



COs on the Home Office Scheme

Objectors who were unrecognised or refused the level of exemption granted to them could find themselves stuck in prison or in a military – court martial - prison loop (handed over to the military, they refused to obey orders, were court martialled and sent to prison and when their sentences were over they were handed back to the military only to refuse orders again).

The Government intervened by offering objectors who had been court-martialled and imprisoned the chance of another tribunal revisiting their case and, if it was felt they were genuine, the possibility of leaving to undertake particular kinds of work. As a result, some COs went to work on what was known as the Home Office Scheme. Men worked at camps or centres around the country doing tasks such as felling trees or building roads.

You can see pictures of Bristol COs at the [Dartmoor](#) and [Knutsford](#) centres, which were actually in 'de-prisoned' jails (prisons that had been taken out of service during the war, with modifications including unlocked cells and COs had the freedom to leave the prison walls). Some of these COs kept autograph books which their fellows signed, wrote or draw in. Bristol CO Gilford Wolland's autograph book has been preserved by his family. It includes signatures from several men from the Bristol area. Two pages of the autograph book can be viewed here – [Alfred Chidgey](#) and [Eric Crompton](#).

With thanks to Paul Shotton for the Dartmoor photo and Liz Stokes, Gilford's granddaughter for the autograph book images.

See also the PDFs on this website relating to *Eric Crompton* and *Gilford Wolland* who are in the Dartmoor picture.