

Gilford Wolland



Gilford Wolland was a bootmaker from Kingswood. He was arrested in October 1916 when he was 29 and handed over to the military. He was held in Horfield Barracks then sent to the Gloucestershire Regiment camp in Cheltenham.

He refused to wear uniform or obey orders. He was court-martialled and sentenced to 112 days with hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs.

Having been reassessed in prison, Gilford accepted the Home Office Scheme. He was sent to Wakefield Work Centre and then Dartmoor. He appears in this [group photograph of COs at Dartmoor in 1917](#).

Gilford returned to Kingswood after the war, working again in the boot and shoe trade.

Like several conscientious objectors, Gilford kept an autograph book which his fellow COs signed, often with a verse of poetry and a list of the prison terms they had served. Some drew sketches or painted pictures. Gilford and his family have kept this autograph book. 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](#).

Gilford rarely talked about his experiences but told his family that he thought he would have suffered less in the trenches than he did as a conscientious objector. His son-in-law was a conscientious objector in World War 2, working as an ambulance driver.

Gilford died in 1966 aged 79.

Several boot and shoe workers from the Kingswood area were conscientious objectors.

The photograph above is available [here](#) (by permission of Paul Shotton). With thanks also to Gilford's granddaughter Liz Stokes for his autograph book images and her assistance.

See also the pdf on this website relating to *COs on the Home Office Scheme*.