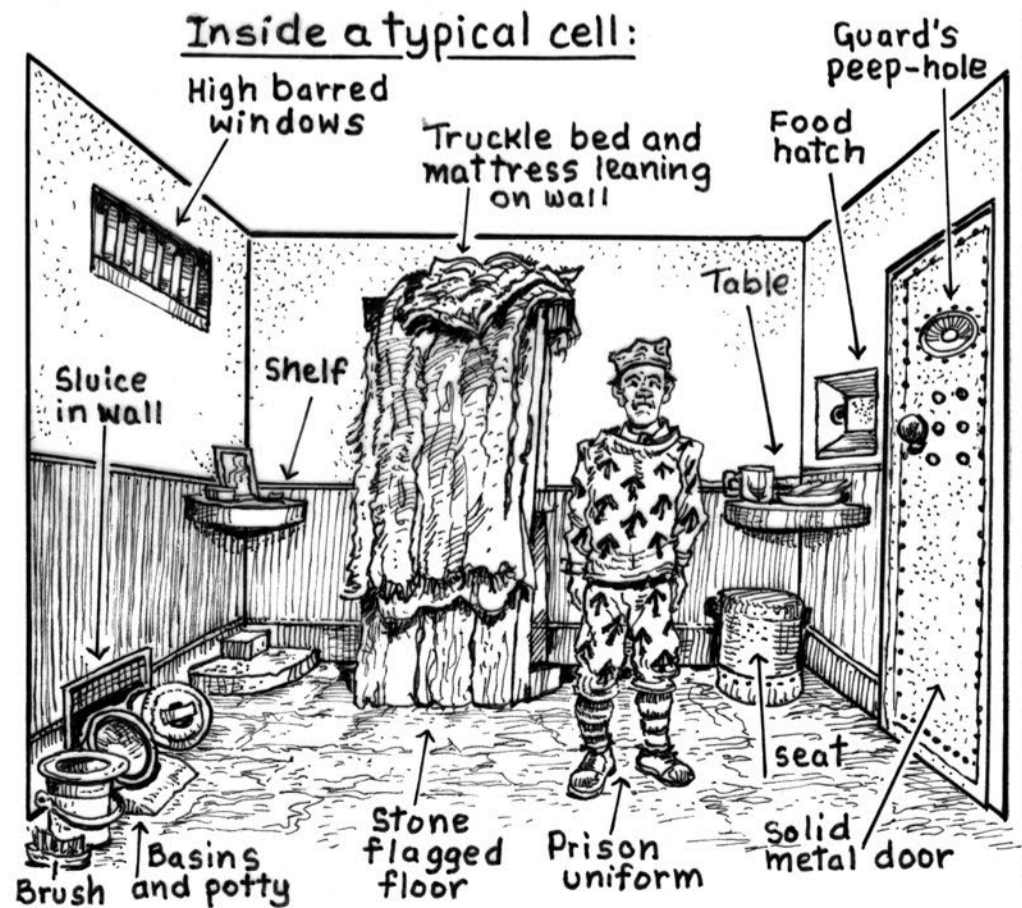
Prisoners were confined to cold bare cells, with poor food and forbidden to speak, the conditions drove some prisoners out of their minds; some died in prison.



Some Co's scratched messages and drawings on cell walls. Some secretly produced news-sheets on lavatory paper.

Thou shalt not kill

Inside a typical cell:



Artwork: Dai Owen www.dai-owen.co.uk