

*Why did men join up?*

Men volunteered to fight in the armed services for many different reasons. Some were persuaded by the recruiting posters; others wanted to get away from a dead end job, their families or their wives; some wanted a share in the excitement; some thought it was their duty.

## ● SOURCE 4

*A military band and marching soldiers are always an inspiring sight, but this was for real – they were off to war and how we youngsters envied them. And to tell you the truth, that was it – glamour – to be in uniform – to take part in a great adventure was as much the reason for so many youths joining up as was any sense of patriotism.*

..... A man explains why, as a schoolboy, he wanted to join up.

## ● SOURCE 5

*I was working in the colliery and there were people joining up, you know, and I thought, oh well – my brother-in-law, we discussed it and we decided to join up. We thought, well, a holiday, maybe, you know, that's what we thought. We'd beat the Germans in about six months. That's what we thought.*

..... Irving Jones, a miner from south Wales, explains why he joined up.

## ● SOURCE 6

*I feel I am to take an active part in this war. It is to me a very fascinating thing, something if oftent horrible, yet very ennobling and very beautiful.*

..... Roland Leighton explains to Vera Brittain, the girl to whom he is engaged, why he has volunteered to fight.

## ● SOURCE 7

*Many of the more mature men felt a genuine patriotism. There was an intense pride in Britain and the Empire and a general dislike of the Germans. The younger men were almost certainly inspired by the thoughts of adventure and travel at a time when few people had been further than their own city or the nearest seaside resort. The miners, industrial workers and unemployed often saw the call as a means of escape from their dismal conditions, away from slums and large families and into a new life where there was fresh air and good companionship, regular meals and all the glamour of Kitchener's Army.*

..... From Martin Middlebrook, *The First Day on the Somme*, published in 1971.

*Task*

- 1 Look at Source 3 on page 55. How is each poster trying to persuade men to join up?
- 2 How does the appeal of the recruiting posters (Source 3) differ from that of the Kitchener poster (Source 1, page 53)?
- 3 What different reasons do Sources 4–6 give for men volunteering to fight?
- 4 In what ways do Sources 4–6 support what Martin Middlebrook is saying in Source 7?
- 5 Now look at Source 2 on page 54 and read the caption. What were the advantages and disadvantages of recruiting young men into Pals' Battalions?