

LESSON 2: CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS



LESSON AIMS:

To understand why recruitment changed from voluntary to compulsory.
To examine Dundee's connections to 'conscientious objectors'.

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF LEARNING:

SAL 9: developing useful skills for learning, life and work.

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The impact of the Great War was so severe on Britain that barely a town or village did not erect a memorial to their war dead in the following years.

This is Dundee's Black Watch memorial near Fintry.



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS STARTER ACTIVITY

Reading is crucial to being a success. Your first task today as a battalion is to offer 5 volunteers to your teacher to read a short passage.

As the paragraphs are read you should **ALL** note down words you are unfamiliar with.

Once all the passages are read you will have a chance to use a dictionary to note down what the words mean.

Dundee had its fair share of men who were opposed to the war for various reasons...

...in fact, according to an anti-war newspaper of the time, Dundee...

‘WAS FAIR HOTCHIN’ WI CONCHIES’

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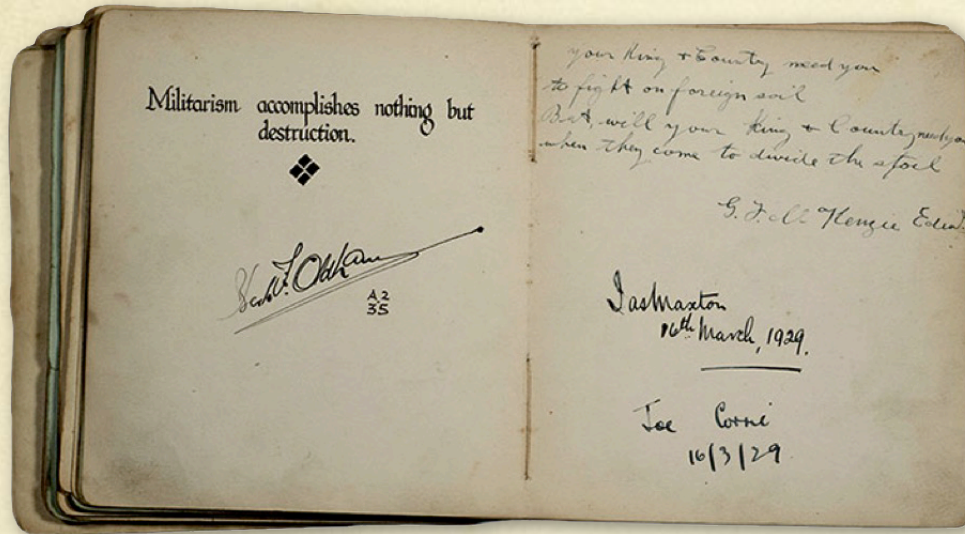


A group of Dundee conscientious objectors...

During his prison sentence Ewan Geddes Carr collected signatures... Courtesy of Dundee City Council; Dundee's Art Galleries and Museums

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This incredible autograph book is held at The McManus; Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.



Ewan Geddes Carr was a Dundonian man raised in the Overgate. He was opposed to the war for political reasons and refused to fight. He spent the war being sent from prison to prison in Britain and collected autographs and drawings from other 'conchies'.

BERNARD DOUGLAS TAYLOR

*“No amount of training
will make me a tool to
be used to slaughter
other men.”*

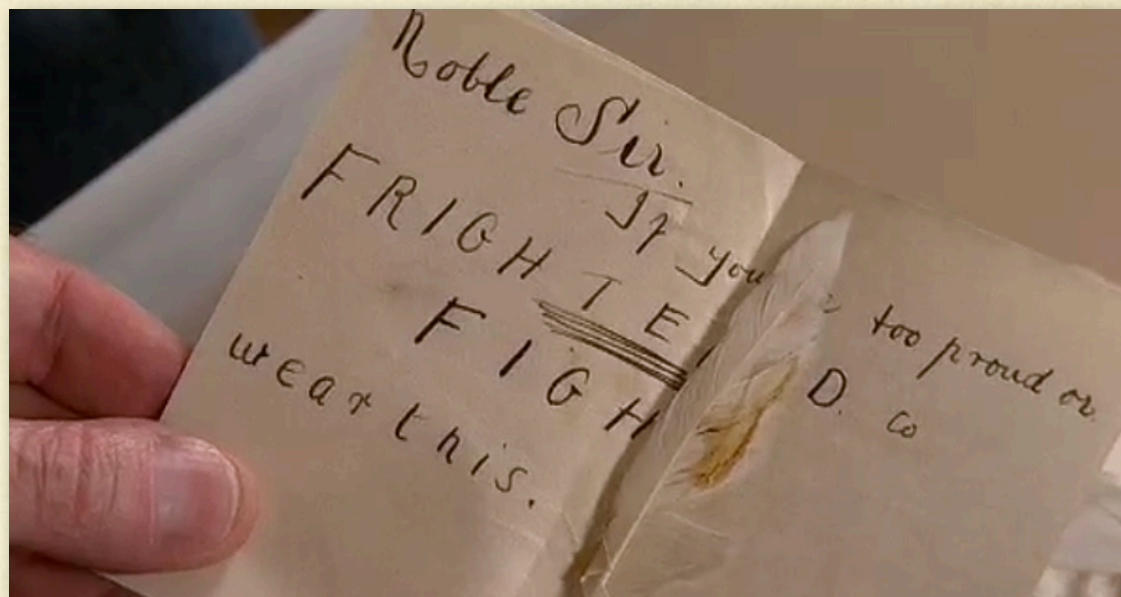


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CLASS DISCUSSION

Do you think the 'white feather movement' was fair?

Click on the picture to hear the story of Bernard Douglas Taylor.



HOMEWORK TASK

There were often cases of mistaken identity like this one with the white feather movement. Can you find out about another one? Write a short paragraph to bring and share with the class next time.

Be sure to note down where you found your information.

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You are to write a short, anonymous, letter to a classmate. It can either be from a member of the white feather movement to a suspected conscientious objector, or from a conscientious objector to the government explaining your reasons for not wanting to join the army despite conscription.



“No amount of training will make me a tool to be used to slaughter other men.”



“Militarism accomplishes nothing but destruction.”

