

First World War Home Front

Welcome to IWM North

Use this activity sheet as you walk around the Main Exhibition Space to help you discover more information about the home front during the First World War.

1. Joining up



Go to Silo 1: Experience of War. Find the 'Recruits' cabinet and look at the posters on the wall above.

The government used these posters to encourage men across Britain to join up.

In what ways do the posters encourage men from across Britain to join up? (You should give at least three examples)

Which poster would most make YOU feel that you should join up and why?

Look in the cabinet below the posters. Find item 2.

In addition to posters, what else was used to encourage recruitment?

“ ”

Kitty Mortar talks about visiting the Palace Theatre in Manchester in 1914:

Vesta Tilley was there, and all the band on the stage, recruiting officers with sashes and what have you, and she came out in the audience and walked all down either side. The men was getting up out of their seats following her. She also had a big Union Jack wrapped around her and she introduced that song, ‘We don’t want to lose you, but we think you ought to go’.

Why were places of entertainment, like theatres and football matches, good places to recruit?

2. Prisoners of War in Britain



Find these in the ‘Prisoners of War’ cabinet. Object 12.

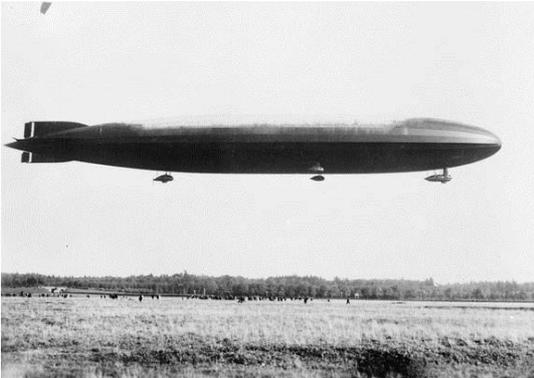
Why do you think the prisoner made these objects and gave them to Mrs Cartman?

How many German Prisoners of War were working on the land in Britain by 1917?



Did you know? By 1918 there were over 500 POW camps in Britain.

3. Air Raids



Head out of the doorway to your right and find the 'Home Fronts 1914-1918' cabinet on the First World War section of the Timeline.

For the first time, aeroplanes and airships were used to drop bombs over towns and cities in Britain.

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Find items 1 and 17 in the cabinet

Would the people of Manchester be worried about these air raids? Use information from the two newspaper articles to explain your answer.



Explore items 1 to 25 in the cabinet, showing the dangers in Britain.

Choose one item that you find interesting. What is it?

Write down one fact about this item to explain why you found it interesting.

4. Rationing



Find item 40 in the cabinet

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In what year was rationing introduced in Britain during the First World War?

What is significant about this date?



Explore items 33 to 41 in the cabinet.

List four things that were in short supply in Britain during the war.

As well as rationing, what else were the people of Britain being encouraged to do to ensure food did not run out?

5. Women and War



**Go into *Silo 2:*
*Women and War***

**Look up to find this
painting.**

The Land Army was founded in 1915. What sort of work did it do?

How many women were working in the Land Army by 1918?

During both world wars women took on a variety of different roles to support the war effort and to ensure that the country continued to run smoothly.

Look at the large case containing uniforms from the First *and* Second World War and read the information about Military Women.

List three roles taken on by women during the First World War.

Look to your right and find nine boxes containing objects belonging to different women. Look at the three boxes on the bottom row. Find a personal story from the First World War that interests you.

Which story did you choose and what did this woman do during the First World War?

A question for you to consider back at school

‘The impact of the First World War on the British Home Front was slight.’

How far do you agree with this interpretation? Explain your answer.

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