



# Viewing points

## Watford's Quiet Heroes

Copies of the film are available at £5 each (including UK postage) by phoning 01923 269599 or emailing [heroes@watfordquakers.org.uk](mailto:heroes@watfordquakers.org.uk) or this can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzjnDrimrgM>.

Briefly introduce the film, explaining how it came to be made as part of Quakers response to the WW1 Centenary.

**Show the film** which lasts 30 minutes.

Invite any immediate questions about the stories told in the film and the historical context.

### **Follow up activity:**

All stand up. Imagine yourself as a young man at the time of WW1.

Sit down at the point where you decide to comply and join the army.

There's a war in Europe. The government has appealed for volunteers for the army. The news is full of stories about the terrible things being done by the enemy and predictions of adventure and glory and a quick victory. Many of your friends are excited and keen to go. There's not much work where you live and the army provides good pay, smart uniform and full board.

Now your friends have nearly all left to join the army. A woman comes up to you in the street and pins a white feather on you to show you up as a coward. Neighbours insult you and your parents and throw eggs at the windows of your house.

Now the government is bringing in a law to make military service compulsory. You have a chance to enlist honourably without waiting to be compelled.

The law has been passed and you will be considered to be enlisted unless you apply for exemption as a CO. Your boss tells you he won't have a job for you after the war if you don't join up. You need the money to help support your mother and your younger siblings. Now you have been summoned to a tribunal and asked to explain why you won't fight for your country.

You are refused exemption and ordered to enlist for non-combatant service.

You are arrested, taken to an army barracks and ordered to put on uniform.

You are put into a prison cell, ordered to scrub floors and given only bread and water for 3 days.

You are told you will be sent to the war zone to be court martialled and face the death penalty.

You are facing court martial and given a last chance to back down and obey orders or you will be shot.

Okay, it's too late now. You are being sentenced: "You have been found guilty of disobeying commands while on active service and you will suffer death by being shot... This has been confirmed by the commander in chief."

Invite participants to comment on the points at which they decide to sit or stay standing and why.