

## **Pals' Battalions: Why Did Friends Die Together In WW1?**

### **Friendship as a recruitment tool**

When war broke out in 1914, the British Army was massively outnumbered by its German enemy. More troops were urgently needed.

The man put in charge of finding them was Field Marshall Lord Kitchener.

His solution was the Pals Battalions - workmates, neighbours, brothers were all encouraged to join up together. The message was as simple as it was powerful – “Your country needs you.”

Kitchener called for 100,000 volunteers but within a month, half a million men from across the UK had answered the call.

As a shortcut to creating tight-knit fighting units the Pals Battalions were a huge success but this new method of recruitment would also carry a terrible cost.