

Annex I. The 1965 Volunteer Recruitment Film

The film, produced by Porton in 1965, runs for about 13.5 minutes. A description of the film appears below.

Opening (2.5 minutes)

[Shots of map showing South of England, with Porton marked, and Invitation Card marked "to take part in the tests" at the establishment.]

[Sequence showing men in trenches in World War 1, children and women at Gas Mask fitting centre at the City of Westminster, shot of notice in 1939 "Gas Masks for all"]

Commentary on the importance of protective clothing in both World Wars

[Sequence shot on a catwalk, one man in protective clothing of 1938 design, another in protective clothing used in trials in 1964]

Remarks on the comparison of the two designs. Most recent design "perfected by volunteers in many thousands of tests" and "tested by successive generations of volunteers."

[Shots of various dummy heads showing respirators designed over the years]

Volunteering (3.5 minutes)

[Shot of DCI]

Details of the Porton volunteers scheme published in DCI "under chemical warfare". Details also given periodically in notice board information leaflets.

[Sequence showing sailors arriving at Salisbury station, being picked up by a minibus and arriving at Porton]

"Volunteers who are physically fit to come to Porton for a fortnight". Some "May be asked to stay for two more weeks so that longer experiments can be carried out". "it is not possible to publish details of the tests in advance".

[Sequence showing office with 6 men sitting around a table, as if in a meeting]

"Every test offered to volunteers is carefully considered by the medical staff which includes Assistant Director Medical...."

[Shot of face of one of the men]

...an eminent consultant...

[Shot of face of another man, wearing bow-tie]

.... and other doctors, both Service...

[Shot of three men in Service uniform at the table]

.... and civilian"

[Shot of sixth man at table]

"Before the tests take place the Service Medical Officer in charge explains it to the volunteers in detail and emphasises they can withdraw at any time."

[Sequence shot in classroom. Service medical officer standing at the front talking to a group of volunteers]

Medical Officer: "Has anyone been here before?"

A volunteer: "I have, Sir"

Medical Officer: "Well there you are, you see, it can't be all that bad"

Medical Officer: "Although you've volunteered to come here, you're not necessarily a volunteer until you undertake an experiment which we'd like to offer you. You're perfectly free, perfectly free, to withdraw from any experiment at any time."

Medical officer explains the experiment in prospect. Holds up respirator and explains the men will be asked to wear it for a few days, exercise in it, to make sure it's not loose on the face.

"then you go into a chamber containing a tear gas, not a poison gas, a tear gas"

Medical officer explains what will happen if the respirator leaks: eyes will run and sting.

"if that happens, see a member of staff who will be in the chamber with you and he will take you outside ... you'll recover in one or two minutes"

[Sequence showing medic taking blood pressure of volunteer]

"Every care is taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the volunteer ... both while undertaking tests and on duty"

Facilities (2.75 minutes)

[Sequence showing communal bedrooms, food hall, snooker table and table tennis table, dartboard, television room with men watching the "Flintstones" and drinking half pints of beer served at a hatch. External shots showing men outside playing football, and on badminton court]

Porton run by civilian staff. "No fatigues, but normal rules of Service Discipline apply".

Commentary on the facilities shown in the sequence

[Shower scene, half frontal of young woman showering, male volunteer entering the shower room]

Servicewomen cannot be accepted as volunteers

[Sequence of shots showing various clubs, restaurants, theatre and cinemas in Salisbury, final shot of road sign at T junction marked Bournemouth and Salisbury]

"Some volunteers bring their own cars". Salisbury is only a short drive and Southampton and Bournemouth are within reach.

Tests (2 minutes)

[Men sitting at cubicles picking up ball bearings with tweezers and putting them in a tube, man at table sorting cards]

"Here are some of the tests he is asked to take part in". Some of these exercises "may resemble parlour games but they are very important scientifically"

[Men wearing protective clothing walking on treadmill, doctors in attendance clearly taking physiological readings]

The volunteer "could find himself wearing protective clothing while scientists, doctors and technicians check his temperature, pulse, respiration and other data to find the effect of this on his well-being"

[Shot of patch test: medic removing strip of material from upper arm of volunteer]

"material that makes up protective garments has to be checked to ensure it doesn't irritate the skin of the wearer."

[Men wearing protective gloves threading screws]

Must also make sure protective clothing still allows equipment to be handled

[Shot of vehicle being driven on Porton range]

"Some of the tests take place in the open on one of the Porton ranges"

[Sequence of volunteer in hut, firing rifle through open window: he shakes his head as if to clear his vision. A member of Porton staff in a respirator stands next to him]

"What are the reactions of men trying to shoot in tear gas and how accurate is his shooting?"

[Men wearing protective gear going over assault course]

What is the effect on physical performance of wearing protective gear?

[Men carrying rifles crawling over grass]

"How much contamination does a man pick up when he's crawling in a field which has been sprayed with chemical agents?" Volunteers help to find the answer in trials with "harmless chemicals to represent the toxic substance".

[Shot of man having his clothing inspected by a hand-held lamp which reveals spots of chemical]

End of volunteers' stay (1.5 minutes)

[Sequence shot in office with military officer sitting at small table, with volunteers standing]

Officer: "When you go away don't talk to your pals or civilians about anything you've seen or you've heard about during your stay here"

Officer asks volunteers if they have any complaints about the treatment or about anything else while you've been here.

[Shot of volunteers smiling]

They reply no or shakes heads. Officer hopes to see them again.

[Sequence shot in same office; two men at table with money and account book, volunteers coming into the office to be paid. One volunteer signing for his payment]

Volunteers earn between £2 and £5 per week, depending on the tests they do. Usually £3 is earned.

Scientific Knowledge (1 minute)

[Shot of female analyst attending a computer]

The tests produce much valuable data which is processed, often by using computers. The results are reported in technical papers

[Shot of cover of Porton Technical Paper 866: Fuller's earth as a decontaminating powder]

These technical papers then lead to Service training pamphlets which are distributed to all units

[Men wearing protective gear in a trench using a powder to decontaminate their clothing]

End sequence

[Series of shots of warship and aircraft]

"At the end of his attachment to CDEE the volunteer should return to his unit not only better off financially but also in the sure knowledge that by his work he has made a definite and personal contribution to the defence of his country and to the advancement of science."