

# CONSCRIPTION IN MITCHAM 1916–1918

Cases heard by the Mitcham Military Tribunal

and

Cases heard by the Surrey and Croydon Appeals Tribunal



George Farewell Jones (1855–1926)

Chairman, Mitcham Military Tribunal, 1916–1918

Transcribed from reports in the *Mitcham Advertiser*, *The Mercury* and *Wimbledon Herald* newspapers by Keith Penny, member of Merton Historical Society, with the permission of Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre.

## ATTESTATION AND CONSCRIPTION

After the initial surge of volunteers for Army service in 1914, numbers declined month by month during 1915 as casualties rose. Local authorities were required in August 1915 to compile a national register, to include employment details, of all men and women between the ages of 15 and 65 years of age. Individuals were required to report any change of address, though there is evidence that not all in Mitcham did so. Men were then invited from October 1915 to 'attest' their willingness to serve if called up, as part of the Derby<sup>a</sup> scheme, but could appeal to a tribunal for deferment of service. In the very early Mitcham hearings the tribunal heard appeals under both systems, of attestation and conscription.

After the Military Service Act that became law on 27th January 1916 all unmarried men and widowers aged between 18 and 41 who resided in Great Britain (excluding Ireland) were from 2nd March 1916 "deemed to be enlisted for the period of the war". Married men were included from 25th May 1916 by a second Act. The upper age was raised to 51 after an Act of April 1918.

Appeals against conscription could be made for these reasons:

- serious hardship because of a man's financial or business obligations;
- serious hardship to the man's family;
- ill-health;
- a conscientious objection to the undertaking of combatant service;
- a man was in a certified occupation, or it was in the national interest that he should be employed in work other than military service.

An employer could appeal and claim that an employee's work was indispensable to the firm, especially if the work was on Government contracts.

## THE REPORTS

These reports are of cases that came before the Military Tribunal in Mitcham, where individual men, and companies on their behalf, asked for exemption from conscription. Many cases were then referred to the Appeals Tribunal in Croydon. No official documents remain, and so the only source is the reports published in the local newspapers. Often included are the names of the tribunal members present at the sitting, and the administration and procedures of the Mitcham tribunal are also covered in some detail. The editors selected which cases should be reported, and there are frustrating gaps in April–May 1916, when a parliamentary election was being covered. Some editions have not survived, and no appeals reports appear in 1918, perhaps because of paper shortages. Names of applicants were not supplied in the earlier Mitcham reports, by decision of the tribunal, though they appear from February 1917 onwards. This anonymity prevents some connections being made with related reports of appeals at Croydon, though some identities can be deduced from evidence presented during the hearings.

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<sup>a</sup> After the Earl of Derby (1865-1948), Director-General of Recruiting.

The reporters seem to have made notes, but not used shorthand. There are several auditory errors, and reports of the same case rarely agree on the exact wording of speeches that are presented in the newspapers as verbatim accounts. The reporters use standard forms of reported speech alongside note forms and direct quotations. One reporter at Croydon uses idioms, such as “in order that he might”, that are reminiscent of schoolroom translations from Latin. Some of the reports use the language of the appeals legislation, such as “severe hardship would ensue ...”, though it may be that applicants were themselves coached to use these same formulae.

The reports are mostly plain and factual, though some bias creeps in during the reporting of the small number of conscience cases. One exception is a reporter who covers some of the Appeals Tribunal hearings for the *Mitcham Advertiser*, who writes condescendingly, if not contemptuously, about some of the ordinary people who come before the tribunal and seems to gloat when an appeal is rejected. His approach makes it harder to judge the fairness of that tribunal.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Although the *Mitcham Advertiser* and *The Mercury* often print identical reports, the *Wimbledon Herald* ones are often differently worded, even if the same cases are reported. Their spelling of applicants’ names sometimes differs. Where the differences are significant, both versions are printed, and the source of all reports is indicated by a capital “A”, “H” or “M” that follows on the right hand side of the page below each report.

The local newspapers came out on Fridays, so each set of reports printed here is dated accordingly. The ISO system of year-month-day is used on the top left of each report and a day-month-year system on the top right.

The original format of titles and addresses has been retained.

Most editorial sub-headings have been removed, and paragraphs have often been amalgamated.

Variant spellings and the layout of dialogue have been standardised. Variant versions, according to newspaper, of applicants’ names are included, though some obviously wrong versions have been silently corrected. Obvious misprints have been corrected, and some punctuation has been altered in the interests of clarity. Italics are used to highlight the decision (if given) in each case.

The ‘Find’ function on the PDF reader can be used to look for individuals by name.

## MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL

James Annan		68	Master plasterer
Edward John Baker		51	Vicar, St Barnabas
Frank Lawrence Baker	UDC	47	Nurseryman
Francis Bates	UDC	52	Insurance broker
George Stephen Cook	UDC	54	Builder and decorator
Arthur Edward Cubison		55	Solicitor
Harry James Davis		51	Headmaster
Henry Philip Burke Downing		51	Architect
James Douglas Drewett JP	UDC	61	Retired builder
Walter John Hill	UDC	54	Coachbuilder
George Farewell Jones	UDC	61	Solicitor
John Miles Leather JP	UDC	63	Nurseryman and pig-keeper
Henry Love	UDC	59	General practitioner
Donald McDonald		44	Vicar, Christ Church
Alfred Mizen JP	UDC	55	Nurseryman
Edward Johnson Mizen	UDC	57	Nurseryman
Henry Mount	UDC	53	Black Japan maker
Walter Henry Parslow	UDC	55	Builder
George James Poston JP		61	Stockbroker
Robert Richman	UDC	67	Congregational Minister
Ernest Edward Snowsill	UDC	51	Printer
John Thompson	UDC	60	Dairyman
Alfred Durrant Watson		59	Malt extract manufacturer

“UDC” shows members who at some time in 1916–8 were councillors; members’ ages are as in 1916; occupations are taken from directories and the 1911 census. Not all of these men were members throughout the existence of the tribunal: Revd McDonald moved to a country living in 1917; Mr Leather died in January 1918; Messrs Bates and Hill joined later in the tribunal’s life.

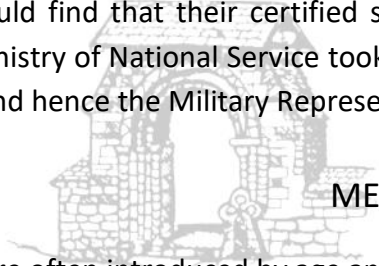
The Clerk was Alderman Robert Masters Chart JP, 65. The Military Representatives were Dr Thomas Cato Worsfold, 55, solicitor, and his deputy, Arthur Edward Hayne, 48, commercial traveller.

## DAY AND PLACE

Apart from the first session, held on a Saturday, Mitcham hearings took place at the Vestry Hall on Wednesdays, in the afternoon or evening, or both. Appeals were heard at Croydon Town Hall on Saturdays.

## CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONS

Men in occupations such as munition-making, mining or railways were variously classed as 'starred' or 'reserved', and were often issued with badges to show that they were engaged in war work and were not avoiding enlistment. These classifications became 'certified occupations' under the 1916 Act, and employment in such occupations could allow exemption from military service, depending on the applicant's age. The list of occupations and ages became increasingly complex, and men could find that their certified status disappeared as the list was revised. From March 1917 the Ministry of National Service took over direction of labour, though it did not control Army recruiting, and hence the Military Representative became the National Service Representative.



## MEDICAL GRADING

Appellants are often introduced by age and medical grade. These grades are set out below:

### January 1916–November 1917

- A Fit for General Service
- B Fit for service abroad in a service capacity
  - 1. Garrison service abroad
  - 2. Labour units (road making, entrenching works etc)
  - 3. Sedentary work (clerks, cooks etc, or if tradesmen, at their trades)
- C Fit for home service
  - 1. Garrison service
  - 2. Labour units (as B2)
  - 3. Sedentary work (as B3)
- D Temporarily unfit for service
- E Unfit for military service

### November 1917–1918

- Grade I General Service
- Grade II Garrison service at home and abroad  
Equivalent to B1 and C1
- Grade III Labour units and sedentary work  
Equivalent to B2, C2, B3 and C3
- Grade IV Unfit for military service

(Source: Christine Housden, *Kingston's Military Tribunal 1916–1918*, available for reference at Kingston History Centre.)

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Although such cases were a small minority of applications, they attract wide interest.

At Mitcham: 16.03.03, 16.03.24, 16.04.14, 16.06.09, 16.06.16, 16.06.23, 16.06.30, 16.07.07, 16.09.15, 17.02.23, 17.07.20, 17.08.24, 17.09.07, 18.05.24, 18.05.31, 18.08.02.

At Croydon: 16.05.05, 16.07.07, 16.07.21, 16.07.28, 16.08.04, 16.08.11, 16.10.06, 17.08.03, 17.08.10.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information and assessment concerning the Mitcham tribunal can be found in *Justice to Men and Country*, published by Merton Historical Society and available in Merton Libraries.

The following websites (as at December 2016) have information about conscription and appeals:

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/conscription-appeals](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/conscription-appeals)

<http://spartacus-educational.com/FWWconscription.htm>

<http://www.1914-1918.net/recruitment.htm>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/inside-first-world-war/part-nine/10803538/conscientious-objectors-first-world-war.html>



Dr Cato Worsfold (1861–1936)  
Military Representative, 1916–1918

# CONSCRIPTION IN MITCHAM 1916–1918

## MITCHAM MILITARY TRIBUNAL REPORTS

Vestry Hall, Mitcham



1916

16/02/25

25 February 1916

At the meeting of the Mitcham Local Tribunal on Saturday, the chair was taken by Mr. G. Farewell Jones, the other members present being the Revs. D. McDonald, E. J. Baker, R. Richman, Dr. T. Cato Worsfold (representing the War Office), Dr. H. Love, Messrs. J. D. Drewett, C.C., J. Annan, W. H. Parslow, E. Snowsill, G. S. Cook, H. Mount, J. Thompson, F. Baker, A. Mizen, E. J. Mizen, J.P., H. J. Davis, J. M. Leather, and the Clerk (Alderman R. M. Chart).

Dr. Worsfold asked how it was intended to hold the sittings, in private or in the presence of the public. If in public it would materially alter the notes he had made on some of the cases, as some of the details were of a purely personal nature, which he would place before the tribunal, but would hesitate to give to the public. Another point on which he would like the ruling of the tribunal was whether the Advisory Committees were to be continued. Personally he thought the Advisory Committee was now unnecessary.

The Chairman read the regulations, which laid it down that unless at the request of one of the parties able to produce very good reasons, the sittings would be held in public. Their general rule would be to hold them in public. The Press, he had no doubt, would use a wise discretion in dealing with facts which had better not be reported.

Alderman Chart (Clerk to the Tribunal), replying to the second point, said it was not intended that the Advisory Committee should sit in the future, though he did not think there was anything definite in the instructions. Alderman Chart added that the number of claims made for postponement up to the previous evening was 25, claims for exemption 39, while 84 further application forms for exemption had been issued.

Dr. Worsfold suggested that where men appealed on the grounds that they had others working under them and were indispensable, they should be asked to use any interval of time granted to train someone to take their place.

The Chairman—We cannot grant a provisional postponement or exemption.

A man named Gibson appealed for exemption who said his father was in France, and a brother was also with the colours, leaving him to look after his mother and three children. He had been rejected five times since the commencement of the war, and now produced a certificate of physical unfitness from Dr. Collet Osborn. *Relegated ten groups.*

A plumber's apprentice asked for exemption on the ground that he paid a premium, and would be of no use for the work after coming out of the Army. He had still two years to serve.

*Application refused.*

As three out of four sons were in the Army, it was held by an appellant named Lamb that he should be allowed to remain at home. He contended that his family were doing enough, and one man ought to be left at home.

*Relegated ten groups.*

Messrs. Palmer and Co., ironfounders, of Merton, made two appeals. Mr. Palmer explained that they were engaged on war work which could not be carried out without fitter's mates, and it was in respect to one of those that he was appealing. The War Office had recently sent men from active service, and only that day papers were received from the War Office regarding two more men who were being sent from active service. It seemed to him a waste of money to train a man and send him out to the front and then bring him back to the work again. If he gave up this man he would have to apply to the War Office for another man to take his place.

Dr. Worsfold—How long does it take to make a man a fitter? About a month?

—No, much more than that. This man is semi-skilled, not a labourer.

Cannot you find a man to do the work who is unfit for the Army?

—No, the War Office are releasing men to do the work.

Cannot you get women?

—No, it is hard work, and you cannot get women to be rivetters.

*Application refused.*

Mr. Palmer then applied on behalf of the son of his late partner, who, he claimed, was indispensable to the business. He was in charge of one of the shops, and had been trained to take his father's place in estimating, giving out the work, and inspecting it before it was finally taken over by the Government. It was highly skilled work, which could not be delegated to anyone else.

Mr. Alderman, the man in question, said he had his brother in the Forces and had to look after his widowed mother.

*Postponed ten groups.*

Mr. Brooker, manager of the World Tea Stores (Mitcham Branch) applied for exemption. His was a reserved trade, and only female assistants were employed. He was a starred man.

The Rev. D. McDonald—You are in a starred trade, and if that trade is likely to suffer, then the Tribunal can exempt you. If the business can be carried on without you, that will have to be considered.

Appellant—I am the only man in the shop. All our other men have joined up, and we now have three lady assistants.

A representative of the company said they only had one man, the manager, in each of their shops. They had lady assistants, but they were not capable of managing a branch. There were many things to be lifted which a woman could not lift.

*Appeal disallowed.*



## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

H. W. Gibson, relegated 10 groups; Chas. James, 10 groups; F. G. Crisp, adjourned; Rutter and Co., re Cresswell, 10 groups; R. Muddle, refused; E. Sullivan, refused; G. W. H. Lamb, 10 groups; A. S. Hanwell, refused; Palmer and Co., re Bull, refused; Palmer and Co., re Alderman, 10 groups; A. G. Brooker, refused; S. A. Mickil, refused; Lyxhair Co., re J. H. Hyder, refused; Lyxhair, re S. A. Hyder, refused; Lyxhair and Co., re T. C. Sanders, refused; A. J. Hatton, 10 groups; Jas. Towell, re F. H. Towell, 10 groups; Forster and Gregory, re H. Mapel, refused; Walter W. Jones, 10 groups.

[M]

*[Note: These appeals are from the previous Derby scheme, hence the references to "groups", whereby an applicant might be put further back in the groups list and thus be exempt for longer.]*

The Mitcham Military Tribunal began its public sittings in the Vestry Hall on Saturday afternoon with eighty-four cases for consideration. Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over an almost full attendance of members, and the by no means easy business was disposed of with as much dispatch as was possible, having regard to the exceptional difficulty of some of the cases and the importance of weighing the evidence so as to do justice to the men and the country. Each applicant had been summoned to attend according to time schedule. The proceedings began at three o' clock, and at a quarter to five there was an interval in the hearing of cases which the Tribunal spent in deciding the more difficult ones. During this time the Press withdrew. Later the hearing of evidence was resumed and continued till 6.30. In the first part of the proceedings the business was well up to schedule time. All the applicants were, of course, from men attested in the Derby groups. Several of the applicants were ignorant of the fact that the new Tribunal has the power to give decisions, not merely make recommendations. The majority of the cases dealt with on Saturday were of the ordinary type, but one or two produced some very interesting evidence. The salient points of these are reported below. A few applications were withdrawn, either because the employer had made other arrangements, or because the man had been in the meantime rejected as unfit. The sittings will be on every Saturday afternoon.

At the outset, Dr. Worsfold, as representing the War Office, asked the ruling of the Chairman on two important matters. As they knew, it was quite within their power to hold the sitting in private, and for their future guidance he would like to know whether it was proposed to throw them open to the public. The other point was whether the Advisory Committee, of which he was the Chairman, should continue. Personally, he thought it was not necessary now. The doctor, explaining the method of procedure, said the reports had been sent to him through the War Office and he had made inquiries himself or through his secretary, and brought each case before the Advisory Committee. Each was considered on its merits. The Committee acted as a sort of sieve and sent the result to the Tribunal.

The Chairman read the passage in the Local Government Board relating to Tribunals referring to the admission of the Press and the public, and said it was clear that it was the desire of the

authorities that the meetings should be held in public except where any particular case had peculiar circumstances or called for special consideration, and where the applicant could give a good reason why his case should be taken in private.

Dr. Worsfold said he put the question because there were bound to be cases before them of what he might describe as of a painful character or of such character as to make it difficult to speak about them in public. He instanced the case of the deliberate shirker, and said he would feel very diffident about putting such a case formally.

The Chairman said the Press were present, and they no doubt understood that when such cases as had been referred to arose they should not be reported. The point was not pursued, and the Press remained till the interval.

The Clerk, answering the point with regard to the Advisory Committee, said it was not intended that the old Advisory Committee should sit. There were no instructions to the Tribunal. Mr. Chart went on to state that there were four cases before them of appeal against the decision of the previous Tribunal. The number of claims for postponement were 25, and for exemption 39, making a total, with the formal applications, up to the previous evening of 84.

Dr. Worsfold suggested in the cases when postponement was desired on the ground that the claimants were indispensable because men were working under them it be requested that other men should be trained in the meantime to take their place.

The Chairman: Would that be of any use?

The Military Representative: I think so. Dr. Worsfold reminded the Tribunal that it had much wider powers than the old one.

The most interesting cases were provided by Mr. Palmer, of Palmer and Co., iron works, Singlegate, who asked for the exemption of a workman and a foreman. Giving evidence of behalf of the latter, Mr. Palmer said he was the son of his former partner, Mr. Alderman, deceased, and he was in charge of one of the most important shops in the works. He had been trained to take his father's place and had thirty men under his supervision. His duty included taking particulars of the work, estimating it, giving it out to the workmen and inspecting it when done. It was skilled work, and could not be delegated to anybody else.

In reply to questions, Mr. Palmer said Mr. Alderman was not his partner, but he hoped he would take that place one day. He had been in charge of the shop about two years.

Mr. Alderman, a smart-looking young man, said he was just turned 20, and was the main support of his widowed mother. He had one brother in the Army.

The application was *postponed ten groups*.

Mr. Palmer's other application was for the exemption of a Battersea man named Bull, a fitter's mate. He said the man was engaged exclusively on war work, and it was practically impossible to find another man to take his place. Iron fitters' mates were rare now.

In reply to the Military Representative, Mr. Palmer said nearly all their work now was Government work. He had just had papers from the War Office releasing two soldiers for employment on that

work. It seemed to him a waste to take skilled men for the Army and then release them. If Bull went he would have to apply to the War Office for another soldier, that was all.

Dr. Worsfold: How long would it take to make a man a fitter's mate—a month?

Mr. Palmer: Oh, no, much longer than that.

In reply to further questions Mr. Palmer said such men were semi-skilled. Bull had worked in a similar capacity before being employed by his firm.

Mr. Watson inquired whether it was not possible to find men rejected as unfit to do the job.

Mr. Palmer said they would need a lot of training.

Mr. Leather: How about if Bull leaves of his own accord?

Mr. Palmer: But he can't: that is provided for in the regulations. I should report him to the Ministry of Munitions.

Dr. Worsfold: Why not get a woman?

Mr. Palmer: A woman! It's hard work, I can tell you.

The application was *postponed ten groups*.

Mr. A. G. Brooker, 36, of Albert-road, manager of the branch shop of the World's Stores, Ltd., at The Parade, London-road, said he was a grocer, and grocery was one of the reserved trades. He was manager of a shop where there were three assistants, all women. He was under the impression that he was a starred man.

The Rev. D. McDonald said the trade might be starred, but the Tribunal had got to be convinced that it could not be carried on without his services. In that case it power to excuse him.

An inspector of the company said they had already let three men go from the shop to the Army. They must have one man in it, for women could not do the heavy work. It was utterly impossible to replace the applicant now.

Mr. Drewett: What objection is there to a lady manager?

The Inspector: We can't get them.

Mr. Mount asked if it were not a fact that ladies could not do the lifting required.

The Inspector said "Yes". The bacon gave the most trouble.

The Rev. D. McDonald suggested that a porter—a man unfit or too old for the forces—might be employed to do the heavy work.

The Inspector said the firm had twenty shops with only twenty men, one to each shop. The rest had enlisted.

Replying to the Military Representative, he said they could not train women for the posts under twelve months.

The application was *refused*.

Messrs. L. Rutter and Co., tobacco manufacturers, Morden-road, appealed on behalf of George Cresswell, of Benedict-road, a tobacco storer. Mr. L. Rutter said it was a certified trade.

The Chairman said a certificate had been received from the authorities at Kingston putting the man back until called up by the military authorities.

Frederick George Crisp, a milkman employed at Balham, appealed on the ground that he had two brothers already in the Army, and that he was the only one left to maintain his mother. Moreover, he was a married man though in the single group.

Mrs. Crisp said her son married after the date prescribed.

The appeal was *adjourned for a week*.

H. W. Gibson said he had been rejected five times at the beginning of the war. His father was in France, and his brother had been called up. He himself was blind in the right eye. Was it fair to ask a man with one eye to defend himself against others with two? Applicant produced a certificate from Dr. Collet Osborne, Tooting, which stated that he was quite unfit for military service.

In reply to Mr. Davis, applicant said he tried to enlist at Scotland Yard and other places, but he had no written evidence of the fact.

The application was *postponed*.

R. Muddle, a young indenture apprentice to the plumbing and hot-water fitting trade, said he had only served about half his time. If he had to join the Army and remained in it say two years he would be practically no good as a plumber when released. He could not call himself one anyway, and the time he had served would have been thrown away.

The application was *refused*.

G. W. H. Lamb, Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, asked for postponement, as three out of four of his family were already in the Army, two with the Expeditionary Force. He thought that was quite sufficient. He himself was employed by a firm of Fleet-street papers makers on export trade. He was the mainstay of the family.

The application was *put back several groups*.

[H]

[*Note: These appeals are from the previous Derby scheme, hence the references to "groups".*]



16/03/03

03 March 1916

The Chairman (Mr. Farewell Jones) referred to the method of procedure of hearing a number of appeals and then clearing the room for the purpose of consultation. He thought it advisable to follow the course pursued by most of the London Tribunals, and decide each case as it came up. On a vote being taken seven voted for deciding a number of appeals together and seven for deciding the cases separately as they arose. The Chairman gave his casting vote for the latter course.

[M]



### GROUP MEN'S APPEALS (DERBY SCHEME)

The first case to be heard was that in respect of Frederick John Crisp, 24, of Merton, whose employer was Mr. T. J. Williams, dairyman, of Balham. He asked to be postponed to the first group of married men because he had married since offering his services. He stated that he contributed towards the maintenance of his mother.

Dr. T. Cato Worsfold, the Military Representative, pointed out that would mean relegating 13 groups, as applicant was only 24 years of age.

*Postponed 10 groups.*

V. Scott, plasterer, of 9, Crusoe-street, Mitcham, applied also for postponement to a married group. He was in Group 11; although he was now married he had to support his father and mother, the former being too ill to work and his eyesight failing.

*Disallowed.*

[A]

Messrs. Russell and Co., varnish makers, appealed on behalf of W. E. Stratford and B. A. Bryant, who were employed at their varnish factory at Mitcham. The employers' representative handed in a bundle of orders to show that the firm was engaged almost wholly on Government work. Fourteen out of the staff of 40 had enlisted, and though the men in question were quite fit for military service he could not possibly spare them. The orders proved that there was hardly a branch of the service to which they were not supplying one or more of their specialities.

Mr. Drewett: If they wanted to enlist voluntarily would you try to stop them?

—Oh, yes. I could stop them.

Both men were *postponed ten groups*.

[M]

Postponement was applied for by V. C. Pasterfield and W. E. Pasterfield, of Colliers Wood, until a certain building which they are erecting at Wimbledon is completed, which would be about three months. V. C. Pasterfield asked for an extra month.

The applications were both *granted*.

A man named Warby, of Colliers Wood, employed as an indoor manager by Messrs. Neeld and Co., mantle makers, wanted total exemption on the ground of indispensability, but it was *a futile application*.

[A]

Mr. Alexandra, a corn and seed merchant, of Colliers Wood, applied for the postponement of his man, named Edwards, on the ground that he was indispensable. Edwards appealed "at the request of my employer". In a letter to the Tribunal the employer stated that Edwards' services were essential for fetching flour, corn, etc., from the mills, and coal from the wharf. He had tried to get another man fit to do the work, but without success. Edwards stated that it required a strong man to load and unload the goods, some of the sacks weighing between two and three hundredweight. The Military Representative: You are just the sort of man for the Army.  
*Appeal disallowed.*

H. Knopff, of Melrose-avenue, employed by the British Motor Cab Company, appealed for relegation. He was the sole supporter of his mother, had defective eyesight, and suffered from fainting fits. Appellant informed the Tribunal that he was employed at a Government controlled establishment.  
*Relegated 10 groups.*

Alfred Moorly, of Colliers Wood, an indoor manager of a City firm of ladies' mantle manufacturers, appealed on the ground that he was indispensable to the business. His father, a police pensioner, was a confirmed invalid, and he had to contribute towards the support of his mother. Replying to the Military Representative, appellant said it took five years to learn the work in which he was engaged, and it was impossible for a woman to do it.  
*Application refused.*

As several members of the Tribunal failed to signify their agreement by holding up the hand, the Rev. D. MacDonald said the settlement of that case showed how unsatisfactory their procedure was. When there was a postponement everyone was ready to propose it, but directly something unpleasant had to be done there was considerable diffidence. He asked that they should have the right of all juries to consult among themselves in private.

Mr. Baker supported this view, and it was decided to revert to the previous week's procedure of deciding a number of cases together and communicating the decisions by post.

[M]

#### UNDER THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT

Absolute exemption was asked for by Jack Augustus Gale, aged 27, insurance clerk, engaged at the British General Insurance Co., Ltd. London, because he considered it expedient in the national interest that he should pursue his civilian occupation and also because of hardships which would ensue if he joined the Army. Applicant stated that his father was unable to work owing to illness, and he had three brothers serving. *Exemption for two months only.*

Claiming that he was in a certified occupation, and that hardships would attend his enlistment, a fly-hand on rotary printing machine, named F. Wootten, of 21, Jersey-road, Tooting Junction, and employed at the "Daily Sketch" offices, was *successful in his application*.

[A]

Frank Wootten, described as a flyer in the "Daily Sketch" Printing Works, appealed for exemption on personal grounds.

*Appeal disallowed.*

[M]

In the case of David John Manning, aged 39 years, of 33, Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, proprietor of a grocery business, who had attested under the Derby scheme, appealed on business and domestic grounds. He said his father was dead, he had to support his mother, aged 69 years, out of the business, which he had had for six years. He had no assistants, and could not find a manager.

*Three months' exemption.*

Percy Albert Parsons, of 67, Eaton-road, Mitcham, under-manager at F. W. Woolworth and Co.'s domestic bazaar, The Broadway, Wimbledon, pleaded that he had been supporting his widowed mother for the last 15 years and great hardships would ensue if he joined the Army.

*Exemption for two months.*

When Archibald William Secrett, described as a market gardener, of Sherwood Farm, Mitcham, appeared before the Tribunal, he stated that he was carrying on his business without a manager, and was endeavouring to produce the usual market garden crops in spite of the scarcity of labour. It was elicited that applicant had 40 acres of land, 33 of which were under cultivation.

*Total exemption.*

*Conditional exemption for one month* was granted a young man named Coombs, who made a promise to join the Mercantile Marine as a wireless operator.

"My business, run under agreement, cannot be run without my supervision," wrote Mr. Albert Tyrell, aged 31 years, keeping a poultry farm at Mitcham, and who is a pig breeder and butcher at Streatham.

Claim for exemption was *disallowed*.

An application for total exemption on many grounds, inclusive of that of conscientious objection, was disposed of in camera, and the Tribunal decided to *free applicant from combatant service*, it having transpired that he was willing to drive an ambulance car.

Heard in private, too, was the case of a grocer and provision merchant, of Mitcham, who contended that hardship would ensue if he joined the Army.

*Two months' exemption* was permitted.

*No exemption* was granted to W. A. Braithwaite, aged 29 years, a mechanic in the employ of a typewriter company in London.

Mr. Mizen, on behalf of Messrs. Mizen Bros., market gardeners, was desirous of retaining his employee, Samuel Wheeler, aged 20, who cuts mustard and cress, and although it was contended that it was in the national interest to go on growing cress, *the claim failed*. It was stated sixty of the employees had joined the colours.

A clerk for a tobacco and cigarette blender, named Thomas Charles Richardson, who is just over 19 years of age, wanted a total exemption because he was the only support of his father, unable to work, and an invalid mother. His only brother had been at the front twelve months.

*Exemption for three months.*

In the case of a Mitcham market gardener and his employee, which was heard in private, *exemption for two months* was granted in the case of the employee and *three months' exemption* was allowed to the employer.

Describing himself as a master carter and pig breeder, Frederick John Howell, aged 20 years, asked for total exemption because he believed his vocation to be in the interest of the nation. He maintained his mother and a crippled brother.

*Disallowed.*

Owner of a tobacconist business, Richard Rushton, 31, who is also a skilled mechanic and makes dummy rifles, was granted *exemption for three months*.

Leonard Tyrell, 28, a poultry farm keeper and pig breeder, whose mother is dependent on him, claimed total exemption but was only given *a month*.

Although at present out of employment, George John Johnson, a general labourer, thought it advantageous to national interests if instead of joining the Army he continued in that occupation in which he is "habitually engaged". He claimed exemption also on the ground of ill health, adding that he was the sole support of his father, who is blind, and added, "it would be a serious hardship to me if I were called up for service.

*Disallowed.*

"I had no forebodings of war," wrote Sidney Victor Lancaster, when claiming exemption, on the ground that he entered into an apprenticeship in 1911 for seven years "to learn fine arts, printing and designing."

The Military Representative said apprenticeship was not recognised as an impediment to enlistment.

*The claim failed.*



A claim made by Geo. Alexander Stoffel, umbrella maker, Tooting Junction, who has two shops managed by himself and a boy, resulted in *a two months' exemption*.

[A]

"I reckon I am rendering service to my country in inventions I am perfecting for the country," said Charles Hanks, now a married man, aged 35 years, of Mitcham, described as an inventor, of Pitcairn-road, Mitcham. He had rheumatic fever some time ago, which left him with a weak heart. He had a cancer in his throat and another was forming on the arm which at times rendered his right arm useless. It was only some days he was able to get up, being a physical wreck. He married in November in order to get better attention than he could receive in lodgings.

The Military Representative: Have you been to the military medical officer?

—I went down to Wimbledon and they refused to see me.

What do you mean by saying they refused to see you?

—They said they hadn't time to mess about with half-dead men.

Who was it said that? It is a very serious statement, and I should like to take it further.

—That was what they told me at the recruiting office.

It was not the medical officer who said that?

—No; they refused to let me see him.

But who was it that told you that? A remark like that ought not to have been made.

—It was another soldier in uniform and he told me to join the groups. Appellant, who produced a medical certificate from his own medical officer, was told he would be *exempted for three months*. In the mean time he could obtain a certificate from the military medical officer, when his case could be again considered.

[M]

A practical baker, who is also supporting his mother, was granted *two months' exemption*.

Thomas Tallick, a local varnish worker, did not appear, and his appeal was *disallowed*. [H]



16.03.10

10 March 1916

A large number of appeals have been dealt with during the week but few exemptions granted. A letter was read from the War Office authorising Mr. A. E. Hayne to act as deputy to Dr. T. Cato Worsfold, the Military Representative.

T. A. Ricketts, of Ashbourne-road, applied for exemption on business grounds, further stating that he was engaged on war work. He had his own machinery, and if called up would lose everything. *Postponed five groups*, with the view of giving appellant time to dispose of stock-in-trade.

Frank Allen, Firework-road, employed in munition making, asked for postponement. He was a discharged soldier, had five brothers serving; his mother would like him to say as he was the only son left, and considered he was doing his bit by making munitions for the boys.

Questioned by the Military Representative, appellant said he had lost his Army discharge papers. He was in the Royal Horse Artillery for eleven weeks, and his papers were marked "not likely to become an efficient soldier." As to whether his brother contributed to his mother's support he could not say. One of them had been killed in action, and another was taken prisoner during the retreat from Mons.

Appellant asked permission to put a question. At the outbreak of war he came all the way back from South America to give himself up as a deserter. From Bow-street he was taken back to Portsmouth, and appeared before the Commodore, who told him his services were no longer required. He was not given his fare back to London and Mitcham, and he wanted to know if the Tribunal considered that fair.

The Chairman: That is a matter on which we cannot express an opinion.

The application was *refused*.

Mr. A. Mizen, at this point, asked if it would not be wise for the Tribunal to adopt the policy of the Mayor of Lambeth, and have the names left out of the reports of the cases appearing in the Press.

The Chairman: The Press have acted with good discretion in these cases.

Mr. Mount: Where there are cases of a very painful character the Press ought to be asked not to mention it.

The Chairman was sure the reports which have so far appeared had deleted such matters.

Dr. Love said the Press representatives had given fair consideration to these matters. Quite apart from what had been stated, was there any necessity to give the person's names?

It was decided to request the Press not to publish names of further appellants.

The Chairman asked the Press if they would take that as an instruction.

A Press Representative: We will take it as a suggestion.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, applied for exemption of two men employed as cowmen, and referred to the supply of milk as being of national concern. Appellants' father was 65 years of age. There were 50 acres of land, and 30 cows, and it would be impossible to get the milk if all the milkers went. Infants, as well as grown up people, would have to go without. He submitted that these were essentially cases the act intended to have the benefit of exemption.

Dr. Worsfold: I take it they are not here to-day because they had to milk the cows and take the milk round?

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Several questions relative to the work of the appellants were being put to Mr. Moore, when Dr. Worsfold interrupted with the observation "I do not think it fair to ask a solicitor how to milk a cow." (Laughter.)

Mr. E. J. Mizen said unless a cow was milked properly they would soon not be worth twopence. It was not possible to train anyone to milk under six or eight months.

One appeal was *allowed*, and the other *refused*.

A bank clerk, residing in Melrose-avenue, applied for exemption on domestic grounds. He said his wife had undergone a serious operation and was in a very delicate state of health; there were two children and a widowed mother partly dependent. Appellant also informed the Tribunal that his bank would make up his salary if he enlisted, but there would not be any allowance in the event of anything happening.

*Three months' exemption.*

A commercial traveller employed by a company owning a margarine factory appealed on business and domestic grounds. He said he had a mother to support who had no income.

A representative of this firm said everything possible had been done to encourage men to join the service; and no vacancies had been filled up by men of military age. Had it not been thought that appellant was indispensable the firm would not have supported his claim. He himself had a son in a soldier's grave in France and another son in the Navy, so that it would be seen that his heart was in the service. The representative said a lady could not take appellant's place.

Dr. Worsfold: But lady commercial travellers are becoming a very important and charming feature of the day!

The representative: My man's personality is the essential feature of his connection. He has built up the whole of our connection in the London district, and if he went a great bulk of the business would be lost.

*Disallowed.*

Two young men of unmistakable German appearance, living in University-road, Merton, applied for total exemption. They explained that they were born in England, but their parents were German, the father being now interned and the mother living with them.

Dr. Worsfold: Have you ever been to Germany?

Appellants: No.

Has your mother any private means?

—No, none whatever. The Government has not allowed her anything.

Answering further questions, the young men stated that they did not know whether they were liable to serve in the German Army.

Ald. Chart: They would be liable if they went back to Germany.

The eldest of the two said he did not think it would be possible for him to serve in the English Army as he would be fighting against his father.

—Have you any objection to ambulance work?

—I could not do anything of that sort, as I would be helping the military machine.

Mr. Mizen moved that the claims be disallowed, and the Military Representative be asked to bring the cases to the notice of the War Office for internment.

Dr. Worsfold (endorsing the papers): To follow in father's footsteps. (Laughter.)

It was decided to *disallow* the claims and communicate with the War Office.

A smelting Company applied for the total exemption of four men whom it was stated were indispensable to their departments. The works manager said it was a British firm with a certain amount of German money involved, which was now under the surveillance of a chartered accountant appointed by the Board of Trade. The founder of the firm was of German birth, had been in this country 25 years, and naturalised 20 years. The factory was mainly used for smelting waste metal which was sent to munition works. It was essential that the work should go on, and as one who had been a soldier for 20 years he was quite clear in his own conscience that a good work for the country was being done.

The applications were *disallowed*.

A well-known firm of market gardeners applied for exemption for some of their men. A partner in the firm stated that he was only asking in the cases of men who were absolutely indispensable. Employees had been encouraged to join, and 60 of them were now serving with the colours, whilst 20 had gone into munition works.

The Military Representative: You would rather have the ground uncultivated than done by Germans?

—I would not have German prisoners. They would be too much trouble, unless the Town Guard would turn out to guard them. (Laughter.)

I was not thinking of the prisoners, but the Germans as a whole?

—Oh, we have sent enough men to keep them back. (Laughter.)

Postponements were *granted*.

A married man of 31, who carries on business as a tobacconist and newsagent and is also engaged as a storekeeper, applied for total exemption. His life savings were in the business, which his wife managed when well enough, and he had to support a widowed mother and sister.

*Granted a month's postponement.*

A single man of 28 applied for exemption on the ground of indispensability, he having, to bake bread for two large institutions. There was no application from his employers in support, and in the absence of appellant the Tribunal disallowed his request.

*Three months' postponement* was allowed a foreman packer of gas mantles, who also conducts a small business as picture frame maker. He is 29 years of age, and has already had postponement from Group 11. If he had to go, he said, his business would have to close and the home be broken up. His wife and mother were dependent on him.

Absolute exemption was claimed by the dispatch manager to a London firm of commercial newspaper publishers. He gave his age as 36, single, and based his application on “reserved occupation and ill health.” He had been in the employ of the firm for years, and took control of the department in the absence of the managing director. His salary was £234 a year.

The Military Representative: You would be quite willing to serve with the pen if not with the rifle?  
—I am not capable of serving with the rifle, but if necessary I will serve with the pen.

The managing director of the firm said that applicant possessed the necessary technical knowledge to control the department and it would be a great inconvenience to the firm if he was withdrawn.

*Exemption not allowed.*

In partnership with his brother in control of two butchers’ businesses at Mitcham and Streatham, a young man asked absolute exemption. He had already been put back from Group 3 to 23, and now claimed, that owing to his brother being a chronic sufferer from asthma and bronchitis it was necessary for him to do the buying for the two shops. Appellant had done the buying for four years, and he had to attend the market in the early morning before opening the shops.

*Three months’ postponement granted.*

Engaged in the “talking machine and cinema” business, a single man of 29 who had tried to enlist in Kitchener’s Army soon after the war started and was rejected, applied for total exemption. He stated that he was the sole support of his mother, an incurable invalid, and his sister of 17, who was in a theatrical company, “only one of a crowd and in a small part,” was partially dependent. He had been engaged to be married four years, but was unable to do so owing to home responsibilities. Some years ago he was discharged from the Volunteers owing to heart trouble.

*Exemption granted for three months.*

An export clerk to a firm of artists’ colourmen, aged 33 and single, asked for extension owing to exceptional business arrangements. He returned to England from America in 1914 owing to the death of his father in order to keep the home together for his three sisters. If he went to the colours, the home would be broken up in the absence of a small allowance from the military authorities. One sister kept house, and the other went to business.

The application was *disallowed*.

A fruiterer’s manager from Merton, who gave his age as 21, and stated that he was the mainstay of the home, was given three months’ exemption. His mother had had a lot of trouble through his father leaving home some years ago and not returning, last she heard of him being in 1907. Two brothers had joined in their groups.

A clerk employed on night work in a large stores at Knightsbridge put in a conscientious objection in addition to appealing for exemption on the ground that his sister was dependent on him. If forced to become a soldier, he said, the home must go, and saw no way for his sister to earn her living, she being 40 years of age. “My whole being revolts at the thought of dealing out death to any man” he added, “but if such must be I am willing to serve my country in the best way I can— for munition work or as a Territorial.”

The Military Representative: What is the ground of your conscientious objection?

—I don't feel capable of bearing arms.

You object to taking life?

—Yes.

But you would not object to saving it?

—Certainly not.

You would help a wounded soldier?

—I have no objection to that.

Exemption *not allowed*.

Claiming that he supported his widowed mother, who had already given three sons to the Army, a Colliers Wood clerk, aged 29, engaged by a firm of paper manufacturers, was given *three months' exemption*.

Exemption for four months was asked for by a smart young man from Colliers Wood, who stated that he managed and ran a small printing and stationery business at West Norwood for his father, who had recently undergone an operation for strangulated hernia. Appellant stated that at present he was the sole support of his parents and younger brother. If called up immediately the business would have to be closed down as there was no one left to conduct it. "We have suffered through the war," added appellant, "I work all the machines and do all the business myself, and we have lived since the war with my grandfather."

*Two months' exemption* allowed.

An assistant poulterer engaged at Croydon applied for exemption as he was the sole support of his mother, who was bedridden. She was paralysed, there were no relatives and if the application failed he would be forced to part with "what home we have and my mother will have to go into the Infirmary." Her condition had become more serious since he had received his notice to join up. *Exemption for three months* was granted.

The manager of a leather works at Mitcham applied for total exemption, his application being supported by his employers who claimed that it was impossible to find another man with the necessary technical knowledge to replace him. The firm regarded him as absolutely indispensable, and in ordinary times his severance from the management of the works would be keenly felt.

Applicant's age was given as thirty-two and it was explained by a partner of the firm that to fit him for a position of management he had, in his youth, been sent to Switzerland to learn practical tanning, and also to Germany, where he studied new processes of manufacture. "Germans are very clever manufacturers," added the partner.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Before this decision was given the manager made application for the exemption of a foreman leather-dresser and finisher, who was engaged on a comparatively new process of manufacture, which required highly trained technical knowledge. The firm relied on this man, if exempted, to teach boys under military age, also women and girls. It was necessary to keep the leading men together in order to develop the chrome leather industry.

“There has been a great importation of chrome leather into this country from Germany and America,” observed another representative of the firm, and every skin of chrome we make in this country will mean one less from Germany or America.”

Allowed *three months' exemption*.

A member of a firm of engineers and iron founders appealed for exemption for two men. In one case it was stated that the man, the son of a former partner, was responsible for the conduct of the workshop; with regard to the second man, if he went, application would have to be made to the War Office for another to take his place. Already soldiers had been sent by the War Office to assist in carrying out Government contracts, these having replaced men who had joined the service. Such an exchange of men betokened a waste of public money. The men whom the War Office had sent were more docile than the other men, as they had been accustomed to obeying orders. That was probably also due to the fact that they did not want to go back again. (Laughter.)

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The first case was that of a man named Joyce, of Pitcairn-road, a ship's painter, who applied for exemption on conscientious grounds.

Dr. Worsfold: Would you object to painting a man-o'-war?

—No.

Would you object to helping a wounded man on the side of the road?

—Not as an ordinary individual.

Yon are an attested man?

—Oh yes, to safeguard myself against conscription.

When you attested you signified your willingness to serve the country if required.

—We were advised to attest and object afterwards. A man who does not attest has no ground if conscription comes.

Mr. Baker contended that an attested man could not appeal on conscientious grounds. This man has attested, and taken the oath to serve his King and country, and has no ground on which to claim exemption.

Alderman Chart: You can claim for relegation to a later group.

Appellant, in reply to another question, said he was really assisting in the war by his present work.

Application *refused*.

The son of a bootmaker applied for exemption, as he honestly and conscientiously objected to taking part either as a combatant or non-combatant in the wholesale murder of fellow men. He believed in the brotherhood of man, regarded human life as sacred under all circumstances, believed all branches of the military service to be opposed to peace, and destroyed freedom, which was a national privilege too precious to be sacrificed.

The Chairman: Do you believe in the absolute submission to oppression put on you by force?

—Not if it necessitates taking human life.

Dr. Worsfold: He was not a member of the Union of Democratic Control or any society opposed to conscription. He obtained the statement given in the formal objection to keep out of the war from

a book entitled "A Guide to Conscientious Objectors at Tribunals." The book came into his possession about three weeks ago, but he had made up his mind on the subject before that. He had a brother serving at the Admiralty as a clerk.

Would you defend yourself if it necessitated killing a man?

—If it was a personal matter, but war is not a personal matter.

The father said his son had been brought up in those ideas. He had no control over the other son who was working at the Admiralty which controlled the fleet.

A young man, describing himself as a carpenter and joiner, of Colliers Wood, applied for exemption as he had been received into the congregation of Christ's church, and had promised to continue in His service till his life's end. He objected to working on the Sabbath and to taking human life. He was a member of the Church of England.

The Chairman: Your conscientious objection is based on the ground that you are a member of a religious body?

—I think war is contrary to Christianity and a waste of life to send men out to the trenches and so hinder the only giver of victory.

You mean to say we should sit at home quietly and let the Germans come?

—No, I don't think that. First of all, what is it that makes them come? (Laughter.) Neither you or I could stop them. Appellant went on to say he would have no objection to medical work, but he would not go into a regiment such as the engineers which would entail Sunday work, which was not absolutely necessary.

Passed for *non-combatant service*.

A young man, aged 24 years, confidential clerk to the manager of a varnish factory, applied for exemption on business and conscientious grounds. His firm also appealed on the ground that the man was indispensable.

The Chairman: What is your conscientious objection?

—I don't object to helping the wounded or sick, but I do object to killing people.

The objector further stated that he had two brothers, one in the R.A.M.C. and another in the A.S.C. who were of the same mind. They joined at the beginning of the war, and three uncles were now in the North Sea with the Navy.

Dr. Worsfold: Which corps do you prefer?

Passed for *non-combatant service*.

Two brothers, members of a well-known Mitcham Quaker family, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds, declaring that war was an absolute contradiction to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Worsfold: Are you aware that there are something like 300 members of the Society of Friends serving with the colours, many have taken up commissions, and about 500 are doing voluntary medical work?

One of the brothers: Yes.

Would you object to ambulance work and helping the wounded?

—I could not accept anything under the military. God gave me a conscience and I must hold to it.

You claim to believe unreservedly in the teaching of Christ in all that he said and taught us?



—I follow the teaching and nature of Christ's life, and to me it seems exactly opposite to war. You believe all that He taught when on earth, and your conscience is entitled to the fullest respect?

—I believe in the spirit of Christ's teaching. Of course, you can quote passage upon passage of the Bible one way or the other, but the spirit of His teaching is absolutely contrary to war.

Dr. Worsfold read the manifesto issued by leading members of the Society of Friends, deploring the attitude of those who refused alternate service, and urging them to do their duty as loyal citizens, and said, having heard their opinion: Do you still adhere to the contrary one?

—We adhere to the principle of the society as laid down in the society's minutes. God is our guide, and we must be faithful to Him day by day, and not be led by any man, whether he calls himself Quaker or Friend.

Do you not feel in a somewhat illogical position to stay here and accept the benefit of blood, and lives of other fellows? Don't you think you would like to do your little bit to help?

—It is against my conscience.

And yet you are willing to accept the sacrifice of other men. You owe your freedom to them. They are fighting for your freedom now.

—I do not wish them to fight for me.

If an officer asked you to rescue a dying man and comfort his last moments?

—If he asked me as an officer, but not if he asked me as an ordinary individual.

The Rev. D. MacDonald: You say you must be led by your conscience. You would not say every man should be led by his conscience. Is not the great work of Christianity to try to enlighten conscience?

—I believe God is merciful, and according to our light if we are faithful to our conscience we may leave it to Him.

Do you believe in using and enjoying anything gained by the war?

—I would not take a penny piece.

I did not mean it quite in that way.

Exemptions were *granted in both cases*.

[A & M, order of cases changed]



16.03.17

17 March 1916

A gas and hot water fitter from Gorrige Park applied for absolute exemption on the ground that serious hardship would ensue. He said in addition to his wife and family of two he had to help to support a widowed mother and four brothers and sisters under 14 years of age.

*Disallowed.*

On the suggestion of the Military Representative, *two months' exemption* was granted to a pig breeder from Lonesome, and *one month* to another applicant engaged in a similar trade. In the last case, appellant said he was 26 years of age, and the business represented his life's savings. All would be gone if called up. He could not sell his stock at a fair price at the present time.

Mr. J. W. Moore supported the claim of a chauffeur and motor mechanic, who asked for exemption on the ground of serious hardship and reserved occupation. It was stated that appellant was the surviving partner of a firm owning a motor garage, the other partner, his brother, having volunteered for active service, and been killed at the front. His father had retired, from the business, but assisted him in the matter of accounts. He was the only chauffeur and motor mechanic connected with the firm, and had a contract with Morden Hall.

*Disallowed.*

A firm of coal and coke merchants and haulage contractors applied for the exemption of their wharves manager. It was stated that the firm had sent 35 men to the colours. The managing director said before the war broke out there were four men doing the work which he and the man in question were now doing, and that was in addition to his duties as managing director.

*Disallowed.*

A firm of margarine manufacturers supported the claim of a young churner, aged 25, for total exemption on the ground that he was essential to the business. The secretary, in reply to a question, said it would take six months to train a substitute, and applicant possessed secrets of the manufacture. A mistake could easily involve the firm in a serious loss. One churn spoiled would mean the loss of about £30. The secretary added that the firm was supplying large quantities of their goods to the Army and Navy.

The claim was *disallowed*.

A Fair Green greengrocer applied for the exemption of his only son, aged 23, married, and a partner in the business. The father said he himself was in a delicate state of health, and if the son went to the Army the business would go to pot, as there was no one to do the heavy lifting.

The claim was *disallowed*.

The proprietress of a model laundry in Colliers Wood applied for exemption for her horseman and engine man. A member of the Tribunal asked applicant if a woman could not attend to the boiler.

—What, I would not trust a woman to attend to my boiler with 120lb. steam pressure. I looked after it myself this morning—(laughter)—but I could not undertake to do it always with all my other work. *Claim disallowed.*

[A]

16.03.24

24 March 1916

There was another three-hours' sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. The most interesting case was that of a conscientious objector, who was closely questioned. All but one of the claimants asked for exemption. Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided, and the other members present were Councillors Dr. Love, H. Mount, Baker, J. M. Leather, J. D. Drewett, C.C., A. Mizen, J.P., C.C., G. S. Cook, J. Thompson, W. H. Parslow and E. E. Snowsill, Messrs. G. J. Poston, J.P., J. Burke Downing, A. D. Watson, J. Annan and H. J. Davis, Dr. T. Cato Worsfold, Military Representative; A. E. Hayne, Assistant Military Representative; Alderman R. M. Chart, J.P., and H. W. White.

A Lower Mitcham market gardener and stock-keeper, aged 32 and married, with four children, applied for exemption on the ground that his father, with whom he was a partner, was a cripple, unable to take but the slightest part in the business, and in consequence practically the whole of the work of superintendence fell upon him. It was impossible to get another man to do the work. In reply to the Chairman appellant said there were forty acres under cultivation, and he had a large number of pigs and other animals to look after.

By Messrs. Thompson and Leather: His father had to be lifted into and out of a vehicle.

*Three months' exemption granted.*

A well-known varnish and colour manufacturing firm applied for the exemption of their colour chemist, a young man aged 25, who, one of the members of the firm said, could not be replaced. It was also stated that appellant was responsible for the whole of the colour department, and was the buyer as well. His work was highly technical. The employer stated that the firm had only seven men of military age left out of a total of 38, and they had done their best to employ female labour in their place. In reply to the Chairman, the employer said applicant's salary was £4 a week. The principal part of the firm's work was for the Government, and a lot of colour was being used for the painting of shells.

Mr. Mizen: If this man died, the business would have to close?

The Employer: We should do our best to carry on. (Laughter.)

After many propositions and amendments *six months' exemption* was granted.

A mechanical and electrical engineer, of Colliers Wood, who said he was engaged on a contract with a Croydon firm, machining the bases of shells for the Government, asked for total exemption. He added that he was in business for himself, and in reply to the Chairman said he had his father and mother to keep. His factory was at Stockwell and was not very large.

In reply to Dr. Worsfold appellant said his father was 65 years of age.

The Chairman: That is not old in this part of the world. (Laughter.)

*Case referred to Stockwell Tribunal.*

A young Colliers Wood carpenter and joiner said he had contracted a great horror of human slaughter since reading the works of Count Tolstoy, and had now a conscientious objection to military service of any kind, believing it to be against Christ's teaching. The appellant, who looked

the part of a conscientious objector, made quite a little speech in his own behalf, and said he had been a conscientious objector for nine years.

Dr. Worsfold: Are you aware that a son of Count Tolstoy is serving with the Russian army?

Appellant: I am not the judge of other men. God is my judge.

Dr. Worsfold: Are you willing to alleviate evil and suffering when you see it? Would your conscience tell you to do that?

—Oh yes, but not on military service.

Dr. Worsfold: If you saw a fellow-countryman dying of wounds would you help him?

—I really can't say what I should do. I would act according to my conscience.

The Military Representative: What is that?

—I can't tell you. (Laughter.)

After some discussion it was decided *not to allow the claim*. [See *Advertiser* account later.]

A well-known firm of iron workers and Government contractors appealed on behalf of four men – a wood-working machinist, two carpenters and a skilled fitter. The head of the firm said they were engaged on anti-aircraft orders, and there were about 50 men at the task. They were much pressed for the work, and it was almost impossible to get others to take their places. The fitter had been employed as such about eight years.

Dr. Worsfold pointed out that if the fitter had signed the National Registration form as such he would have been exempt.

The employer said he might have put himself down as a fence maker.

All were granted *one month's exemption*.

A nineteen-year-old gas fitter's mate, very boyish-looking, applied for exemption on the ground that he was the only support of his widowed mother and little sister. His wage was 23s. a week, and he gave his mother £1. She could not work herself because of rheumatism.

Mr. Chart asked appellant why he had not been called up, and his answers showed that he was in group one at the time of registration.

*Six months' exemption*.

The next applicant, a packer for a local firm making mess tins, startled the Tribunal by saying that his mother worked at a Balham laundry five days a week for about 7s. and walked all the way because she could not afford the tram fare. He was her main support and also supported his grandmother. His wage was 22s. and he paid 3s. per week rent. A letter from the firm stated that the man was engaged in checking and packing the raw material of the manufacture.

The claim was *not allowed*.

A Tooting Junction cashier and book-keeper, married, with three children, asked for a month's postponement to enable him to settle his affairs. He was employed by a Bermondsey firm of cider merchants.

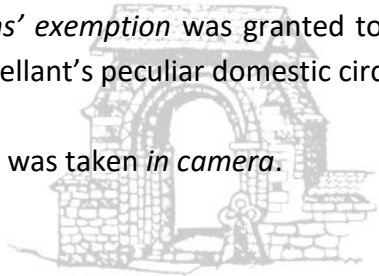
The application was *granted*.

The driver and stoker of the pumping plant at the sewage disposal works, Colliers Wood, was granted *three months' exemption* on the ground that he could not easily be replaced, and that the work was in the interests of the public health.

A Merton Abbey market gardener, employed by the same firm 25 years, was also granted *three months' exemption*. He is 39 years of age.

*Three months' exemption* was granted to a boot and shoe stores manager engaged at a shop in Balham. Appellant's peculiar domestic circumstances were taken into consideration.

The last case was taken *in camera*.



[H]

A carpenter and joiner from Colliers Wood, whose age was given as 25, applied for absolute exemption, he having a conscientious objection to Military Service of any kind, "believing it is against Christian teaching to resist evil by violence." Applicant told the Tribunal that he had held these views for nine years, and was converted to them through reading Tolstoi's works, which left a great impression on his mind. He had a great horror of human slaughter, and believed in the brotherhood of man. Whatever conditions might be imposed, he could not allow himself to become a cog in the wheel of a military machine. His whole nature revolted against the taking of human blood.

The Military Representative: Do you know that Tolstoi's son is serving at the front with the Russian Army? I take it you have no objection to relieving the results of evil by behaving with a Christian spirit?

Appellant—I agree to that.

And, therefore, you would not object to help in alleviating the suffering of those who are sick and ill?

—I should do so under the military.

The Military Representative: By rendering assistance in such a case you would not be taking life. It is saving life. Then if you saw a fellow-countryman dying from injuries you would not give him a cup of water?

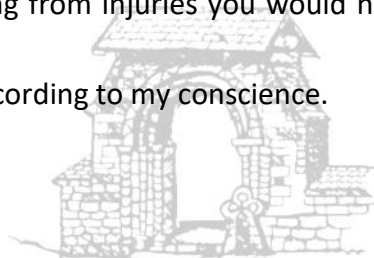
Appellant: I don't know what I would do. I would not, according to my conscience.

What is that?

—I really cannot tell you.

The Military Representative: I thought not.

On the application being *disallowed*, a member exclaimed: "This shows class distinction" and another member observed, "Because we made one mistake, it is no reason why we should make another."



[A]

A sitting of the Tribunal was held on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

A munition worker asked for temporary exemption. He said he was a married man, and there were many single men in his shop who ought to go first. "If I go," he added, "what are you going to do with the single men who are waiting to take my place."

The Chairman: I am afraid we have nothing to do with that.

Appellant: I have no objection to service, but I think the single men ought to be dealt with.

*One month's exemption.*

An appeal on conscientious grounds was made by a young man, son of a well-known Quaker and property owner, who is now engaged as a ploughman in Ireland. His father and mother appeared in support of the appeal, which was based (1) on religious objection to combatant service, and (2) that it was in the national interest that he should continue in his present employment. It was explained that the appeal was made in Mitcham as the young man was at home at the time of registration, and there were no tribunals in Ireland.

The Military Representative (Mr. A. E. Hayne): How long has your son held this objection?

The father: Practically all his life.

Why did he go to Ireland?

—Employers had almost used compulsion with their men that it has been most difficult to get work in England. The father added that his son felt it was wrong to take part in war in any way, even in non-military service. He thoroughly believed in the Bible and the New Testament.

The Chairman: But some of the texts are very inconsistent.

The Military Representative: Did he go to Ireland to escape military service?

—No, I do not think so.

Mr. Poston: If a German army came here, would he welcome it or resist it?

—He feels that if we as a nation put our trust in God the German army will not land here. I cannot argue with that. If anyone wrongs us we ought to pray for them in the spirit of love.

Mr. Poston: You'll be a bit of a Job.

A member of the Tribunal: Your own common sense must tell you it is no use talking about love to the Germans. That would not save your home or your life.

The claim was *disallowed*.

[M]

16.05.12

12 May 1916

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Monday evening. The other members present were: Dr. H. Love, Alderman R. M. Chart, J.P., Messrs. G. J. Poston, J.P., J. D. Drewett, J.P., C.C., A. Mizen, J.P., C.C., E. J. Mizen, W. H. Parslow, J. M. Leather, J. Thompson, H. J. Davis, J. D. Watson, J. Burke Downing, F. Baker, H. Mount, E. E. Snowsill, G. S. Cook, and Dr. T. Cato Worsfold and Mr. A. E. Hayne (Military Representatives).

One of the largest firms of nurserymen and market gardeners applied for the exemption of five men, on the ground that it was essential to the cultivation of the land and the production of food that they should remain. A representative of the firm said at the beginning of the war they employed 206 men of all grades on their Mitcham farms, which were about 400 acres in extent. No fewer than 84 had since joined the colours, and of the remainder about 60 were still with them. Few of the 60 were of military age, as long as the age remained at the present limit. The firm were entitled to eight ploughmen, under the regulations of the Board of Agriculture.

In reply to a question, appellant said they employed 38 boys, and some of them wanted four men to look after them. (Laughter.) He added that the firm had only put on two men of military age since the war started. In reply to the Military Representative, appellant said other men would be affected by the new Bill then before the House of Commons.

On that ground it was decided to *adjourn* the applications so that all the cases could be dealt with together.

The head of a firm of dyers and cleaners at Colliers Wood asked for six months' exemption for his son, eighteen years of age. Seven of their men had already joined the Army, and it was impossible to carry on the business successfully without his assistance. He had been trained in it from boyhood. In reply to the Chairman, appellant said the boy was anxious to go the war, and he himself, as an Englishman, was willing that his son should take his share of the national burden, but the business really could not do without him.

Dr. Worsfold: The cleaning of gloves is hardly of national importance, is it?

Appellant: It is, sir, inasmuch as we must carry on our business in order to pay our way in the interests of the nation.

In reply to a question, appellant said the firm now employed eight, all young women.

The Military Representative: Could not a woman do the boy's work?

Appellant: No, sir. We have tried them. Cleaning is a big strain on the heart, and all the muscles of the body are employed.

The claim was *disallowed*.

A mother who appealed for the exemption of the only boy left to her, one son having been slain on the battlefield, and the others being in the trenches, was made happy by the unanimous decision of the Tribunal to grant him *six months' exemption*.

A Tooting Junction grocer, who had been given a month's exemption in order to enable him to wind up or sell his business, appealed for a further month's exemption to wind up the negotiations now proceeding. It was *granted*.

A *similar extension* was granted to an insurance clerk whose wife was in a delicate state of health.

A postman with difficult domestic circumstances was given *two months' exemption*.

A house furnisher's salesman, aged 34, and employed at Kingston-upon-Thames, impressed the Tribunal with the story of his domestic circumstances. He said he had five children, all under nine years of age, a big rent to pay, an ailing wife, and others to support. How could his family live on 25s. a week, the amount scheduled under the present regulations, when they had hard work to make a living of it on £3 10s a week? Two of his brothers were already in the Army. He asked for six months' exemption to enable him to make adequate financial arrangements.

It was moved that six months' respite be given, but in the end it was decided to *adjourn* the case for a month, until the new Military Bill and its financial proposals are settled.

[H]

A journalist applied for temporary exemption in order that he might make better provision for his wife and family. He said he was engaged in writing a serial story which, when completed and accepted, would ensure his wife having at least £1 a week for some time to come. Applicant added, that he had served over two years in the London Scottish, and consequently, would not need so much training.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

The mother of a music hall artiste, aged 18, applied for exemption on the ground of hardship. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold (Military Representative) said the appeal had been marked not in order by the military authorities as the lad was under age. The mother said she had received a yellow form telling her son to report himself. When she went to the recruiting office at Wimbledon, she was told to apply to the Tribunal.

Dr. Worsfold told the mother she could go home and rest assured that the mistake would be put right.

Mr. Mizen said unless the clerk or military representative communicated with the recruiting officer, two soldiers and a policeman would be coming to arrest the lad as they had done in another case.

It was arranged that *representations on the matter should be made to the proper authorities*.

Several applications were made by men for periods of exemption to tide them over certain "happy events" which were expected in the near future. The appeals were *granted*.

[M]



16.05.19

19 May 1916

A varnish maker appealed for the total exemption of his eldest son, who was maker, buyer and manager to the factory. It was argued that the trade was a certified one, that the man was in sole possession of a secret process of varnish manufacture, there were many contracts on hand, some of which were of national importance.

*Six months' exemption* on condition the man remains in his present employment.

A draper's salesman and export warehouseman applied to have temporary exemption extended. He appeared at the Croydon Appeal Tribunal and the appeal was dismissed with permission to renew the application locally. His only brother was killed at Loos, and he was the main support of his father and mother, who were 66 years and 65 years respectively. The father was only able to earn a few shillings each week.

*Claim disallowed.*

A master builder applied for the exemption of his fourth son, the other three now being in the army. It would be a great hardship if this man was called up, and exemption through the summer would carry him over a difficulty.

*Two months, final.*

A highly skilled gum runner and varnish manufacturer, who had been employed in the same factory for 15 years, was appealed for by his employer, who said the man and his son were the only makers they had. To take one away would halve the output of the firm, which had several important contracts on hand.

*Claim disallowed.*

A master dairyman applied for total exemption on the grounds that the trade was certified, and serious financial hardship. Milk was served to between 300 and 400 customers, and he had two in his employ, a man aged 65 years and a youth. His father, who lived with him and assisted when his health permitted, made over the business to him on the occasion of his marriage last July. An interesting event is expected in July.

*Two months' exemption.*

An assistant to a gas mantle manufacturer, earning 35s., was granted one month's exemption. It was stated that the firm was capturing a trade hitherto mainly monopolised by Germany, and was building up an export trade.

*One month's exemption.*

A foreman coach painter appealed on domestic grounds. His mother was a widow, who received the old age pension. He paid the rent of her house, and had a wife and family to maintain.

A fruiterer, greengrocer, and coal merchant, who said he made a profit of about £4 a week, with a wife and family of seven children, applied on the ground of serious hardship. He said he managed the business entirely by himself.

*Three months.*

A commercial traveller asked for temporary exemption owing to domestic reasons, principally the delicate health of his wife, whose youngest child was only seven weeks old. He was willing to continue the duties of special constable during the period of exemption.

*One month.*

The proprietress of a bakery business who had two sons serving with the colours and two others attested, applied for the exemption of a son who was a bread maker and the main support of the business. Applicant had already been granted three months' exemption for her son, and this expires on June 9th.

It was stated that one son enlisted at the age of 19, but his employers, The Port of London Authority, claimed him as indispensable.

*Six months' exemption, as long as the man remained in the same business.*

An auxiliary postman applied for total exemption on the ground of domestic hardship. Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, said appellant was a widower with three children, one of whom was suffering from a spinal complaint. His sister was at present assisting him with the care of the home but she might leave him at any time.

*Three months' exemption.*

[M]



A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday.

A window cleaner whose wife was in an asylum, and was left with three little children, applied for exemption on the ground of domestic hardship. Appellant, who was very deaf, was given *six months' exemption* and advised to go before the Medical Board in the meantime.

A cartage contractor applied for the exemption of a horsekeeper and dust and house refuse remover, who was 35 years of age. It was claimed that the work was of national necessity. Appellant said he had had a case at Wandsworth and it was adjourned for a month to enable him to consult the military authorities with regard to the whole of his men. Up to the present he had not heard anything, and he suggested that a short adjournment might be advisable in this case. *Adjourned for a fortnight.*

The Tandem Smelting Co. applied for the exemption of eight men on the ground that they were engaged in work of national importance and were indispensable to the business. The secretary to the company mentioned that he had applied to the Ministry of Munitions for badges, and the application was being considered as it was not usual to grant war service badges in the cases of unskilled labour. He was told, however, at the offices of the Ministry of Munitions on May 10th that he had better apply to the Military Representative and ask for an extension of time. He had not personally approached the Military Representative as he thought it would do if he stated the facts that day,

The Military Representative (Dr. T. Cato Worsfold): Will you explain why you refused information to my representative when he called upon you?

The Secretary: I was expecting that to come. The gentleman came, he was in a hurry, and I was telephoning at the time. He asked questions about our employees, and I answered him in a proper manner. He made comments on them which I immediately thought was rather strange. I thought appeals to the Local Tribunal would be considered before the Local Tribunal and not over the counter of my office. I asked him by what authority he asked such questions, and he merely replied that he was the Deputy Military Representative.

—You would hardly infer that a stranger picked the papers up and ran down with them to your works?

—I have never had anyone come into my office without a card or some recommendation.

—Have you had anyone call on you in a casual way with your appeal forms filled up and stamped?

—No, I have not. I did not recognise the gentleman. Had you come I would have answered every question. For a person to be able to go about without any sign of authority and say he is entitled to receive information about our employees is preposterous.

The cases were dealt with separately, the secretary being subjected to a long cross-examination, which caused him to say, "I am afraid the Tribunal is not over sweet towards me."

The Rev. E. J. Baker: You provoke the Tribunal.

The Secretary: I am sorry. I had no intention of doing so.

The Rev. E. J. Baker said a reply to one of the questions was most uncalled for.

The Secretary: I was only replying then to absolute ridicule.  
Mr. F. L. Baker thought the cases should be treated seriously.  
All the appeals were *disallowed*.

A milk roundsman who had his parents dependent upon him said he was under the impression that single men could not claim allowances for those dependent upon them. Consequently when the rush was on last winter he got married in order to save them. Had he known differently he would have joined the Army instead of getting married,  
The claim was *disallowed*.

Two firms of market gardeners applied for exemption of certain of their men on the ground that it was to the national interest that they should remain in their present employment.  
*Six months' conditional exemption* was granted to each in respect of whom the applications were made.

A Canadian appealed for absolute exemption, alleging that he was not domiciled in England, and therefore did not come under the Military Service Act. He explained that he came from Canada to visit his sick mother, and rather than remain idle had sought employment for the time being.  
He was granted *two months' exemption*, and was advised to apply to the High Commissioner for Canada for a certificate to prove that he was a Canadian.

*Four months' exemption* was granted a foreman in the colour grinding department of a varnish factory who had several lads under military age under his control, and was indispensable to the business, A varnish maker employed by the same firm and engaged mainly on Government contracts, was granted a like exemption.

The proprietress of a steam laundry applied for the exemption of a skilled washhouse man on the ground that he was absolutely necessary for the business and it was impossible to replace him.  
*Six months' exemption*.

The proprietors of a margarine factory, in applying for exemption of two men, produced a fine record of service on the part of those who had been in their employ. Out of fifty men employed at the outbreak of war forty were now serving with the colours and seven out of eight members of the clerical staff had enlisted. It was contended that it was in the national interest that the industry should be carried on.  
*Six months' exemption was granted*.

[M]

16.06.09

09 June 1916

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. It was the longest sitting so far, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. There were nearly 80 cases for consideration. The following were among the more interesting:

A Mitcham cartage contractor applied for the exemption of one of his carters, on the ground that it was necessary that he should be retained in his present employment to carry out important contracts.

*Six months' exemption* was granted.

A Mitcham master baker and confectioner applied for absolute exemption on the ground that he managed and partly worked his whole business, and would have to close unless exemption was granted.

*Six months' exemption.*

A packer in a Mitcham firm of margarine manufacturers applied for exemption on the ground that his work was of national importance, as his firm was supplying the demands of the Government.

He received *six months' exemption.*

A conscientious varnish maker applied for exemption. He declared that he had no hatred nor bitterness towards anyone; he refused to take human life. He would refuse to bear arms, under any conditions, whatever the provocation. On being acquainted with the fact that his work was connected with the war, he said he would be willing to give up his situation rather than have any connection with the war. He would be willing to do any work of national importance, provided it was not connected with the destruction of human life.

The Military Representative: Supposing a brutal man attempted to assault your wife, would you stand by or would you prevent him, with violence, if necessary?

The applicant avoided the question.

Claim *disallowed.* [Compare *Mercury* report below.]

A turf commission agent applied for temporary exemption in order that he might initiate his wife and her friend into the nature of his business, so that it could be carried on in his absence; also that he might have the opportunity of settling his affairs.

*One month's final exemption* was granted.

A Tooting Junction newsagent and tobacconist asked for exemption. He had a wife and two children to support, and managed his business alone. He would have to close his shop if called up.

*Six months' exemption* was given.

The general clerk of a firm of varnish makers was granted *six months' exemption.* He was occupying the position of a man who had been called up, and had an extensive knowledge of his branch of the business.

A metal dealer supplied munition works with metal and managed the business entirely by himself. He had a wife and family to support.

Claim *disallowed*.

A green fodder and potato merchant said his two partners had enlisted, and he was carrying on the business alone. He submitted that the work was of national importance. He supplied small shops.

*Six months' exemption* was granted.

A newsagent and tobacconist was granted *one month's final exemption*. His life's savings had been invested in the business, and he had three persons dependent upon him. He had been unable to dispose of his business, and it was impossible for his wife to manage it.

A foreman packer and picture-frame maker applied for absolute exemption. His business would, he said, have to close if he went. He also had a widowed mother and wife to support.

*One month's final exemption* given.

A poulterer, the sole support of his widowed mother, was *refused exemption*.

A sheet metal worker, employed by Willesden firm on munition work was also *refused exemption*.

Two stockmen and pig feeders were granted *six months' exemption* each, on the ground that their work was of national importance.

A manager and salesman of a nursery and fruit growers' business at Mitcham and Carshalton applied for exemption on the ground that he was the mainstay of his father's business, which would be ruined if he went.

*Six months' exemption* granted.

[H]

At the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday, a varnish maker named Turner applied for exemption on conscientious grounds. He pleaded that he had no hatred or bitterness to anyone, and he refused to take human life. He would refuse to bear arms under any conditions, whatever the provocation. On being acquainted with the fact that his work was connected with the war, he said he would be willing to relinquish his situation rather than have any connection with the war. The applicant said he would be willing to do any work of national importance, providing it was not connected with the destruction of human life.

The Military Representative: Supposing a brutal man was going assault your wife would you stand by or would you stop him with violence if necessary?

The applicant repeatedly avoided the question, but finally with reluctance said he would allow his wife to be ill-treated rather than resort to violence.

Claim *disallowed*.

A departmental manager of a wholesale and export stationery business appealed for exemption on domestic and financial grounds. A happy event was expected in October, and up to the present no financial provision had been made, and certain debts had been incurred.

*Five months' conditional exemption.*

The Far Famed Cake Co. applied for exemption of a driver. The manager said his firm had to supply cakes, etc., to caterers to the camps, and one of three men previously exempted had since joined the Army.

Claim *disallowed*.

A firm of gas mantle manufacturers applied for exemption of five men on the ground that it was in the national interest that they should continue in their present employment. The manager, for whom exemption was sought, had, it was stated, spent eleven years in Germany to learn the trade, and the company was doing its utmost to take the trade away from Germany, the home of the industry. Since the outbreak of war the output of the Company had considerably increased; thus they were assisting materially to supply the home demand and to maintain the country's export. It was essential to retain the services of the manager, as the managing director, a Russian, who was naturalised in 1904, was in London almost every day assisting the Board of Trade on matters respecting imports from enemy countries. Quite recently he went to the docks to inspect a cargo of gas mantles, and 90 per cent. of the cargo was rejected as being of German manufacture. The firm had 500 employees at the outbreak of the war, only 36 of whom were men of military age. Since then 22 had joined up and 6 were medically unfit. At the present time 23 of their 36 men were either under or over military age.

Replying to a question, the managing director denied that he was of German or Austrian nationality.

The manager was given *six months' exemption*, the engineer *four months*, the printer *one month (final)* and the other two claims were *disallowed*.

An asylum attendant employed at the Grove Asylum, Tooting, appealed for exemption. He said the M.A.B. wished him to appeal owing to shortage of staff, but he was not appealed for as he was only a temporary man. Appellant said he had no objection to joining the army, and the appeal was made merely out of consideration for the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

A green fodder contractor, aged 39 years, with seven in family, the eldest of whom was making munitions and earning £1 a week, and the second, aged 15, was helping in the business, was granted *six months' exemption*.

The tribunal granted *exemptions of varying periods* to applicants who had businesses wholly dependent upon them.

A firm of leather manufacturers appealed for the total exemption of their manager, as now, more than ever, owing to the depleted staff, he was absolutely indispensable to the business. The

leather was being manufactured for military and civil purposes, and only that morning a large urgent order was received from the War Office.

*Six months' exemption.*

A bookbinder's machine minder from Colliers Wood, applied for exemption on domestic grounds. He said his wife was waiting admittance to a hospital, in order to undergo a serious operation, which would mean that at least four months must elapse before she would be fit to attend to the children, five in number, and all under thirteen years of age.

*Adjourned* for the production of a detailed medical certificate.

A directories clerk, employed by Kelly's, applied for temporary exemption of four months. He was married, and had four children under eight years of age, the youngest being two months, and he was anxious to stay till the baby was of a more manageable age.

*Four months' exemption* was granted.

[M]





16.06.16

16 June 1916

ANOTHER ALL DAY SITTING. 120 CASES DEALT WITH

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. There was a large number of appeals down for hearing, and the Tribunal was divided into two parts.

A well-known Mitcham firm of market gardeners applied for the exemption of 25 men, carters and market gardeners' labourers. The employer, in support of the application, said the men were of as much value on the land as they would be in the Army, as they were assisting in the production of home produce.

It was decided to allow all of them *six months' exemption* with one exception, this one being *disallowed*.

An under gardener, employed at The Hall, Mitcham, applied for exemption. There were several acres of land under cultivation, and this man was very necessary for this work. The Military Representative inquired whether it was not possible to have a woman for the work, but the employer did not think a woman capable of undertaking the work this man did. Women were only useful for weeding.

A Mitcham firm of vegetable and fruit growers applied for the exemption of a skilled agricultural labourer. It was stated that he was employed in business of national interest. This man and the employer and his son were the only remaining staff of the business.

*Six months' exemption* was allowed.

A nurseryman of High-street, Colliers Wood, applied for the conditional exemption of his brother, his only help in the business; if he were called up the business would be ruined.

*Four months' exemption*.

The exemption of a loader and carman in the coal trade was applied for by a local firm of coal merchants. He was the sole support of his mother, crippled father and a young nephew, aged eight years, and he said that if he was taken his dependants would have to go to the workhouse. The employer in support of the application said he had only two men left at the Tooting branch, instead of six as formerly. Applicant was one, and the other was over military age.

He was given *six months*.

Exemption was asked for a skilled mechanic by the owner of a cork manufacturing business in Colliers Wood. The employer said the man was very valuable in his present employment and he would be practically impossible to replace. A large proportion of their manufactures were for Government uses. He employed about 17 men, of whom only three were eligible. He pleaded that the man was capable of doing almost anything in the business and that his departure might cause the closing down of the business.

*Three months' exemption*.

A builder and contractor applied for exemption. He had a wife and children to support, and if he was called up he would lose his business, and would be financially ruined. He employed about six men, and had been in this business for three years.

He was given *two months' exemption*.

The licensee of the Buck's Head, Mitcham, applied for exemption on the ground that he and his wife entirely worked the business, the exception being a potman who did the cleaning, etc.

He was given *six months' exemption*.

A public-house manager applied for exemption. He was married, and was in charge of the house until the owner, who is at present ill, was able to return and take charge of the business.

*Four months' exemption.*

The licensee of a public-house, who was the sole support of the business and had a wife and five children to support, was granted *six months' exemption*.

A manager and buyer of a Streatham butcher's business applied for exemption. He did all the market work, and was absolutely necessary to the continuance of two businesses.

A foreman baker applied for exemption. He had a crippled wife and four children to support between the ages of two and 14. His appeal was on domestic grounds.

He received *six months' exemption*.

A young man, blind in one eye, who was rejected five times at the commencement of the war, and now held a medical certificate for home service only, applied for exemption, as he contended that he would be better serving his country by continuing in his employment with a large firm of Government contractors. His father was an old army man, and being disappointed at his rejection, said he would enlist himself, and appellant could stay behind to help support the mother and children. Applicant said he would not have appealed had he been accepted for foreign service.

*Six months' exemption.*

A tennis racquet maker applied on the ground of domestic hardship. The Army allowance would not be sufficient to maintain the wife and children in comfort, and he had a mortgage on his private house.

In reply to the Military Representative (Mr. A. E. Hayne), applicant said if he received financial assistance he would not be so anxious for exemption.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, in applying for the exemption of the owner of a boot repairing and leather grindery business, said since Xmas he had repaired 4,420 pairs of boots, being almost the only boot repairer in the Colliers Wood district. He was a single man, aged 22 years and so much could not have been said for him, but for the fact that he had made a real effort to sell his business in which three men, two over military age, were engaged. These men had all declined to take over

the management and his father, to whom he owed money, knew nothing about the business. If he went the business would have to close down.

*One month's exemption.*

An assistant chemist in a gas mantle factory in Mitcham applied for further exemption on the ground that it was in the national interest that he should continue in his present employment. It was further urged that it was impossible to get a substitute trained in one month, the period of exemption, though everything possible would be done to train a substitute if the exemption was extended six months. A representative of the firm said the gas mantle industry had hitherto been practically a German industry, and their capacity of production was being greatly taxed in order to meet the extra demand for the home-made gas mantle. Applicant stated that four brothers had already joined, two had been killed, one was a prisoner of war, and the other was still fighting.

*Two months—final.*

A Whitford-gardens resident applied for the exemption of her son, aged 18 years, who was a music hall artist comedian, earning £3 10s. a week. She said the £1 a week he allowed her was all she had to live on, as owing to age she was unable to earn anything herself. He was unable to enter into further contracts till this position in regard to the Army was determined.

*Appeal disallowed.*

A man named Taylor, employed in the furnishing department at London House, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds. He said he objected to taking any part in war, believing that disputes between nations could be settled by arbitration. In reply to the Military Representative (Mr. Hayne) he could not explain how it was that Belgium, a country which depended on treaties, had been desolated, nor could he explain how it was that our non-preparation for war did not prevent us being involved in the war. Asked if he would defend his wife against the aggression of a brutal man who intended to do her injury, appellant said he did not think he would be able to intervene.

*Passed as a non-combatant.*

The secretary to the company owning Streatham Park Cemetery applied for the exemption of three gravediggers. It was stated that one man had since reached the age of 41 years, the second was 45 years old, the third man (who was well within the military age limit) was the head grave digger. All the appeals were *disallowed*, the Tribunal leaving the question of eligibility to be determined by the military authorities.

A boot repairer and leather seller with eight children all under twelve years of age, and a wife in a delicate state of health, applied for total exemption.

*Four months' exemption.*

A maker of high explosives and star shells applied for exemption on domestic grounds. In addition to four children and a wife in a delicate state of health he had a father and mother to whose support he contributed. He had been engaged in making munitions since January.

*Three months, final.*

The under-manager of a branch of domestic stores applied for exemption on domestic grounds. He had a widowed mother dependent on him, and if the decision of the Tribunal was favourable he would be offered the position of manager to a new branch of the business which was being opened.

*One month.*



[A]



16.06.23

23 June 1916

The Mitcham Tribunal had a sitting on Wednesday. As last week, it was divided into two sections, Mr. G. Farewell presiding over one section (Military Representative: Dr. T. Cato Worsfold), and Mr. A. Durrant Watson (Military Representative: Mr. A. E. Hayne) over the other.

A young man who owned a printing business and manufactured printing materials for export said the savings of his wife and himself had been invested in the concern. It was his intention to build up an export trade which would be of a national advantage after the war.

*Three months' conditional exemption*, applicant to join the volunteers.

Mr. P. W. Butcher applied for exemption of a greengrocer, who had built up a good business and had a delicate wife and two young children dependent upon him. The solicitor said there was a certain amount of goodwill attached to the business and closing it down would inflict a serious hardship.

*Three months' conditional exemption.*

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, applied for exemption of a butcher's manager. It was stated that the shop supplied a large quantity of cooked meats which were in great request of people employed making munitions and who had no time to prepare their own meals. The tribunal considered that the proprietor could do more in the business and granted *one month final*.

A man who will be 41 years of age in September, applied for exemption on domestic and financial grounds, was granted *six months' exemption*.

A Mr. W. F. Chapman, of Colliers Wood, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds. His two main points were that he would not work on Sunday or take human life. The curate of Christchurch, Merton, wrote, vouching for the sincerity of applicant's convictions. He objected to work that entailed Sunday labour. He had held his convictions for six or seven years. In answer to a question by the Military Representative he said he would help to save life, but would not take it.

*Passed for non-combatant service.*

A Mitcham nurseryman applied for exemption. He was the owner of a business, was married, and had a wife to support, and a father and two sisters partially dependent on him.

The Military Representative: What acreage have you?

—About two acres.

How much of that could you devote to vegetables?

—About half acre.

*Six months' exemption* on condition that an acre was devoted to the cultivation of vegetables.

A bread-baker employed at Colliers Wood was applied for. It was mentioned that something like 4,000 people were supplied with bread each week from the bakery; it was therefore to the National interest that applicant should continue in his present employment. He was indispensable in the bread-baking department.

*Claim disallowed.*

A music-hall artist applied for exemption until November in order that he might fulfil his contracts. He had a wife and others dependent upon him. He was given *until November 31st*.

[M]



16.06.30

30 June 1916

The Mitcham Tribunal had a sitting on Wednesday. As last week, it was divided into two sections, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding over one section: (Military Representative: Dr. T. Cato Worsfold) and Mr. A. Durrant Watson (Military Representative: Mr. A. E. Hayne) the other.

The son of a Mitcham market gardener applied for exemption on conscientious and business grounds. With regard to his conscientious objections he said that he went by the commandment "Thou shalt not kill." He would not serve for non-combatant service, as he regarded it as accessory to the same object as combatant service. He appealed also on the ground that he was at present doing work of national importance. In answer to a question he said his father, himself, and one other man did the entire work of the business, and he was therefore very necessary to its continuance.

*Six months' exemption.*

An export salesman in the iron, tin and metal trade applied for exemption. He pleaded that the Army allowance under present conditions would be absolutely inadequate, and would result in starvation for his wife and daughter. He strained his arm badly some few years ago, suffered from rheumatism, and considered himself practically useless for the Army.

*Two months' exemption.*

A trade union secretary and organiser, residing at Tooting Junction, applied for exemption. He said he had a wife and three young children to support, and an aged mother dependent on him, and if he were called up it would result in the breaking up of his home.

*Three months' exemption.*

A taxi-cab owner and driver said he was on work of national interest, as Mr. Long's statement said that the driver of a public licensed vehicle was work of national interest.

*Six months.*

A cartage contractor and coal merchant, in applying for exemption, stated that owing to present labour conditions he was himself doing the greater part of the work. He did general carting from factory to factory.

*Six months' exemption.*

A varnish maker, experimenter, examiner, etc., employed at a Mitcham firm of varnish manufacturers, applied for exemption. He was at present irreplaceable owing to the enormous of direct experience needed in his work. His work was of a highly important nature; moreover, the firm were on war work, and could not afford under present labour conditions to lose applicant.

*Three months' exemption on condition that appellant joins the volunteers.*

A foreman cabinet maker, named Matthews, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds. He objected to the taking of human life, it being contrary to his teaching. He would not have anything

to do with the war in any way, as he could not reconcile his conscience to it. Asked how long he had held these views, he said mainly since the war commenced, as the evil of it had been brought home to him by the war. He did not object to doing work of national importance providing it was not under military law. He was prepared to suffer any penalty rather than reconcile himself to going against his religious teachings.

Mr. Leather: Were you born in Germany?

Applicant: Oh no, in London.

Passed for *non-combatant service*.

A taxi-cab driver applied for exemption on domestic grounds. He had two children, and a wife in a delicate state of health, to support.

A member: Have you any relations who could look after your wife and children?

Applicant: No.

Would you be willing to go if you were given time, till your wife was in health again?

—Yes. I have been passed for service, and should be willing to go if I had that time.

*Six months.*

A pig-feeder and breeder and carter applied for exemption. He was a married man with three children.

The Chairman: How many pigs have you at present?

Applicant: Fifty-two.

Have you accommodation for more, say 100?

—Yes.

Would it be possible for your wife to manage this business in your absence?

—I doubt it. Appellant added that he had a brother and two boys helping him in the business, and his brother would have to join up in two weeks' time. He originally started in business about five years ago.

*Six months' exemption.*

A metal and bottle sorter was applied for by his employer, who said the work was skilled and it was important to retain his services. On the appeal for applicant stated "I am a woman" but he explained that he had missed out the word "learning." He thought that three months' exemption would answer his purpose. He assured the Tribunal that the work was really skilled, and, as proof of the business done appellant produced two cheques received that day, one for £18, and one for £30.

The Chairman: Are we to keep these?

Appellant: I rather you didn't. (Laughter.)

*Three months' exemption.*

A single man, aged 27, who had a father, with an incurable illness, to support, whose three youngest sisters were unable to provide for themselves, and who had two brothers in France, only one of whom made an allowance, applied for a further period of exemption.

*Three months.*



An engraver applied for exemption. He said he had lost his business and money on account of the war, and the army allowance would practically mean starvation for his wife. He did not see why he should have to go when there were single men employed in the factory where he had been at work, who ought to be made to join up. There was one single man, well-built and strong who had received a war service badge, and when the Government inspector came he was put into an office to tinker about with a machine, although in reality he knew nothing about munition making.

By the Military Representative: Appellant had been refused munition work.

*Two months' exemption.*

A firm of manufacturing chemists applied for the exemption of the works' chemist and analyst, who was in charge of a number of processes of a confidential and highly technical character, and was engaged in manufacturing certain chemicals previously only obtainable from Germany. Another man was applied for on similar grounds. The managing director said the processes were entirely new to this country, and considerable success had already been achieved.

*Exemptions of 6 and 8 months were granted.*

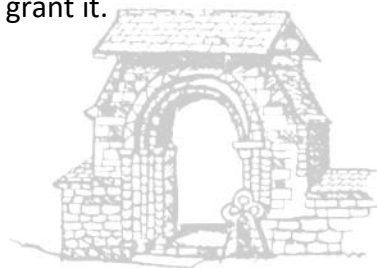
A cycle and motor mechanic employed at Upper Tooting applied on domestic grounds. He was married, and his wife had undergone an operation for cancer, and it was expected that a further operation would be necessary. Appellant believed that his employers were appealing, and if that were so he would stand by that appeal and withdraw his own.

*The case was adjourned for a week.*

Mr. Alfred Jenner, Superintendent of the Mitcham Fire Brigade, applied for the exemption of B. Dendy, the driver of the motor fire engine. It was urged that Dendy was indispensable for the safety of Mitcham, as, although there were two others capable of driving, they were making munitions, and out of the parish a greater part of the time. Mr. Jenner added that he felt the responsibility very much, and he did not know of another similar brigade that had not a resident motor driver. If he drove the engine himself it would be impossible to properly superintend the brigade while at a fire.

The Chairman said the responsibility was entirely on the shoulders of Mr. Jenner, and if he recommended *exemption* in this case the tribunal would grant it.

[M]



16.07.07

07 July 1916

An all-day sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday, and, as on previous occasions, was divided into two sections: Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over one section and Mr. A. Durrant Watson the other. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold and Mr. A. E. Hayne were the Military Representatives.

An operating mechanic employed on patent bread and butter machines at Selfridge's appealed for temporary exemption on domestic grounds. His wife was in a delicate state of health, and one of the children was also under the doctor.

*Six months' exemption.*

A postman applied for total exemption on grounds of conscience. He said war was immoral, and he could not logically lend himself to non-combatant service, as it was assisting war and was not conducive to the moral welfare of the human race. The use of arms did not settle a dispute, but only aggravated it, the cause of quarrel being left for subsequent adjustment by tactful administrators. He was not willing to join a corps for saving life, as to nurse a wounded soldier back to life in order that he might go back to face death and be a death dealing unit was, in his opinion, barbarous and criminal. Any service to mankind except in a military capacity would be willingly rendered. From his youth he had been a Unitarian, though was unconnected with any society for the propagation of peace with the exception of the American Association for International Conciliation. Had he joined the R.E. Postal Section, a non-combatant corps, his wife would have had the usual allowance and he would have received his full civilian pay. Having been in the postal service for 14 years he contended he could not be better engaged in work of national importance.

The Chairman said he agreed with many of the contentions put forward, but unfortunately we had to look at things as they were and not as we should like them to be. When the Germans marched through Belgium, applicant with all his eloquence would not have stopped the advance. If all the conscientious objectors in England had gone to Belgium and tried to argue with the Germans, it would have had no effect. They would have done no good without the use of violence.

Appellant: Two wrongs do not make a right. The invasion of Belgium was a military necessity to Germany, and any other nation would have done the same thing under the same circumstances. That was proved by the Allies occupying territory at Salonika.

The Chairman: And yet we have advanced in civilisation under the very rules and doctrines to which you now object. You will not say we have not advanced since the times when we were painted blue?

Appellant: If you think it is an advance of civilisation to use poison gas and high explosive shells to maim and destroy life, then I say civilisation is not a desirable attainment.

The Military Representative: You would say it is better to suffer an evil than resist it by force?

—Well, you see—

—Answer "Yes" or "No", please.

—I cannot answer "Yes" or "No".

—You do not believe in resisting by force?

—It depends upon the circumstances.

—If a man tried to take your mail bags by force, wouldn't you resist by punching his head?

—I don't think so.

—If he was going to kill you in order to secure the mail bags, would you kill him?

—Well, I hope not.

Replying to further questions, appellant still maintained that it was barbarous to nurse a wounded soldier back to health in order that he might return to fight.

Mr. Mount: You know there is the military power against you, and you are prepared to sacrifice yourself on the altar?

— I quite realise my position.

Mr. Leather: If you live in a country you ought to be ready and proud to fight for it.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

A manufacturer of electric torches applied for the exemption of his foreman, the only man in the factory, where 80 girls were employed. It was stated that the foreman was in possession of the secret process which had only been discovered after much research. The Government had just accepted a tender for the supply of a large number of torches each week, and in addition to that other large orders were on hand. Before the war Germany was sending electric torches at the rate of about a million a week. Applicant claimed that he was not only capturing enemy trade, but assisting the country in the matter of exports.

*Six months' exemption* was granted.

G. McNaughton, the well known music hall star, applied for exemption on the ground of business obligations. He had been a company commander of the Westminster V.T.C., being one of the first to join the corps at the outbreak of the war. A medical rejection certificate obtained at Swansea last month was handed in, and the Tribunal granted *exemption* for so long as the certificate held good.

Councillor Harry Mount would like it to be known that he has not at any time written to local firms regarding the position of their employees under the Military Service Acts, and has no knowledge or connection with a Mr. Mount, of Mitcham, who is doing so.

[M]



16.07.14

14 July 1916

A sitting of the Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

A firm of market gardeners, in applying for the exemption of three labourers, said out of 216 men in their employ at the commencement of the war only 39 were left. Of the others, 92 had joined the Army or Navy, and the remainder were engaged in making munitions, or in trades allied to that. No men of military age were in the employ of the firm with the exception of those who had been granted exemption by the Tribunal.

In one case the application was *refused*, and in the other two, *two months' final* was granted.

A commercial traveller, aged 36 married, with two children, and in receipt of about £250 a year, applied for exemption. There was no possibility of the firm making good any loss of salary. He held a certificate for sedentary occupation. *Six months' exemption*.

In support of his application, a music hall manager said his speciality was revues, and was now running one in the North of England, entitled "Somebody's Looking." He was anxious to have his appeal settled so that he could proceed with his business arrangements. Last week he lost about £100 owing to the amusement tax. People who used to pay a shilling for admission would not pay 1s. 2d., but had a sixpenny seat instead. He had endeavoured to get examined by the medical board at Kingston, but up to the present no appointment had been made by the authorities. He really didn't like going into the country in case he was landed in the nearest police station.

The Military Representative: How much do you earn?

—About £7 a week, but it all depends on the locality and the conditions under which the show is shown. Most of his life had been spent in the tropics, and in consequence his health had suffered considerably.

*One month's exemption* on condition that appellant appears before the Medical Board in the meantime.

[M]

An Eastfields market gardener who claimed that his business was for the nation's good, said he had 31 acres under cultivation and almost 17 of them were devoted to vegetables. *Six months*.

A sturdy-looking young married coal heaver with a remarkable forelock of hair, applied for exemption on domestic grounds, and his employer supported his application for the reason that he was the only man in his employ capable of carrying a two hundredweight sack of coal.

*Disallowed*.

At the conclusion Alderman Chart informed the members that the work of the Tribunal was closer in hand than that of many neighbouring Tribunals.

Members: Hear, hear.

[H]

16.07.28

28 July 1916

A meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

The Clerk reported that 17 appeals had been lodged after the statutory date. In those cases where sufficient reason was given for not having lodged the appeal in time the Tribunal decided to hear them. One appellant, 40 years of age, said it was only when his brother was looking through the family Bible that it was discovered he was 12 months younger than he thought he was.

Permission to appeal was *allowed*.

A commercial traveller, passed for sedentary occupation, thought that as a quarter-master sergeant in the Artists' Rifle Volunteer corps, in which capacity he drilled recruits of all sorts, he was performing work of great national utility than he could do by being called up and made a storekeeper.

Permission to appeal was *refused*.

Permission to appeal was *refused* to a conscientious objector, who included in his reasons "heavy lifting at church," appellant being in part-time employment of the Vicar of Christ Church.

A purveyor of home-cooked meat, and general butcher applied through his solicitor for a further period of exemption. It was stated in support of the appeal that cooked meats were largely purchased by munition makers, who would suffer considerable inconvenience if the business was closed down. The man had been owner of the business since April, 1913, and was paying his father the purchase money out of the profits.

The Chairman said the Tribunal granted exemption on the last occasion because it was felt that the father's business was so close that he might easily arrange to carry on the son's.

Mr. Moore said that would be impossible as the father had two other businesses to conduct.

*Three months' exemption on condition that appellant joined the Volunteers.*

Mr. Philip W. Butcher (solicitor) applied for the further exemption of a dairyman at Tooting Junction, the application being based on domestic and business grounds. He said there was no doubt that the business was one of national importance, and he did hope that when he saw his client that evening he would have told him he was selling milk at 5*d.* per quart, but he was informed that a contract bound him not to sell it under 6*d.*

The Military Representative (Dr. T. Cato Worsfold): You are under a bond to keep it at 6*d.*?

Appellant: Yes, until the end of September.

*Appeal dismissed.*

The military authorities asked the Tribunal to cancel the certificate granted to a colour striker, a single man, aged 34 years, on the ground that not being a married man he was not exempt under the certified trades.

The Chairman: We granted the certificate because we thought the work was of national importance.

The representative of the firm said he took exception to the form of the military appeal, as the original appeal was not lodged on the ground alleged.

The Clerk said there was nothing on the notes about the man being in a certified trade.

The previous decision of six months was *confirmed* on condition that the man joined the Volunteers.

[A]



16.08.11

11 August 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding; Dr. T. Cato Worsfold, Military Representative, and his deputy, Mr. A. E. Hayne, were present.

A music-hall manager, concerned chiefly with revues, whose case was adjourned from the last sitting in order that he might attend the Medical Board, now produced a certificate saying he was fit for work as a clerk or storeman.

*Appeal disallowed.*

A pureman and dyer in a leather factory, married, aged 35, was appealed for by his employers as indispensable. He was rejected on attesting, though since passed for class C3. There were no other man in his particular class of employment, and his work was of a highly skilled character: in addition to that he was foreman.

*Six months' exemption.*

An operating mechanic on a bread and butter machine, who had been passed for garrison duty abroad, applied on domestic grounds. He was, however, quite willing to join, up after a certain event in October.

*Three months (final).*

A married man, who was advised by the Tribunal to obtain work of national importance, said it was necessary to get a personal introduction into a munition factory as they were so full of single men. Since July 28th, when he was informed that a certain situation would not be deemed of national importance, he had not actually applied for other work.

*Application disallowed.*

A salesman employed at Harrod's applied for further exemption on the ground of domestic and financial hardship. He stated that the separation allowance was not sufficient to properly maintain his wife and family. His liabilities included mortgage interest, ground rent, taxes and insurance premiums, and an application to the Commissioner for Surrey for relief had not yet had any effect. He asked for temporary exemption in order that proper arrangements could be made to meet his liabilities.

*One month (final).*

Dr. T. Cato Worsfold applied for seven weeks' exemption of his gardener, in order that he might complete the preparation of the flower garden for the cultivation of vegetables and prune the fruit trees. There were 4½ acres of ground, and there was only a lad to assist. After the seven weeks he would manage with such casual labour as he could obtain.

Mr. A. Mizen said the application proved the foolishness of the question so often addressed by Dr. Worsfold, as Military Representative, to the effect that women could do the work.

Dr. Worsfold: I must congratulate my friend more on his imagination than his veracity. I have never sought to prove that women could do all work, and I shall if necessary endeavour to obtain some women rather than sit down and not do anything.

*Two months' exemption.*

A Colliers Wood hairdresser sought exemption. He had served twelve years in the Army, six of which had been spent in India. The whole of his savings while in the Army had been invested in the business which he had had for ten years. He had six children.

*Four months' exemption.*

A bricklayer, a widower, with six young children, was granted *four months' exemption.*

A dairyman appealed for exemption as the proprietor of a one man business. Questioned as to the price of his milk he said he sold it at both prices—5d. and 6d. Shop customers were supplied at 5d. and 6d. was charged for delivery.

Dr. Worsfold: You are not under a bond to keep the price up?

—No.

A young man named Zuizer applied for exemption as he had just taken up a partnership in a pork butcher's business. He said when he went to attest in February he was told he was an alien, and the matter was not proceeded with. He had no desire to shirk his duty, but having been refused attestation he took over the liability mentioned.

The Military Representative: What is your nationality?

—I am British, and was born here.

—And are your parents German?

—Yes, worse luck.

*Appeal dismissed.*

At the Mitcham Tribunal a local trade union secretary employed at a munitions factory in London applied for exemption. He said he was 40 years of age, and explained that he was late in lodging his appeal owing to the fact that he had hitherto been a badged man. His badge had just been taken away.

The Military Representative: Why was your badge withdrawn?

Appellant replied that the only explanation was to be found in a letter (produced) from the Ministry of Munitions, which stated that the war service badge was withdrawn on the recommendation of an inspector of munitions.

The Chairman: I suppose the work was not up to the standard?

Applicant: But why unbadge a man like me? I am not a man who ran to munition work, but have been at it for a number of years, whereas a lot of single young men—drapers' assistants, grocers' assistants, butchers' assistants—rushed to the factories. This firm employs about 3,000 men, 500 about my own age have been unbadged, while at least 1,500 single young men have been allowed to retain their badges.



The Military Representative: Is not the whole thing due to some friction between the Government and the firm over the question of female labour?

Applicant: Well, a man of my own age went to the Battersea Town Hall to find out why he was unbadged, and the clerk in charge said this particular firm had approved the introduction of female labour, and the Ministry of Munitions had decided to penalise them by unbadging 500 men, irrespective of whether they were good workmen or not. At the same time it had been decided to unbadge only 1,500 men at Woolwich Arsenal, where about ten times more men were employed.

The Military Representative: I have had most careful inquiries made, and I must say that the number of single young men employed by this firm is a public scandal.

A letter was read from the firm saying they would be glad to retain the services of appellant in the event of exemption being granted.

Mr. Watson: The firm does not seem out of sympathy with the man or the man with the firm.

The Tribunal granted *one month's final exemption*.

[A]



16.08.18

18 August 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

A manager of a boot and shoe shop who in June was granted three months' final exemption asked to have the certificate varied by the deletion of the word "final" as since he had been before the Tribunal he had been passed by the Medical Board for sedentary work only and his wife was much worse.

The Chairman said the Tribunal *could not re-open the case* and advised the man to apply to the Croydon Appeal Tribunal.

Messrs. Hall & Co. applied for the exemption of two coal carmen who engaged in work described as of national importance. It was impossible to replace this class of labour or get men over military age.

*Six months' exemption.*

A foreman employed by Jernoid & Co. was appealed for by his firm. He was the only man employed, all the other men having joined up, their places having been filled by about 45 women.

*Two months' exemption.*

A local butcher applied for a further period of exemption of his slaughterman, who was a single young man.

The Chairman said the exemption was given on the last occasion to enable the employer to obtain other assistance.

Applicant replied that it is impossible to do so.

*Four months' exemption.*

A married man, aged 41 next November, with four children under 8 years of age, employed by an export firm of Tooley-street, applied, on domestic grounds, and his claim was *disallowed*.

A commercial traveller, aged 40, who was passed by Medical Board for home service, applied for exemption on account of his wife's health.

*Disallowed.*

An unbadged married Arsenal worker, with a mortgage of £200 on his house, applied for exemption on the ground of financial hardship. Before the war he was a ship's steward, with an income of about £250 a year. Although unbadged he was still employed at the Arsenal. Replying to the chairman, he said he believed that his badge was taken away because he entered the employ of the Arsenal one month after the national registration.

*Disallowed.*

The head of a wheelwright and engineering business appealed for exemption of his manager. The man was allowed exemption when appealed for under other circumstances, but the certificate was withdrawn as a result of an appeal by the Military Representative.

The trade being a certified one, the tribunal granted *six months' exemption*.

Mr. E. L. Humphreys, solicitor, applied for the exemption of a butcher's manager, who had an invalid wife, suffering from a weak heart and a daughter who was also under the doctor. A medical certificate was put in to the effect that the calling up of the man might have a most serious effect on the wife. Three men had gone from the shop.

*Two months' final.*

A firm of varnish manufacturers applied for the exemption of their head colour grinder. A representative of the firm said he understood the man was over age otherwise the appeal would have been entered before. The man said he was the youngest of 16 and he went to Rotherhithe where he was born to ascertain his age but they had no recollection of him, and sent him on to the next parish. He found the registration record of the other members of the family, but "I'm not in it." (Laughter.)

The deputy clerk (Mr. White) said the man attested and gave his age as 41 years, but the papers were afterwards sent back as he was over age, and he was asked to return the 2s. 9d. Now he had received a form calling him up.

The man said he took his age from his marriage lines which were generally pretty true.

Mr. Watson: You may have been wrong then?

—Well, you know what young men are. (Laughter.)

*Six months' exemption.*

A greengrocer, coal merchant, carter, etc., in business for himself in the neighbourhood of Tooting Junction, applied for further exemption. He said since his last appeal his wife had "developed flat foot and that he had seven children."

*Four months.*

[M]



16.08.25

25 August 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

Mr. J. D. Drewett referred to a condition of exemption imposed by the Tribunal in some cases to the effect that appellants must join the Volunteers. He would like to say that the action of the Tribunal had worked out satisfactorily, the men having shown a willingness to carry out the duties to the best of their ability. It would be a good thing for the Tribunal to continue making the condition to exemption in suitable cases.

The Chairman was pleased to know that the action of the Tribunal had had such a satisfactory result.

The manager of Blume's varnish factory was appealed for by the controller appointed by the Board of Trade under the Trading with the Enemy Act. In support of the appeal, which was for an extension of the period of exemption till the end of September, it was stated that the controller was working the business up to sell it as a going concern. It would be sold at the end of September, and it would be most essential that the man's services should be retained till then.

*Application granted.*

A market gardener, in applying for the exemption of his son, said his assistance was necessary owing to his eyesight failing. It had not been possible to get other labour, and if the son went the business would have to be given up.

*Two months' final.*

The Clerk to the Holborn Union applied for the exemption of the master of the Holborn Institution, Western-road. He mentioned that the building had been offered by the Guardians to the Army Council as a hospital, and accepted, and the master would be retained and would be an acting quarter-master. He would be a soldier in every sense of the word, with the exception that he would not wear uniform. Preparations had been made for the reception of soldiers and 100 were expected daily.

*Six months' exemption* was granted on condition of his being engaged in the hospital work.

A farm labourer, who appeared to be considerably over military age but who said he was 40 and somewhat deaf, was given *three months' exemption*.

Mr. J. W. Moore (solicitor) applied for the extension of the exemption of a young market gardener and carter in business on his own account at Commonsides East, chiefly on the ground that he was engaged in the transport of green food for important companies on Government work. He owned two horses and four vans, and was carting green fodder for at least 100 firms. He was executor and successor to his father's business.

*Two months, final.*

A dairyman with two cows and 28 pigs applied for exemption on the ground that he would have to close down his business if he joined the Army. In reply to the Chairman he stated that at he had about 900 customers.

The Deputy Military Representative: 900 with two cows?

Applicant explained that he bought about 48 gallons a day and had three boys doing barrow rounds.

*Three months' exemption.*

[A]



16.09.01

01 September 1916

Thirteen applications were on the agenda for consideration, at the sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal on Wednesday evening. One applicant failed to appear, and another wrote withdrawing his claim. Mr. Farewell Jones presided.

Mr. A. Mizen mentioned that he had been asked by the Board of Agriculture to be their representative on the County Appeal Tribunal, and he desired to know whether his acceptance of that position would disqualify him from sitting as a member of the local Tribunal. The Clerk (Mr. R. M. Chart) replied that he did not think so.

A professor of music, engaged in the orchestra at the Gaiety Theatre, London, applied for total exemption on personal grounds. He gave his age as 28, and said he had a wife and child dependent on him. There was a mortgage on his house, and if called up for service he would be without means to pay the money. If he could be utilised for home service between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day he offered himself unconditionally to the Government, and this would enable him to meet his financial obligations. In order that he might be enabled to hold his present position it was necessary for him to retain to the full his musical ability, and the slightest accident to his fingers, arms or hearing would put an end to his career as a member of a theatre orchestra. If he could release a single man by serving in the way he had suggested he would be doing a service to his country, and at the same time be able to meet his obligations. He earned about £5 a week from his theatrical engagement.

Replying to the Military Representative, applicant said that the agreement regarding the house was signed in July last year.

—You knew the liability pending when you took over this mortgage?

—Not exactly. I saw this house some time before, and settled on it because I had previously lived in a flat. Referring to his abilities as a musician, applicant said he studied the double bass for 13 years, and then won a four years' scholarship. He had never taken up any other means of gaining a livelihood.

The Military Representative: How is the double bass of service to the nation?

—I don't claim that, but I might work for the Government.

It being impossible to recommend applicant for any particular employment, the Tribunal gave him *a month's extension*. Appeal decision: *to see the Recruiting Officer*.

A commercial traveller to a firm of hairdressers' sundriesmen, residing at Colliers Wood, who gave his age as 26, asked for extension until the end of August. He did so on domestic grounds. Ten years ago he was discharged as medically unfit from the band of the Grenadier Guards, and had four times since tried to enlist, but had been told that he was unfit on account of eye and teeth trouble. He was married and had one child, and also allowed his mother a few shillings a week. There were eight other travellers on the firm.

The Military Representative: Ten years ago you were perhaps a delicate lad; now you might be a strong young man. *Disallowed*.

*An extension of a month* was given to a baker's roundsman, of Colliers Wood. He is a single man, 27 years of age, and the only son and sole support of a widowed mother. He also maintains an invalid sister. He told the Tribunal that if he was called up his mother and sister would be rendered homeless. His father was paralysed before he died nine years ago.

A grocer and provision seller, 25 years of age, carrying on business in London-road, Mitcham, claimed exemption on the ground that he was engaged in a certified occupation. He had a wife and child to support, and held the shop premises on a lease of twenty-one years.

Replying to the Military Representative, applicant admitted that the shop was in his father-in-law's name, but he was responsible under the lease. There was no question of partnership, his father-in-law being paid a wage.

*A month's extension was granted.*

*Three months' extension* was given a Colliers Wood upholsterer and carpet planner, aged 36, who has three young children and a delicate wife dependent on him. His financial position was such that he could not afford to have anyone with his wife, and applicant desired only to be put back until she got strong again.

The Military Representative suggested, for the consideration of the Tribunal, that in cases where provisional exemption was granted it might be stipulated that an applicant should go through a course of qualifying drill with the Volunteer Training Corps or the Town Guard, so that when his period of exemption was up he would be ready for the Army.

Dr. Love thought the Tribunal had no power to make such a stipulation.

"Some of us might not be impressed with the Town Guard," observed a member, "and how can we ask a man to do a thing which we would not, perhaps, do ourselves?"

Dr. Love: How can you impose conditions when you have no power to impose penalties for not complying with the conditions?

The Clerk: If an applicant does not comply with the conditions on which his certificate is granted, the certificate becomes void. I very much question whether such a condition as mentioned by the Military Representative would be a lawful one.

The Military Representative said he put forward the suggestion generally, as the principle had already been adopted by some Tribunals.

On the application of his employer, a market gardener, aged 28, was granted *six months' exemption*, conditional on him remaining in the same occupation.

A dairy manager, of the Parade, Upper Mitcham, aged 32, married, applied for total exemption, he claiming to be engaged in a certified trade.

*Disallowed.*

*Three months' extension* was given to a colour matcher to a firm of varnish manufacturers on the ground that he was the sole support of his parents, both invalids, and a young sister.

A munition worker, with a wife and four children, asked for temporary exemption. His wife, he said, suffered from neuritis, and two of his children were subject to fits. The war had played upon his wife's nerves, and he desired extension to enable her to get strong to bear the strain of his going away. He had been working on munitions for three months, and was previously engaged in making sun helmets for soldiers at the Dardanelles.

*Two months' exemption.*

"It is very easy for us to talk of disposing of other people's children and wives on their relatives," commented a member, when it was suggested that the claim of a commercial clerk, recently married, should be disallowed, because there was no hardship "as the wife could go back to her mother".

Applicant had three brothers serving, and he was given *two months*.

The Mitcham Urban Council made application, through the Chairman (Mr. E. J. Mizen) a member of the Tribunal, for the exemption of a wheelwright and motor repairer, aged 35, who acted as driver of the Council motor fire engine.

The Clerk: There are a good many members of the Council on the Tribunal. The question is whether they are entitled to sit.

The Military Representative: Certainly the members of the Council cannot sit.

The Clerk: There are nine members of the Council here.

The Military Representative: I move that they be not heard. (Laughter.)

The Chairman of the Council, supporting the application, said he did not know what they would do without the driver.

The Military Representative: If a man is solely engaged in a fire brigade or salvage corps he might be exempt, but if indispensability is claimed here I must call for the declaration of the Chief Officer.

The Clerk: He is practically a voluntary officer.

The Military Representative: Then I take it he is not applying now on the ground that he is in a certified occupation?

The Driver: I am applying as driver of the motor fire engine. It is only a voluntary brigade.

The Chairman of the Council: The application is made for exemption on the ground that it is in the public interest.

*Three months' conditional exemption was granted.*

[A]



16.09.15

16 September 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry hall on Wednesday, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding.

A foreman packer, employed by a firm of cigarette manufacturers who sent about 9½ tons of cigarettes a week to the troops at the front and in the hospitals, applied for further exemption. A solicitor, in support of the application said the chief engineer had joined up and the firm would be placed in a most awkward position.

The Chairman said the man was appealing, not the firm.

The solicitor said the man entered the original appeal, and it was considered that the proper course to follow was for him to re-appeal. He produced a War Office contract for the supply of cigarettes, and that showed the firm was supporting the application.

*Disallowed.*

A further period of exemption was asked for by a Tooting builder's foreman. He had two brothers in the Army and was the only male relative left to help to support his father and mother. Applicant added that he kept a number of homing pigeons which were being used by the military.

*Claim disallowed.*

Having suffered from gastritis for four and a half years and considering himself quite unfit for military service, a brewer's traveller applied for exemption and was granted *one month*.

A Bath-road pig breeder and dealer in seeking a renewal of his exemption certificate, said he had 50 pigs, seven sows in pig, and a mare in foal, and could not dispose of his business while such a state of things existed.

*Two months.*

Another man of similar occupation, who had six children, said he had the sole care of 200 pigs for his father, and boiled down fat which was used in the manufacture of high explosives. He had five breeding sows which were styed and kept for him by his father.

*Three months' exemption.*

A younger brother, in the same line, was represented by Mr. Philip W. Butcher, solicitor, who said the man was employed by his father as a collector in town. Appellant was also a refuse contractor to military hospitals, disagreeable but very necessary work.

*Dismissed.*

[A]

A horse and cattle slaughterman and his leading workman were granted *four months' exemption each*, chiefly on the ground of the humane character of the work. It was stated that the man was called out at all time of the day and night to slaughter horses injured in street accidents. The employer's exemption was conditional on his joining the Volunteers.

Stephen Taylor, employed by Mr. T. Francis as a shop assistant, who was granted a certificate by the Surrey Appeal Tribunal as a bona-fide conscientious objector was appealed for by Mr. T. Francis, jun., as practically indispensable to the business. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal, it was stated, was deferred until the local decision was come to.

A proposition that three months' exemption be granted was defeated, and the claim was *disallowed*.

A painter, who was stated to be without the use of one of his arms, appealed for exemption. It appeared that some time ago he met with an accident, and at Croydon Hospital was fitted with a screw in his arm. Dr. Love said he could not see what use the man could be to the Military Authorities. There had been a law-suit over the incident and the case was won for the man chiefly by the production of the X-ray plate in Court.

*A month's adjournment* was granted for the opinion of the Kingston Medical Board.

[H]



16.09.22

22 September 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. Chairman: Mr. G. Farewell Jones; Military Representative, Dr. T. Cato Worsfold.

A man employed in the collection of house refuse was appealed for by a firm of contractors. He had served 12 years in the Army and was wounded in the South African War.

*Three months.*

A gravedigger, aged 40, applied on the grounds, his wife suffering from epileptic fits. Until recently he was engaged on war work at Alton Heath, but owing to the death of his mother-in-law, who looked after his wife, he had to throw that up. His reason for being late in his appeal was that he was mistaken in his age.

*Three months.*

A munition worker, aged 18 last October, in support of his application, said he was suffering from tuberculosis. The mother said her six other sons were in the Army.

The Military Representative: That is very greatly to your credit.

The Mother: I am sorry this one is not fit to go, as he would like to do his duty as well as the rest.

*Adjourned* for the production of the medical certificate.

A firm of varnish makers applied for their foreman packer, aged 28, married, with three children, receiving 32s. 6d. a week. As practically the whole of their varnish was required for war work, it was very essential that there should be someone who could dispatch the goods properly.

The Chairman: He is a very young man.

Application *dismissed*.

A 'bus conductor, in applying for exemption, said he was 39 years of age, had four young children dependent upon him, his wife had left him, and he was the main support of his mother, aged 72, who was paralysed, and his father, who was nearly blind.

The father appealed for lenient treatment, saying his eldest son, who had three sons at the front, had been recently discharged from the Army and admitted to Guy's Hospital. He and his wife only had their old age pension, and if applicant went there would be nothing between them and the Workhouse.

*Four months.*

The Mitcham Urban District applied for the conditional exemption of Mr. C. H. Parslow, aged 23, single, the accountant. It was stated that the Clerk to the Council was serving with the Army, and the Acting Clerk was very much under-staffed. It was now very difficult to obtain anyone with technical knowledge, and Mr. Parslow was the only man in the office capable of doing the work. Municipal accounts were very complicated.

The Military Representative: How many books have you to look after?

Mr. Parslow: There so many I could hardly say off-hand.

The Clerk: They are considerably over 100.

Mr. Parslow said he had been medically examined and had been grouped in Class B1.

*Six months.*

[A]



16.10.06

06 October 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. Chairman: Mr. G. Farewell Jones; Military Representative: Mr. A. E. Hayne.

A Colliers Wood Greengrocer with three brothers in the Army, the family of one of whom he was looking after, applied for a renewal of exemption. He was married and had one child. The business was mainly done with a horse and van.

*Dismissed.*

*Four months' exemption* was granted to the ploughmen who were appealed for by a firm of market gardeners.

A bootmaker, repairer and leather seller, married, aged 39, who had four months' exemption in May, applied for total exemption on the ground that he was in a certified occupation and that to be called to the colours would mean total ruin.

*Four months.*

A solicitor supported the appeal of a young man on the ground of physical unfitness. He said the appellant was rejected six times at Whitechapel and twice at Folkestone as medically unfit, and before being re-examined under the Military Service Act he went to a doctor who certified him to be suffering from old tuberculosis and quite unfit for military service. An X-ray photograph of the lungs was produced, bearing out the medical certificate, and a London specialist, since consulted, gave a certificate bearing out the first doctor's diagnosis. On presenting himself to the Medical Board at Kingston, he was, after a few minutes' examination by one doctor, passed for general service. The papers had been sent to the War Office and, doubtless, the result would be that the man would be sent to the Medical Board.

In reply to the Chairman, appellant said he had not yet received his classification card, but was given to understand that he was passed for general service.

*Adjourned for one month* for examination by the Medical Appeal Board.

A medically rejected man who, a few days ago, was re-examined and passed for home service, said he had received his papers calling upon him to report on October 21st.

Mr. Mount said the military authorities were sending out those papers broadcast. The other day a policeman came for his son who had been with his regiment in Cornwall for five months; while in another case he went for a man and found he had a wooden leg. The papers were not worth considering.

The Military Representative: It does not do to disregard them, though.

Applicant said he wished to withdraw his claim and go to the front. His employers, a firm of mineral water manufacturers, applied for him on the ground that he was indispensable. He was the machine minder and being the only man in that part of the factory was also employed as a carman. It was impossible for women to do the work as it was too heavy. The wages were 30s. a week.

A member of the Tribunal thought that was a very poor wage to pay a man who was indispensable.

*Claim disallowed.*

*Four months' exemption* was granted to two men, aged 35 and 26, employed in the removal of dust and house refuse. The contractor said the work was necessary for the public health. It would be unfair to the men at the front if their houses were not kept clean, and it was difficult to get men to do the work as it was not only arduous, but unpleasant.

The Rev. C. T. Lipshytz, of Gorringe Park House, appealed for his gardener and caretaker of the home for Jewish children. It was stated in support of the application that the man was engaged on account of being medically rejected, and in addition to him and his wife attending to the children, the man cultivated an acre of ground, and supplied the home and another home in Trinity-road, Upper Tooting, with vegetables. He had been passed by the Medical Board in class C2. If the Tribunal thought he should join the Special Constables or the Volunteers every facility would be given him to perform the duties. He suffered from double rupture and varicose veins.

*Appeal dismissed.*

Messrs. G. Hadfield and Co., varnish makers, applied for the exemption of eight men. Mr. Hadfield said the appeals were on behalf of men formerly employed by Blume, a German firm, wound up by the Board of Trade under the Trading with the Enemy Act. Messrs. Hadfield purchased the business because they wished for increased facilities to carry on their work, 80 per cent of which was connected with the war. They had been obliged to refuse important contracts owing to their inability to execute the orders, but with the new premises they would be able to deal with them. At the same time they would be capturing trade hitherto held by Germans. It would be rather hard for the Board of Trade to sell them a business and then have the men taken away.

*Varying terms of exemption* were granted to four men. The claims in respect of three were *disallowed*, and the eighth man was on a technical point *referred to Croydon*.

A man well known in public life applied for exemption on medical grounds. He said he was permanently rejected under the Derby scheme owing to goitre, and was so confident that he would be rejected by the Kingston Medical Board that he took no documentary evidence of his complaint, though he did tell the examining doctor, who just felt his throat and in less than two minutes passed him for general service.

Dr. Love (a member of the Tribunal) said he could not understand how any doctor, military or otherwise, could pass a man suffering from such a complaint, which was much more serious than many people imagined. For the Medical Board to pass such a man was to court disaster, as after very little exercise he would break down and be put in hospital. It was not a question of opinion, but a fact as true as he was standing there. It was evident the examination of the attested man must have been very cursory. One heard of the frequent recurrence of similar cases, and one's confidence was shaken in the all round thoroughness of the medical examination.

The Chairman said it was essentially a *case for the Medical Appeal Board*.

[A]

16.10.13

13 October 1916

Held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. Chairman: Mr. G. Farewell Jones; Military Representative: Dr. T. Cato Worsfold.

Conditional exemption was applied for by the Mitcham Margarine Co. for their chief ledger clerk, a single man, aged 22 years, who had been certified as fit for labour duty at home. Mr. Horsfall, secretary to the company, said the man was the only one of military age in their employ, and he would not have been appealed for but for his medical classification. Great difficulty had been experienced in obtaining labour for the manufacture of margarine, which was a certified trade. It was contended that the man was doing work of vital importance to the country.

*Four months' exemption.*

The son of a local contractor, rejected on attestation, applied for exemption, the father stating that he was engaged in important carting work and had 15 carmen and 20 horses to look after, in addition to a number of pigs and other live stock.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. A. J. Husband, managing director of the Cock Chimney Varnish Co., applied for exemption. His solicitor stated that appellant was not only the head of the firm, but was the chemist, foreman, process maker, in fact he was everything. (Laughter.) This was practically a one man business, formerly belonging to Germans, and wound up by order of the Board of Trade. The whole of the capital was entirely English, and his client alone possessed the German secret for the manufacture of concentrated varnish. A member: He is a very versatile young fellow, isn't he?

The solicitor: Yes, a sort of Pooh Bah. (Laughter.)

Applicant, replying to the Military Representative, said 75 per cent. of the concentrated varnish was used for Admiralty purposes.

The solicitor said it was a good example of capturing German trade.

*Appeal dismissed.*

Mr. Joseph Wilson, of the Gorringe Park Estate, appealed through his solicitor, for the exemption of the only man of military age left in his employ. He was married, with three children, and 32 years of age. It was stated that there were over 1,000 houses to be kept in repair, and only 9 men were left out of a pre-war staff of about 40. The man for whom appeal was made was the foreman, and he was the only one possessing a general knowledge of building work.

*Two months' exemption.*

Messrs. Robin & Co., gas mantle makers, applied for the exemption of a gas engineer and fitter, aged 41 years. He was an experienced man with Crossley gas engines, of which the firm had three and were regularly employed on Government work.

Replying to the Military Representative, the man said he would have great difficulty in drilling with the volunteers as he was often at work till late in the evening, and on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

*Three months' exemption.*

Financial losses suffered owing to military restriction placed upon a music hall artiste before he had arrived at military age, was the basis of an application for a further period of exemption. In a letter to the tribunal, the mother of the lad asked for a further period in order that her son could recoup himself for some of the losses sustained through military mistakes. (Laughter.) Applicant who was eighteen years of age last February, was in South America at the time of national registration. Notwithstanding his age he was arrested as an absentee and kept in custody all night, with the result that when he went down to the West of England he found his place had been taken by someone else. Consequently upon the mistakes of the military authorities, which included two wrongful arrests in addition to the occasion mentioned above, he had only been able to obtain three weeks' engagements during the past seven months. The present time was most suitable for making up some of the losses.

*Four months' further exemption.*

[M]





16.10.20

20 October 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. Chairman: Mr. G. Farewell Jones. Military Representative: Dr. T. Cato Worsfold.

Messrs. J. T. Robin & Co., Ltd., incandescent gas mantle makers, applied for their box maker, an expert who was previously rejected, and now passed for labour at home. He was 34 years of age, and married.

The Military Representative: I suppose the girls put the cardboard in at one end of the machine, and they come out boxes at the other end?

—Well, no, the machines are not quite so perfect.

It was explained that the man had to set the machines, and exercise general supervision over the work. There was not another man employed by the firm who could do his work. The last time he was away ill there were arrears of 20,000 mantles.

Exemption was also sought for one married man, aged 27 years, employed as a warehouseman and storekeeper. He was passed for labour at home.

Both appeals were *disallowed*.

The proprietor of an ironmongery and oil business asked for a renewal of his exemption on business grounds. He said to join the Army would mean financial benefit to a competing firm of conscientious objectors whose sacrifice for the Army did not amount to brass farthing. He was 39 years of age, married, with two children, and a member of the Surrey V.T.C.

*Two months' exemption.*

Application was made for a badged man by his father. It was explained that the badge was granted as a result of an application by a firm who had sub-contracted war work with the father who employs the man. At the time the badge was granted the man was solely employed on war work, but now was not so wholly employed. Replying to the Chairman, the father said his son had always been employed by him, and was never in the direct employ of the firm who obtained the badge.

The case was *adjourned* for a fortnight in order that the father could apply for a badge in place of the one which the Tribunal considered irregular.

Medically examined at Kingston six weeks ago, a young married man, aged 27, who applied on domestic grounds, said he had made three applications at the Wimbledon Recruiting Office for his classification card, and had been told to wait till he received the paper calling him to the colours.

Mr. Watson thought the Tribunal ought to have the classification card, and suggested an adjournment.

The Military Representative thought the Tribunal might address itself to the facts of the appeal and leave the classification to the military authorities.

Mr. Mount did not think the Tribunal should proceed with the appeal in the absence of the classification card. If the man was passed for active service they might say "Go," but if in one of the "C" classes their decision might be modified. Hearing *adjourned* for the production of the classification card.

A young man, employed as a ledger clerk by the Port of London, asked for an order for re-examination by the Medical Appeal Board. He had been passed at Kingston for general service, although the naval authorities would not have him as a seaman owing to bad eyesight and bad teeth. He had suffered with his eyes ever since he was 12 years of age, and contended that he was not fit for general service. The examination at Kingston only lasted about two minutes. If his present medical certificate was upset he could get into the Navy as a sick-berth attendant, and that was what he wanted to do.

Mr. Davis asked applicant if it was not a fact that he did join the Army, but was reclaimed by the Port of London Authority.

Applicant said that was so, he being discharged on the application of his employers after a week's service. The Port of London Authority Military Service Committee exempted him until November. What their attitude would be after that he could not say. He wished to emphasise the fact that he was not in any way attempting to evade his duty to his country, but he felt he was not fit for general military service.

The Tribunal granted permission for appellant to be *re-examined* by the Medical Appeal Board.

[A]



16.10.27

27 October 1916

A meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr G. Farewell Jones presiding. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was present as Military Representative.

Several appellants seeking further terms of exemption still held their exemption cards which, as stated clearly on them, should be forwarded to the clerk of the Tribunal immediately on the expiry of the period of exemption. Failure to comply with this stipulation renders the holder liable to severe penalties.

The Clerk seriously warned the defaulters and said he would make an example of the next man who retained his exemption card after the specified date and prosecute him. There was no doubt that in some cases the cards were retained for the purpose of misleading, and on the man being stopped he merely pulled the card out of his pocket and was allowed to proceed without further question. If any instance of such irregularity came to his notice he would put the military authorities in possession of the facts at once. He hoped the press would convey the warning to all those who held, or were likely to hold, exemption certificates.

[M]

At the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday attention was called to an attack, appearing in a contemporary, upon the honour and integrity of the Tribunal, and it was smilingly agreed that the accusations should be treated with contempt. The Clerk thought that under the circumstances it might be well if he stated in the presence of the Press that there was an attempt to bribe a working man member of the Tribunal, Mr. Harry Mount. Those who knew Mr. Mount would not be surprised to learn that he had the strength of mind and honesty to absolutely decline to be bribed. Those, the Clerk added, were facts within his own knowledge, and it was a positive fact that no reflection whatever could possibly be cast upon Mr. Mount.

[A]

A Westfields market gardener applied for the exemption of his young married son on the ground that he was unable to find anyone with sufficient knowledge and experience to take his place. He himself was 65 years of age and failing eyesight precluded him taking much part in the business. There were about eight acres in cultivation and if his son went he would have to give up the business.

*Appeal disallowed.*

Although a grocer's assistant had no documentary evidence in support of his contention he, at the time of the Derby recruiting scheme, decided to say he was as young as he felt and accordingly attested like a true patriot. It now transpires that he is actually 43 years of age and his employer, Mr. M. Ireland, having lost three men, sought to retain his services. "God will provide, but I thought it best to lay the facts before the Tribunal," asserted the employer, and the Tribunal appreciating the unique position gave *total exemption*.

That there are more desirable places than Mitcham was the startling fact revealed by a varnish manufacturer, who, appealing for one of his employees, said he had advertised for assistants, and appealed to the Labour Exchanges, but the men would not come to Mitcham. Perhaps the Tribunal thought there was some justification for the boycott, at any rate, they set the man free *to report at Wimbledon* in due course.

[M]



16.11.17

17 November 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Mr. Hayne was the Military Representative.

A single young man, aged 19 years, applied on the grounds of ill health, he being under treatment at the Surrey County Dispensary for tuberculosis. He left Paris last May to join the R.F.A. but was rejected and passed for field service at home.

The mother, who attended, said she had six sons in the Army. The former employers had promised him light work.

*Disallowed.*

A clerk in a wholesale drapery establishment, passed for general service, applied for a further term of exemption on domestic grounds, his wife being in very bad health. He was making himself fit as a member of the S.[?]T.C.

*Disallowed.*

Application was made for a further term of exemption of a butcher's manager, aged 19, and single, who was the only son left to support a widowed mother, partly crippled. Her health had been greatly affected by the death of a son at the front, another one was in the trenches, and a third was expecting to proceed to France every day.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

While the Tribunal was sitting in private arriving at a decision in cases already heard, a young lady entered the hall and approached the table.

The Chairman—We are sitting in private now.

The young lady smilingly assured the Tribunal that she had not come to get anyone off. "I want to ask why someone is not taken."

"Ah, I'm afraid we have nothing to do with that," replied the Chairman.

"Well, he's been called up, and hasn't joined. I've lost my husband that was to be, and my sister has lost her husband. It isn't right, is it?"

The Chairman, sympathetic but noncommittal, advised representation being made to Captain Wyatt at Wimbledon.

"Ah! I know Captain Wyatt. Good night, thank you," said the lady, who then retired with more smiles suggestive of satisfaction at having done just a little bit towards roping in a shirker.

An engineering firm applied for several men, five of whom were classed in C2 and C3. Temporary exemption was granted a month ago to enable the employer to obtain badges which had not been forthcoming although application had been made to the Ministry of Munitions. One of the men, a C3 man, was employed as a clerk, and the employer thought the Government might just as well use women who were so adaptable.

The Military Representative—I suppose you find him a good clerk?

The employer—Oh, yes.

The Military Representative—He is just the sort of clerk who would be useful to the Government. The Tribunal, considering that if the Government required the men to be employed on specific work the Minister of Munitions should badge them, decided to *disallow the claims*. A farm labourer, aged 41 last April, but who appeared several years older, was given *three months' exemption*.

[A]



16.12.01

01 December 1916

A meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr G. Farewell Jones presiding. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

A firm of market gardeners applied for the exemption of three men. The employer referred to the clause in the new regulations which laid down that men in certified occupations were entitled, without further question, to a certificate of exemption, providing the Tribunal agreed that such occupation was reserved, and that the Military Representative did not claim that the man's retention was non-essential.

The Military Representative agreed that two men should be exempted, but claimed the third, aged 25 years, for military service.

*Six months' conditional exemption for each.*

A window cleaner, of Merton Abbey, applied for a further term of exemption on domestic grounds. He had a wife who was too ill to look after the three whom he had placed in a home, contributing weekly to their support. He was deaf and suffered from noises in the head.

*Appeal disallowed.*

"Have you any women in your employment?" asked the Chairman of a market gardener applying for the exemption of some of his men. "Yes, I used to have eight, but when their husbands come home they stop away, and in no case have they returned."

When the Mitcham Margarine Factory applied for the conditional exemption of certain of their men, Mr. J. M. Leather (a member of the Tribunal) asked whether, in the event of a man granted exemption on condition that he remained in his present occupation, he had to remain with the employer who appealed for him.

The Clerk: No, that is not so. He must remain in the same occupation, but not necessarily with the firm that appealed for him.

Mr. Leather said the general impression was that when a firm obtained exemption for a man they had a claim on him and the exemption fell through if he left.

The Clerk: That is quite a misunderstanding.

[M]



16.12.15

15 December 1916

A sitting of this Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Mr. A. E. Hayne was the Military Representative.

A commercial traveller, in applying for exemption, said he was a Special Constable and was second-in-command of a Boys' Life Brigade Company comprising 220 boys. He considered this work was important, as he was training those boys, spiritually, morally and physically. He was *passed for general service*.

Messrs. Hancock & Corfield appealed for a married man engaged on munition work, but no representative appeared on behalf of the firm to support the application.

A member of the Tribunal commented on this seeming lack of respect, and the man replied that his employers were engaged that afternoon on very important work.

The Member: Yes, and so are most people.

The claim was *disallowed*.

A Colliers Wood chemist applied for a renewal of exemption on business grounds, and was given *conditional exemption*.

An expert brush maker, married, aged 38 years, applied for exemption on the ground that his work was of national importance. A representative of a Government contracting firm which took a large number of brushes made by him, said it was vitally important that appellant should remain in his present employment.

*Appeal disallowed.*

A gravedigger who had six months' exemption in June applied for a further period on domestic grounds. He was 37 years of age, his wife was in rather indifferent health, and one of his six children was frequently under the doctor. His medical classification was for general service.

*Disallowed* on the understanding that his employers (the local Council) could appeal for him if his services were required.

A member: What happens if any of us die in the meantime? (Laughter.)

"I've never had a holiday," replied an applicant, who was asked by the Military Representative who took charge of the business when he was away.

A Colliers Wood dairyman, aged 39 years, who appealed as the proprietor of a one-man business, said he had 300 customers, and was keeping together a business with 200 customers belonging to his brother, who had joined up.

A single man, aged 26, appealed on medical grounds, and asked for an order for examination by the Medical Appeal Board as he contended that as a cripple he was not fit for garrison duty abroad. The examination at Kingston only lasted about half a minute.

A Member: Yes; what did the doctor do?

—Oh, he simply looked me up and down and said, "All right, you'll do."



In reply to the Military Representative, appellant said he suffered from wasting of the left leg. The Clerk did not think the Tribunal had the power, to send the man to the Medical Appeal Board, and the appeal was therefore *dismissed* in order that application might, if thought desirable, be made at Croydon.

[A]



16.12.22

22 December 1916

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Mr. A. E. Hayne acted as Military Representative for the first part of the sitting, and Dr. T. Cato Worsfold for the latter portion.

The proprietor of two shops in London-road applied for a further period of exemption on the ground of financial hardship. He had been passed for general service.

*One month.*

An applicant applying on business grounds, passed for C1, said he was told that when he went before the medical board he would be going before "mustard." Instead of that the doctor who examined him was a perfect gentleman and took about 25 minutes to conduct the examination. He must confess that he was surprised at the patience and care shown by the doctor.

The Chairman: Instead of "mustard" you found "jam".

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. Ames, solicitor, supported the application of Mr. Joseph Wilson for the conditional exemption of a builder's foreman who had the management of about 1,100 houses. Before the war there were over 40 men employed and now only nine, the man for whom application was made being the only one left of military age. The man was passed for C2.

*Three months.*

A butcher's application for his son (single) was *disallowed*, but *three months' exemption* was given to his man who is married with one child.

A market gardener, aged 39 years, who has, with his brother, a very extensive business, employing in normal times about 120 men, was granted *conditional exemption*.

A tea expert, employed at Cadby Hall, expressed himself as dissatisfied with his medical examination, saying that as soon as he took his coat off the doctor said, "Oh, you will make a fine artilleryman."

The Chairman: We had a man here just now who was very well satisfied with his treatment at Kingston.

Appellant somewhat qualified his previous statement by saying that his chest was examined, and then he was passed for B1. His feet were bad, and it would be impossible for him to tug heavy guns about.

Claim *disallowed*.

[A]

16.12.29

29 December 1916

Another sitting of the Tribunal was held on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

A window cleaner applied for a further term of exemption. He said he had no manager and cleaned the windows of about 20 houses each day.

*Disallowed.*

A grocer and general storesman, carrying on business at Colliers Wood, said the business was the sole support of his aged mother and he did not employ any assistants. Applicant, who is very deaf, was passed for general service. When he pointed out his deafness the doctor at Kingston said they would soon put that all right.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

The owner and driver of a taxi-cab, aged 39 years, married, said he purchased his cab out of his life savings and a call to the Army would mean financial ruin. He was a member of the National Motor Volunteers and every Saturday afternoon took out soldiers from the Tooting Military Hospital.

*Disallowed.*

Having carried on a cartage contractor's business for 12 years with 25 horses and vans in daily use in the metropolitan area, a Colliers Wood man thought it would be a serious hardship if he were called to the colours, and he further claimed that he was in a certified occupation.

*Disallowed.*

A master baker, married, who did the whole of the baking for two shops, which would have to be closed if the Army claimed him, asked for further exemption. He was passed for C1.

*Three months.*

A single man, aged 24, passed for B2, thought he was better employed as a departmental manager of a motor accessories factory asked for exemption. He was blind in one eye, and, having been rejected five times, his father enlisted in his stead and had been 16 months in France, only just recently rejected as medically unfit.

The claim was *disallowed*.

[M]

# 1917

17.01.05

05 January 1917

A sitting of this Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding, Dr. T. Cato Worsfold being the Military Representative.

Messrs. Harland & Sons, represented by Mr. Hart, solicitor, applied for the conditional exemption of six men, all heads of their respective departments. It was stated that these were the only original members of a pre-war staff of 86, and if either of them had a serious illness the output of the factory would cease. Two were classed for general service and these were *sent to the army*, two were given *six months' exemption* and the other two *conditional exemption*.

A greengrocer and fruiterer (age 40, category C2) applied for further exemption. He had been in business 20 years and was now entirely working it by himself.

*Six months' exemption.*

A Tooting Junction greengrocer, represented by Mr. Phillip Butcher, asked for total exemption. He had been in business in the district for 15 years. His wife was in a delicate state of health and could not render any assistance.

*Six months' exemption.*

A single young man, age 28, category A, applied for exemption as a master baker and the owner of a one-man business, out of which he had to support a widowed mother and partially support a sister-in-law and family, the father having lately died after having been discharged invalided from the Army.

*Disallowed, but not to be called up till February 1st.*

The owner and driver of a motor cab applied for exemption on domestic grounds. He was married with seven children, the eldest being a boy of fifteen years.

*Three months.*

A licensed victualler applied for further exemption on business and domestic grounds. He was 36 years, of age, and passed for C2.

*Disallowed.*

A master carman and contractor, of Colliers Wood, said he had six horses in his stables daily engaged on war work, and he had a wife and six children to support. As contractor to the No. 2 Fire Brigade he had to hold himself in readiness night and day. His medical category was B1.

*Three months.*

Messrs. Camwal Ltd. applied for the further exemption of a machine minder and carman, aged 34, married with five children, as being indispensable. Correspondence was read by the Clerk showing

that the firm wished to amend their claim with the view of keeping the man long enough to train a woman to the work. The employee entered an appeal on domestic grounds.

*Disallowed, but not to be called up till February 1st, although the man had been originally rejected.*

[M]



17.01.12

12 January 1917

A meeting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided; Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was present as Military Representative.

A cowkeeper and pig breeder, married, aged 39 and residing at Mitcham, asked for further exemption. He had five acres of pasture land, which he could break up and thirty-one pigs, including seven sows in pig.

*Disallowed.*

A night foreman of tunnel construction, in receipt of wages amounting to four guineas a week, said he would sooner join the army than suffer a reduction of his wages. In addition to this surprising statement, applicant produced a card exempting him as long as he was engaged on the same job. He was employed by a railway company on Primrose Hill Tunnel and the job would last another two years. He had been previously exempted for six months. Asked why he had appealed, the man's answer was to the effect that he wanted to be on the safe side in case anything happened.

The Clerk: He desires a double barrelled exemption.

Evidence of domestic hardships was given.

The appeal was *adjourned till the exemption referred to had expired.*

A cost and wages clerk, single, classed C1 and the chief support of his widowed mother emphasised his claim for exemption on the grounds that he had eleven corns on his feet and could not do the walking necessary. Three brothers were in the Army. The firm, a Government controlled one, engaged in the making of stretchers, etc., wrote in support of the appeal saying the man had special knowledge of the business.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. Bellingham, solicitor, appealed on behalf of a peat and fuel merchant, a married man, engaged in a trade characterised as very useful at the present time. His partner was in the Army, so were two of his men and the only assistance that could be obtained was that given by the father who was 65 years of age. Efforts to find a purchaser or manager had not been successful. The present weekly turnover was about £45 and three horses were engaged. Although the price of coal had gone up the price of his fuel had not been raised, it being the same now as 14 years ago, a very important factor so far as poor people were concerned. The solicitor pointed out that the Military Representative appealed against a previous exemption and asked that it should be marked final, but they declined to do anything of the kind. His medical classification was C1.

*Disallowed.*

Messrs. T. W. Palmer & Co. applied for the exemption of eight men whom it was stated were employed on Government work of great importance and holding responsible positions in their various trades. Six of the men were passed for general service.

All the appeals were *disallowed.*

Capt. Wyatt, the recruiting officer from Wimbledon, attended the meeting and in the course of some observations made in private, congratulated the tribunal on the excellent work it had been doing. On behalf of the military authorities he must say how grateful he was for the care devoted to the work and he must add that throughout the whole of his area the duties of the tribunals had been performed in the same satisfactory manner.

[M]



17.01.19

19 January 1917

In the early days of the Mitcham Tribunal the Military Representative, like the appellants, always retired from the "presence" when the cases were being decided. The "Reps," as they are now called, went into the ante-room, the "lamps" shuffled out on to the landing, where they smoked, speculated on their chances, and occasionally stared through the glass panels of the doors at the more remarkable gestures of some of the more dramatic tribunes. But one day Dr. Worsfold, feeling perhaps like a naughty boy or a bit lonely, as I have done in the same room more than once, remained at the table, remarking that he hoped the Tribunal would not see any necessity for him to retire. They could trust him not to trespass beyond his duties. The members murmured sympathy and acquiescence and since then the "Reps" have clung to their seats. On the other hand, the claimants for exemption still throng on the landing, but now are not permitted to enjoy the spectacle of their judges in the throes of thought. A curtain is drawn before their faces.

In the King's Bench Divisional Court last week, before the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Ridley and Bray, two appellants sought to upset the decisions of the Glamorgan Appeal Tribunal on their claims for exemption, on the grounds that when the cases were decided the Military Representative was present in the room, although the appellants were called upon to retire. The Court found that there were no merits in the application, and that insufficient reason had been given for upsetting the tribunal's decision, but the Lord Chief Justice said the Court thought that when the Military Representative was allowed in the room it would be better if the appellant was also permitted to remain. The Attorney-General representing the Crown stated that he gave the direction on the previous day when the matter was discussed.

A few months ago Mr. Willis Bund, K.C., Chairman of the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions, of the County Council and of the Appeal Tribunal, referring to the practice of the Military Representative at the Bewdley local Tribunal, pointed out that he he was a party to each case, and it was certainly contrary to every rule of English procedure for one party to be present to the exclusion of the other concerned. "In administering the Act," he said, "they had to take the greatest possible care that there was no undue interference with the liberty of the subject and to see that everything was done in a fair and most impartial manner. Instead of that they saw at Bewdley a deviation from that course, and one party to the appeal was admitted while the Tribunal was considering its decisions. Such conduct was an insolent, mocking form of justice." At the Surrey Appeal Court held at Croydon the cases are adjudicated upon in front of everybody present, concerned and unconcerned, unless appellants ask for privacy, as many of them do. Then a sliding door shuts out all other claimants. But right through the hearing to the decision the appellant, the Military Representative and the Press remain.

[H]



17.01.26

26 January 1917

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held on Wednesday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. For the first part of the evening Mr. A. E. Hayne was the Military Representative, pending the arrival of Dr. T. Cato Worsfold.

Mr. Snowsill asked the Clerk whether an appeal had been lodged by a certain greengrocer in Colliers Wood, and if so, was the man's appeal going to be heard?

The Clerk replied that the appeal would not be heard, as the man had been arrested.

Mr. Snowsill: Can you arrest a man while his appeal is appending?

The Clerk: The man was arrested for falsifying his registration papers.

Mr. Watson: In what way did he do that?

The Clerk: By putting on something which was not correct. (Laughter.)

Mr. Snowsill objected to the Military interfering when an appeal was appending.

The Clerk supposed that the man had his calling-up paper.

Mr. Snowsill: He had no notice at all. I have inquired into it.

The Clerk: If a man gets a calling-up paper, and he has lodged an appeal, he comes to the office, and his calling-up paper is endorsed to the effect that the man has an appeal pending. The paper was taken to the recruiting officer, who exempted the man until the appeal was disposed of.

The Military Representative observed that the man was dealt with by a civil court, which apparently agreed with the action of the military.

Mr. A. Mizen: If it was dealt with by the civil authorities, how was it that it never came before the Croydon Bench? It must have been a military case.

Mr. Snowsill said the man went to the recruiting office to tell them he had an appeal pending, when an officer said "Yes," called up the police, and then and there arrested him. The man left his horse and cart in the Merton High-street, and it had to remain there till a stranger could be found to take it away. He called it disgraceful.

A discussion ensued as to the presence of the Military Representative during the time the Tribunal was deliberating. It was pointed out that at many Tribunals the Military Representative and the appellants remained in court while a decision was being arrived at.

The Chairman said he had received a letter from Dr. T. Cato Worsfold, the Military Representative, in which he cited a case in the High Court, where it was decided that a decision of the Glamorgan Tribunal could not be set aside because the military representative was present during the time that decision was arrived at, and the appellant was absent, it being proved that he took no part in the discussion and was only present as a matter of convenience.

Mr. Mizen moved that the Military Representative withdraw or the appellant remain.

Mr. Watson: Is there any objection to the Military Representative remaining?

The Chairman: Yes, there is during our deliberations.

The Clerk: The difficulty is you have such a large tribunal.

It was decided that the Military Representative should withdraw, while each case was being decided.

Mr. Hayne: Dr. Worsfold will raise the question, so I will not say anything.

The Chairman: We have decided it now.

When Dr. Worsfold arrived and was informed of the resolution, he exclaimed: "Well I hope you will supply me with fire and candles as I do not want to be frozen in the sanitary department. (Laughter.)

The Clerk assured him there was a nice fire in the adjourning room.

[M]

The most interesting part of the proceeding at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Farewell Jones, was the discussion of the recent practice of the Military Representative in remaining in the room during consideration of the cases. As pointed out in "Mitcham Notes" last week, two applicants for exemption recently appealed in the King's Bench Divisional Court against the adverse decision of an Appeal Court, on the ground that the Military Representative remained in the room while the cases were being decided, though they were not permitted to do so.

The Lord Chief Justice said the decision of the Court was that the cases were not prejudiced by the presence of the Military Representative, and there was no merit in the application. At the same time, the Court thought that where the Military Representative was allowed to be present, the appellant should also be permitted to remain.

Many months ago the Mitcham Military Representatives, with the consent of the Tribunal, departed from the traditional practice of the British Courts, and have since remained in the room, though the appellants have not, while the cases were being decided. It was in the light of what was said by the Lord Chief Justice and others in the cases referred to above that the question was raised at the Tribunal on Wednesday.

Mr. A. Mizen asked what objection there was to the appellant remaining in the room the whole of the time. At the Surrey Appeal Court he was allowed to do that, and so was the Military Representative.

The Chairman said they decided to allow the Military Representatives to remain simply for the sake of convenience.

Mr. Mizen referred to the remarks of the Judges of the High Court, and the Chairman said he had observed them. The Court decided that the appellants' case had not been prejudiced by the presence of the Military Representative, and therefore the appeal had no merit in it.

Mr. Mizen said the Local Government Board circular expressed the desire that the business of Tribunals should be conducted according to the practice of the courts. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. H. J. Davis moved that they adhere to their present practice.

Mr. Mizen moved an amendment that the Military Representatives retire according to their former practice.

Mr. Baker seconded, and said it was the correct thing.

Mr. Watson: Is there any objection to the appellant remaining?

The Chairman: There is while the case is being discussed.

Mr. Watson said there was no difficulty at most other Tribunals. Both sides were either excluded or admitted without distinction.

The Chairman reiterated that there was real objection to the appellant remaining while his case was being discussed.

The Clerk said the real difficulty lay in the fact that it was so large a Tribunal.

After further discussion, in which the majority of the members agreed that it was only right and proper to observe the traditional practice of the British Courts, Mr. Mizen's amendment was carried.

Mr. A. E. Hayne (Deputy Military Representative) said Dr. Worsfold, who was unable to be present until later, desired to deal with the question himself. Voices: Too late. We have decided.

There were 21 cases to be adjudicated upon and as the Tribunal resolved to decide each as soon as the evidence was concluded, the Military Representatives were kept on the trot in and out of the room most of the evening. It added to the difficulty that the meeting was unavoidably held in one of the small rooms on the ground floor, where the accommodation, especially for the Press, is very limited. For a time one of the Pressmen acted as callboy to the Military Representatives, who waited either in the corridor or the adjoining room with the appellants. When Dr. Worsfold arrived a talented member of the Tribunal thought of the office bell, and henceforward the Representatives were called back with a ring. Several times they were so comfortable or so engrossed that the bell had to be rung thrice before they responded. The doctor, when retiring for the first time, looked wistfully at the Pressmen, and expressed the hope that he would have their company to cheer his loneliness, but the hard-hearted fellows remained—in the warm.

[H]

The salesman employed by a firm of market gardeners was appealed for as indispensable. He was 38 years of age and passed for general service. There was one other salesman employed. It was necessary to have two salesmen during the rush in the morning.

The claim was *disallowed*, the military authorities being requested not to call the man up for a month.

Although rejected under the Derby scheme, a chemical labourer presented himself for re-examination, notwithstanding that he did not receive the pink form,<sup>b</sup> and was passed for general service. He appealed on domestic grounds, as his father and two elder brothers were in the Army, a younger brother had been called up and he was the only one left at home capable of looking after his mother who had frequent attacks of appendicitis, while there were four young children to be kept. Appellant asked for guidance with regard to his liability for military service in face of the fact that he did not receive a pink form, but no advice was given.

The application for exemption was *refused*.

A tailor and juvenile outfitter, aged 34, classed B1, applied for total exemption as the whole of his life's savings were invested in his business and if he joined up everything would be sacrificed. Further, the condition of his heart would preclude him undergoing military training. Notwithstanding he had advertised his business for sale without meeting with success.

*Six months' conditional exemption.*

[M]

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<sup>b</sup> Pink forms were kept by the recruiting authorities after the National Register was compiled.

17.02.09

09 February 1917

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Mr. A. E. Hayne was the Military Representative for the first part of the sitting, and Dr. T. Cato Worsfold for the latter portion. The Military Representative asked the Tribunal to review the certificates of exemption granted in respect of the undermentioned persons.

The first case for review was that of Mr. Harker, a foreman and engineer of Messrs. Camwal, Ltd. A representative of the firm said the company was formed in 1877 to supply a standard strength of waters to hospitals and chemists. They had large contracts with the Government to supply waters to military and Red Cross hospitals and for the use of munition workers. An interesting account of the firm's activities was given, showing in addition to the number of men given up as required by the military, a large bulk of German and Austrian trade was being secured. So many men of control had joined up that if this one went a factory would have to close down. Harker was competent to take up any branch of work in the factory. He had several lads under him, and was the only man of control employed at Mitcham.

The exemption was *confirmed* on the grounds that Harker as an engine man was in a certified trade, and further that it was in the national interests that he should remain in his present employment.

Mr. J. C. Fox, L.C.C. tram driver, was granted conditional exemption by the Recruiting Officer. He is 31 years of age, married with three children, and the exemption was *confirmed*.

Mr. J. Woodhead is 33 years of age, and an analytical chemist, and employed by Messrs. Harrison and Self, consulting chemists. His chief work now was concerned with drugs, chiefly opium, used in the manufacture of morphine. He was exempted by the Royal Society and by the Wimbledon Recruiting Officer.

Exemption *confirmed*.

Messrs. Lancaster had five men whose certificates of exemption were reviewed. They were all married, and four were engaged in transport work associated with the wharves and docks. The other man was a blacksmith and farrier.

All the exemptions were *confirmed*.

Mr. J. Rooney, 33 years of age, married, a foreman at the Mitcham Margarine Factory, was passed for labour at home, and the Recruiting Officer, in issuing the certificate of exemption, said so long as he was following that occupation he would be considered as working according to his medical category.

The secretary to the company said owing to the labour difficulty the output of the firm had been reduced 30 per cent., and, as they all knew, it was not advisable to do anything to further reduce the home production of food.

The certificate of exemption was *confirmed*.

Mr. Parslow thought the time of the Tribunal was being wasted by considering such cases.

Dr. Worsfold said because a certificate of exemption was granted it did not mean that it was to last for the duration of the war.

Mr. Parslow: When a man is in a certified occupation what can we do?

Dr. Worsfold: It does not follow you are bound to exempt him.

The Clerk: The question is whether the work they are doing is really essential.

Messrs. Warren and Co., the coal merchants, have a coal loader and a trolley man, each passed for general service, whom the military wish to claim. The firm's representative said it was important that neither exemption should be cancelled, as the coal trade was in such a critical state owing to the shortage of labour. He himself had been loading coal for the last two days.

Dr. Worsfold: Most of us would like some coal to load.

The representative said the trolley man sold over 40 tons of coal a week among the poor people of Tooting, and coal could not be taken out unless it was loaded. Notwithstanding the decision of the Medical Board, it was contended that both men were double ruptured, and therefore unfitted for the Army.

Exemption to *terminate in two months' time*.

Messrs. Wilsher and Co. attended to defend the exemption granted to a coal carman residing at Colliers Wood, who delivered and sold small quantities of coal in the neighbourhood of Tooting Junction.

Exemption *continued until April 1st*.

The appeal in respect of a driver of the South Metropolitan trams was formally *dismissed*, as the man had been totally rejected by the Medical Board. A similar fate was accorded the appeal in respect of a man employed in the making of electrical machinery and who held a badge from the Ministry of Munitions.

A baker named Smith, employed by the Army and Navy Stores, Ltd., was granted exemption by the Recruiting Officer. He is one of six similarly employed, whereas before the war there were 15.

The exemption was *withdrawn* on the ground that it was not essential that Smith should remain in his present employment.

Messrs. T. W. Palmer and Co., who have two blacksmiths over 70 years of age, are anxious to keep one who is their junior by 40 years as smiths are so difficult to obtain, but the Military Representative argued that as the man is passed for general service he would be more usefully employed smit(h)ing the Germans. Mr. Palmer referred to the important war work on hand, and said the Labour Exchange could not supply a man, and two forges were idle.

The Tribunal decided that the certificate should be *withdrawn on April 7th*.

The Clerk having reported that the Military Representative had lodged appeals against two exemptions, Mr. A. Mizen inquired the names and then asked why other appeals against similar

exemptions had not been made by the Military Representative. He did not understand the principle on which the Military Representative acted, adding: "There are wheels within wheels."

Mr. Hayne strongly protested to the Chairman against such a statement.

Mr. Mizen: I did not mean you.

Mr. Hayne: But I am the representative of the military and strongly protest against such imputations.

Mr. Mizen: We can all say and think what we like.

[A]



17.02.23

23 February 1917

A sitting of the Mitcham Military Tribunal was held at the Vestry Hall on Friday evening, Mr. G. Farewell Jones presiding. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative for the first part of the evening, and Mr. A. E. Hayne for the second portion.

The Clerk read a Circular from the Local Government Board, referring to the position of teachers, tutors and education officers. Those passed A, and those passed B1, and under 31 years of age, are not now exempt. They may, however, enter personal claims for exemption, but the Tribunal was requested to deal with the cases as quickly as possible, and exemption was only to be granted in cases of special hardship.

Mr. Mizen: There are only two men in the whole of the county who are affected. They will not trouble us, I know. They are about to return many men in lower categories.

That a man is not too old at 40 was suggested by the fact that a man passed for general service was stated by his mother to be 43 years of age although according to his military age he was eight years younger. The chairman said the man seemed to carry his years well. He was employed by Messrs. Lancaster & Co. as a dustman and the appeal was adjourned for a week in order that a copy of the birth certificate might be obtained from Somerset House. Three other dustmen were appealed for, the managing director urging upon the Tribunal the vital necessity of safeguarding the public health.

Mr. Leather asked if there would not be a considerable saving of time if the dustbins were placed on the kerbs.

The managing director: The difficulty is the houses are now mostly occupied by women and children, the men having gone.

Mr. Leather: There are some good women in Mitcham.

A debadged munition worker, named Wisby, passed for general service, aged 28, married, with one child, asked for a short period of exemption in order that he might be able to see a new arrival expected in April. He was classed A, and must welcome the baby in khaki.

Mr. Lavender, a potato salesman, married, with six young dependants, asked for a further period of exemption as to be called up would mean ruination to his business. He was classed C2.

The claim was *disallowed*.

A carting contractor, engaged in carting munitions to the docks, claimed exemption as being in a reserved occupation. The Tribunal decided that it would be better for the Government to arrange for carting the munitions to the docks, and that appellant should be over the water to use it on arrival.

A carter, engaged on dock work, appealed for exemption as he was in a certified occupation. His employer said at the Croydon Appeal Tribunal this month the military said an admirable substitute

had been found, but beyond a letter from Captain Jones on January 5th, asking for the amount of wages paid, etc., nothing had been heard of him.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

Conscience and physique were intermixed in an appeal lodged by Mr. Cushin, an attested man, and a commercial clerk. He claimed exemption on religious, medical, and domestic grounds. Applicant stated that he had been a Christian worker for fifteen years, and war was a denial of the Christian ideal. To work in any military capacity other than the Red Cross would be contrary to his life and teaching. When he attested at Whitehall he was passed for sedentary duties at home, but at Kingston he was classed B1. He asked to be re-examined, with the view of being passed for R.A.M.C. work.

The Military Representative suggested that it was rather inconsistent to attest and then appeal on the grounds of conscience.

Appellant: When I went to Whitehall they would not examine me unless I attested. That was just before the Derby scheme. They told me I could appeal afterwards.

Mr. Watson told appellant that the doctors would not trouble to examine him if he was going to be a soldier.

The Military Representative: What persuaded you to go for examination?

—I wished to conform with the law, and I have a wife and children to think of. Proceeding, he said the Baptist denomination to which he belonged did not oppose the War. Some Baptists took almost a Quaker's position, and some went quite in the opposite direction.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

[M]





17.03.09

09 March 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at the meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Mr. H. G. Goodman, Master of the Holborn Union Institution, Western-road, but at present Quartermaster of the Military Hospital quartered there, was appealed for by the Holborn Guardians. It was stated that Mr. Goodman was 41 years of age, and starred medically C2. He had been a Poor Law officer for eleven years, and owing to his knowledge of the institution and technical qualifications, had been appointed by the military authorities Quartermaster of the hospital. He asked for absolute exemption. Applicants were represented by the Clerk to the Guardians.

*Disallowed*, the Tribunal being of opinion that if the military want the officer they will keep him.

Mr. L. E. B. Homan, in appealing for his only gardener, a C2 man, aged 30, said he is devoting all his garden, an acre and a half, to vegetables, and any he did not require for his own needs would be at the disposal of the public. The man volunteered in 1915, and was rejected. He then married.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. J. Latham, Singlegate, asked for the exemption of his son, who was his foreman varnish maker. His business had been established in Mitcham forty years, and had increased largely lately owing to War Office contracts. He was certain if his son had to go his business in Mitcham, and the one in London, would have to be shut down. Two of his sons were in the Army, and another engaged in the works. He himself was too old to take an active part in the work.

The man, who was classed C2, and belonged to a certified trade, was given *six months*.

A birth certificate and the fact that he was an A1 man disposed of the case of a dustman employed by Lancaster & Co. At the last meeting the application was adjourned for the certificate to be produced, as there was a doubt as to his age. It now proved that the man was born in 1879.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

The proprietress of the Merton Abbey Laundry appealed for her engineer, who had sole charge of the steam engines and other machinery. He was 39 years of age and married.

Mr. Davis thought that as the man had had ten months' exemption another could have been trained to take his place.

Mr. Watson said it was a very responsible position, and the Chairman said it was a certified occupation.

*Four months.*

Messrs. T. Palmer & Co. appealed for a structural fitter's mate, who Mr. Palmer declared, would be a bad bargain for the Army. He had undergone 12 operations, and his eyes were in a very peculiar condition. The man kept excellent time in the circumstances, but the firm never knew when he would stop away through illness.

*Three months.*

Mr. J. Patterson, fishmonger, High-street, Tooting, applied for exemption for his manager, a C2 man, aged 34. There were three shops altogether, and the man was alone in his own shop, High-street, Colliers Wood.

*Three months.*

Mr. J. M. Leather appealed for one of his carmen, the only man of military age in that class of work. He was classified C2 and had seven children. Mr. Leather thought, in view of his state of health, that he was doing better service taking vegetables to market than he would do in the Army.

The Military Representative: What sort of vegetables does he take to market?

Dr. Love: Not potatoes. (Laughter.)

*Three months.*

Messrs. E. Birch & Sons, butchers, asked for exemption for the manager. Mr. Birch said his sons were in the army, and if the man was taken away they would have no alternative but to close down. The man is passed C2, and had seven children.

*Three months.*

A bread baker, living at Briscoe-road, Colliers Wood, and employed by the Army and Navy Stores, at baking bread for prisoners of war, had his case *dismissed*, but will not be called up for two months.

Mr. T. T. Clarkson, aged 27, cartage contractor and pig farmer, employed by his mother, asked for further extension. Mr. Butcher, solicitor, said he would not have advised the man, who is single, and passed for general service, to appeal, if he wasn't sure he had a good case. He had thirty pigs, and ten breedy sows of his own, and had charge of eighty men and eighty horses for his mother. In addition he had twenty horses of his own, and all were engaged in work of national importance. It was stated that when appealed for by his mother at the Appeal Tribunal, the exemption was made final.

*Two months.*

Messrs. F. & G. Mizen appealed for an agricultural labourer, aged 36, married, and classed A. Mr. George Mizen said owing to the shortage of labour it would seriously handicap them at the present time, if the man were called to the army. It is in the national interest, that he should remain where he is. As the impression is that the man would not be called up by the military authorities he was given *three months*.

Mr. Bert Dendy asked for further extension for his smith, employed on agricultural implements, and other engineering work. He was the only smith in his employ. Obeying the instructions of the Tribunal, he had joined the Volunteers, and put in the requisite number of drills. His age was 38.

*Three months.*

17.03.23

23 March 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

The certificate of exemption granted to a deformed man, aged 23, a firewood merchant, was up for review, but as a recent medical certificate was produced rejecting the man altogether, the case was *dismissed*.

Mr. Wm. Harvey, dairy farmer, was given total exemption early in 1916 on condition he remained in the same business and his brother joined the Army. The certificate now came up for review in accordance with recent instructions. Applicant said he was 25 years of age, single, and classed C2. Two brothers were out in France.

In reply to Mr. Thompson, Harvey said he milked the cows, delivered the milk, and looked after the farm generally.

*Three months.*

Mr. Henry Fowler, a Bond-road fruit grower and market gardener, appealed for his son, who was the Covent Garden salesman and manager of the nursery.

Mr. W. J. Moore, solicitor, said Mr. Fowler, senior, was 70 years of age, and hardly able to manage the whole of the business. There was another business at Carshalton.

In reply to the Military Representative, who suggested that the man could not manage at the markets as well as at the farms, Mr. Moore said he went to Covent Garden very early, and Councillor Baker said the market closed at nine. It was stated that Mr. Fowler cultivated seven acres altogether, mostly fruit under the glass.

Mr. Moore claimed that the man was in a certified occupation.

*Two months.*

Mr. Moore appeared in support of the application of a slaughterman employed by Mr. E. Birch, butcher. He said Mr. Birch had lost four sons from the business owing to joining the Colours, and was much dependent on the services of the man. He was the only slaughterman left. It was true the man was only 24, and classed A, but he was married, with a delicate wife and child, and six brothers in the Army.

Dr. Worsfold: Surely an older man could be got to do the work?

Mr. Moore: No, that's just the difficulty; men can't be got. Mr. Birch could employ one directly if he could get one. Last week a Military Representative at Croydon suggested that a horse slaughterer should do the work for several butchers, but it was quite a different business.

*Disallowed*, but not to be called for a month.

Mr. C. Sayers appealed for total exemption for his only plumber, W. A. Yexley, who had had several periods of exemption. He said that the period last granted was not sufficient in which to complete the repairs necessitated by the severe weather. Letters from local manufacturers

engaged on munition works were read, expressing the hope that the man would be granted exemption, as his services to them were most important.

In reply to Dr. Worsfold, Mr. Sayers explained that the man repaired the firm's plants, as well as the supply pipes.

*Two months.*

A forty-year-old gravedigger, employed by the Streatham Park Cemetery Company, asked for a further period of exemption. The Company wrote that having ascertained from St. Ermin's that gravediggers were now of National importance. (Laughter.) They specially asked for the man's exemption, as they had already lost half the staff.

In reply to a question, applicant said they had, on an average, about seventy funerals a week.

An affecting letter was also read from the man's wife, who said there were six children, all under 18, and she was in a delicate state of health.

*Three months.*

A star-shell pressman employed by Messrs. Pain & Sons, said he had been medically examined twice, passed for C3 the first time and C2 the second, and he was given the impression by the military authorities that he would not be wanted. On that understanding he took a piece of land, had dug it and got it seeded. He had been employed as a munition worker 14 months.

*Disallowed.*

A young man, employed by a local dairy firm, wished to go before the Appeal Medical Board. He was classed C3 at Reading in July, but at Kingston this month he was classified A, yet his eyes were very bad and his feet were crippled.

Dr. Love said one had only to see the man walk to appreciate how absurd it was to say he was fit for general service.

Counc. Thompson: If many men in the Army are like him, God help us!

A voice: You may well say so.

*Case adjourned for a medical certificate.*

Mr. Harry Atkins, a Colliers Wood plumber, aged 30, claimed temporary exemption on the ground of the extraordinary number of burst pipes to be repaired. He was attested as a plumber for the Navy, called up in February, and sent back the same day because of his poor eyesight.

The Chairman: How much time do you want?

—Four months.

Dr. Love: There are not all those burst pipes, are there? That will carry you to midsummer. Applicant produced a roll of orders for work which he said would take him four months to carry out. He had five children.

*Adjourned for a fortnight for medical examination.*

A 40-year-old labourer, in the employ of the Metropolitan Water Board, was given *three months' exemption* on domestic grounds. He stated that his wife was in an asylum and would be out in a

few days. If, when she came home, she found he had joined the Army it might affect her mind again.

Dr. Love and Counc. A. Mizen agreed.

A young man, employed by the Foster Engineering Company, Morden-road, Wimbledon, as assistant to the works manager, claimed that under a certain order he was still a badged man, though the Military claimed that he was not. He also claimed on domestic grounds, in case the Tribunal decided that his badge had been withdrawn. He explained that he was classed B1, and as B1 men in his position, it was understood, were not to be called up, he recently married, and if the Tribunal came to the conclusion that his badge was no longer valid, then he desired exemption to allow him to clear up his domestic affairs.

After a long discussion, the Tribunal decided that the man is *still badged*.

[M]



17.04.13

13 April 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal in the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening.

Mr. R. G. Freestone, a licensed victualler, aged 40, sought exemption on financial and domestic grounds. He had large premises, "The Prince of Wales Inn", and he was the only man on them.

The Chairman: Have you been examined?

—No, I have had no time.

But you are closed some part of the day?

—Yes, but I have such a lot of work to do. Appellant added that his wife was deaf.

The claim was *disallowed, with a month's notice*.

Mr. O. C. Stevenson, another licensed victualler, also sought a further period of exemption. He said he was landlord of the "Buck's Head" and was supplying 150 meals a week, mostly to munition workers. Serious hardship would ensue if he had to join the Army. He was classed C2. In reply to the Military Representative (Dr. T. Cato Worsfold), appellant said the meals were hot. He was a member of the Volunteers.

The claim was *disallowed, with a month's calling up notice*.

Mr. W. Aspland, a Colliers Wood master carman and contractor, who also supplies two horses to the No. 2 Fire Brigade, asked for further exemption. He explained that he had six horses, and was carting daily for Mr. T. Palmer and for Government contractors. In addition he had to hold himself in readiness to go with the Fire Brigade, as he was the driver. He had five children, and if he joined the Army would have to sell his business.

Messrs. Palmer wrote saying appellant was practically indispensable to them, as it was difficult to get carters.

*Three months conditional.*

Mr. E. P. Barber, a pig breeder and vegetable grower, who works for jobbing builders in his spare time, applied for exemption on the ground that he cultivated three-quarter acres of land, vegetables only, and had five breed sows in pig. He sold the pigs to local butchers, and the vegetables to tradesmen. In reply to the Chairman, appellant said he lived at the "last house in Mitcham" (at Mitcham Junction), and recently was called to repair a burst pipe, which was running water on to an invalid. (Laughter.)

—*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. C. W. H. Carlton, aged 28, married, son of the well-known market gardener, The Causeway, with whom he is in partnership, asked for further exemption. He said war was incompatible in his conception of the Christian faith. War to his mind was murder. He had stated his convictions fully on previous occasions. His business, he considered, was of national importance. He worked on the land himself and also did a round. Three acres which used to be devoted to flowers would this year be utilised for vegetables.

In reply to Dr. Worsfold appellant said he was not prepared to join the ambulance section, besides he was doing the best service on the land. He would not object to being transferred to some other agricultural work if it was necessary, although their own business was handicapped for want of labour.

*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. Joseph Wilson again appealed for his building foreman, classed C2. A solicitor said Mr. Wilson had now only eight men, whereas before the war he employed 40. In his houses at Fulham there were over 500 families, and there were many hundred more houses and tenements in Tooting and other districts. Naturally the amount of repairs necessary was considerable, and there was only the appellant and the other six men to do them. He was a very experienced man in all departments.

*Disallowed.*

Messrs. Lancaster & Co. applied for the exemption of two men on the ground of public utility. Mr. Green pointed out once more the grave importance of collecting house refuse, and said that after repeated applications to the Labour Exchange no men could be got to do the work except casuals. One man, 40 years of age, was engaged carting sludge from the Sewage Farm. More men and vans were required in the summer to cope with the danger from flies, &c.

*Three months each, conditional.*

Mr. Harry Rosier, contractor, &c., Commonside East, asked for further exemption. Mr. Cubison, supporting the appeal, said appellant had been recently engaged in carting coal to the machinery employed making compressed manure from sewage and he was regularly engaged carting for local market gardeners. He had four horses at the work, and was the only one left of three brothers in the business.

*—Disallowed, with one month's grace.*

A man, once classed C3 and recently classed A1, was given permission to apply for re-examination by the Central Medical Board, and two local doctors, one a military one, certified that he was defective in sight, and had crippled feet. One said, in addition, that the man was suffering from tuberculosis, and the other that it was bronchitis.

Dr. Love: Another example of how doctors differ and the patients die. (Laughter.)

[M]

17.04.20

20 April 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal, at the Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evening.

The first case dealt with was that of Mr. C. H. Parslow, accountant and assistant clerk to the Urban Council. It was taken in camera.

The whole of the members who are also members of the Urban Council retired. Before doing so Counc. Baker said he fully recognised that he had no right to vote, but could he remain in the room? The Chairman said he was going to retire entirely, but the members could remain as members of the public. Mr. Farewell Jones then left the room, and Mr. A. D. Watson was selected to preside during the hearing of the case.

The members of the Urban Council concerned were Councillors Jones, Drewitt, A. Mizen, Baker, J. Thompson, J. M. Leather, and E. E. Snowsill. Messrs. J. D. Drewitt, J.P., and A. Mizen, J.P., remained in the room, but took more interest in other topics, judging by their brisk conversation.

The members of the Tribunal who dealt with the case were, besides the Chairman, Messrs. G. J. Poston, J.P., J. Burke Downing, H. J. Davis, and J. Annan.

The acting Clerk to the Council (Ald. R. M. Chart, J.P.) stated the case for the Council, but made no special appeal. The Military Representative was 2nd-Lieut. A. E. Hayne.

At the last hearing, when Mr. Parslow was given six months' exemption, it was stated that he was aged 23, single, and classed B1. There were more than 100 books in the office to look after, and it was very difficult to obtain any one with technical knowledge to do his work.

*Disallowed, but not to go till May 1st.*

Messrs. T. Parsons & Sons, varnish and enamel manufacturers, Church-road, asked for the exemption of a departmental manager, aged 30, and married. A representative of the firm, said the work on which appellant was engaged required years of experience, and, with the exception of one male over age, he was the only man in that department. Before the war he supervised a staff of 14 men and boys. He was classed C2. In reply to a question it was stated that special skill was required in selecting varnishes and colours. The firm had over 10,000 customers, and were also now largely engaged on Government work. In reply to Mr. Davis, it was stated that no one had been trained as a substitute.

*Three months.*

Messrs. T. W. Palmer & Co., engineers, Singlegate, applied for a blacksmith, engaged particularly on aeroplane work. He was passed for general service. Mr. Palmer said a Government Department had sent a representative to the works, and decided that the firm could spare some fitters for other more pressing work, but he did not recommend the removal of a single smith. They were most difficult to get.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. W. Carlton, market gardener, appealed for James Excell, a skilled agriculturist, classed for general service. He said he cultivated 8½ acres altogether, and the man was the only one in his



employ capable of undertaking all sorts of work on the land. In reply to a question Mr. Carlton said he had a ½ acre of flowers.

*Three months.*

Mr. Harris, cartage contractor and smallholder, sought exemption for a carter and ploughman, aged 41 and married. He was the only carter left. It was impossible to crop his 10 acres without his assistance.

Lieut. Hayne: Did you not class this man as a carter only at the last appeal?

Mr. Harris: All my carters can plough, though I call them carters simply.

The Chairman to the man: How many children have you?

—Four, sir.

—What are their ages?

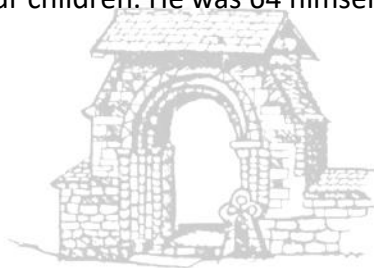
—The eldest is 14, I don't know about the others. (Laughter.)

The man, who was classed C1, was granted *three months*.

A peculiar case was that of a young grocer's porter, aged 18, the son of a Belgian named Beirons, of Heaton-road, who appealed for him as he was the sole support of the family. The father said he had been in London for 30 years and was a picture framer, but was unable to do much work as he suffered greatly from neuritis. The lad earned 20s. a week, was the mainstay of himself (the father), his invalid mother, and four children. He was 64 himself.

—*Disallowed.*

[M]



17.05.11

11 May 1917

Mr. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Mr. J. R. Mundy, laundry manager and engineer, whose case was adjourned several months ago for special medical evidence, appealed for total exemption.

Mrs. Mundy said she would have to close down her large business on Figgs Marsh if her son joined the Army. He was absolutely indispensable to her.

Applicant stated that his eyesight was very bad. He was passed into category C3. A brother was serving in the Red Cross. In reply to the Military Representative, applicant, who is aged 36 and married, said he had sole charge of the machinery, besides managing the business. His mother was partly an invalid.

*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. H. Norton, Church-road, aged 36, married, and classed B1, appealed for exemption. He stated he had nine children, all under 14. He was a boot repairer by trade and claimed on the ground that it was a certified occupation.

*Three months, conditional.*

Messrs. J. T. Robin, Ltd., gas mantle manufacturers, claimed that Wm. Brown, classed B2 and aged 41, their gas engineer and chief fitter, was doing better national service in his present employment than he could do in the Army. Mr. Robin said the firm had large orders for Government controlled factories, sanctioned by the Minister of Munitions. No other man in their employ could do applicant's work.

*Disallowed.*

The Lyxhayr Company again appealed for H. Tingley, a sub-foreman, who was said to have charge of four high-power engines and other machinery, besides controlling a number of boys. The man, married and classed B2 had had several periods of exemption.

*Three months.*

Councillor Poulson appealed for C. E. Browne, his sanitary work labourer. He stated that he had 300 tenement houses to be kept in repair and was very short-handed. The houses were on the Bygrove Estate, Colliers Wood. In reply to the chairman, Counc. Poulson said the other three men in his employ were cripples. The man, who is 41, married, classed C2, suffered from chronic bronchitis and had had rheumatic fever several times.

Dr. Worsfold: The tenements are of recent build, are they not?

Counc. Poulson: They were built in 1904, and all the sanitary arrangements were passed by Mr. R. M. Chart.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. A. E. Cubison stated the case for Joseph Plows, aged 18, and passed for general service, pawnbroker, assistant in the employ of Mr. W. J. Hyde, High-street, Mitcham. He said the lad was the only support of his widowed mother. One brother had been killed in the war and another, married, was now in France. As the lad was only just 18, and would not be used for general service until he was 19, the country would not lose anything if he was given a period of exemption, for he hardly needed all that length of training.

*Disallowed, with a month's grace.*

Wm. Tyler, greengrocer, Common Side East, was given *three months' exemption*. He declared he did a lot of carting for Messrs. Typke & King to and from the London docks, and also carted other goods for munition works. It was most difficult to get horses for the work.

In reply to the Military Representative, appellant said his wife looked after the shop. He often brought back loads of vegetables from the London markets.

W. J. Lovatt, Colliers Wood, a 29-year-old coal carman, passed for general service, asked for two months' conditional exemption. He was married and had two children, and his wife was in a delicate condition.

*Two months.*

[M]



17.05.18

18 May 1917

All the twelve appeals heard at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal in the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening were dismissed, except one, the appellant in that case being given permission to go before a special Medical Board. Three of the appellants were employed at a local munition works. Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided, and 2nd Lieut. A. E. Hayne was the Military Representative.

The Military Representative read a communication from Capt. J. Wyatt to Dr. T. Cato Worsfold respecting the men in B3 and C3 Classes. The Captain said he was instructed to recommend that the appeals of men in the classes mentioned should be dismissed and the men given leave to appeal on receiving their calling up notice.

A case of that kind was that of Henry Spicer, Colliers Wood, handyman to Counc. H. Poulson. The man, who was C3 and 41 years of age, is employed in helping to keep in repair the several hundred tenement houses owned by Mr. Poulson on the Bygrove Estate. His appeal was dismissed, and he was given *leave to appeal again* according to the terms above mentioned.

A printer's machine overseer, employed in London, asked for temporary exemption. All his male relatives, on both sides of the house, he said, were with the colours. Aged 34 and classed A, he appealed on domestic grounds, his wife being in a delicate state of health. He had been in the Volunteers some time and was now in B section.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. A. E. Jobson, a star-shell loader at Messrs. James Pain & Sons, asked for exemption on domestic grounds. He had four children and his wife was delicate. His three brothers were in the Army. On being examined recently, he was classed C1.

It was stated that appellant had had several periods of exemption, but at the last appearance the case was dismissed. It was also dismissed by the Appeal Tribunal.

Appellant stated that when he went to join up he was sent back again, owing to his state of health. The Chairman and the Military Representative said the Tribunal had no jurisdiction as the case had been dismissed by both Tribunals.

Appellant said on his last appearance he was an A man, and now he was classed C1 he thought he had the right of appeal.

*Dismissed.*

Mr. George Randall, aged 24, married, also a star-shell loader and general firework hand at Messrs. James Pain and Sons, claimed exemption on the ground that he was the chief support of his widowed mother and two sisters. He had worked for Messrs. Pain for 8 years, and was a skilled and badged workman.

Mr. Watson: Are you a badged man still?

—Yes.

Then why do you appeal?

—The Chairman explained that since the new regulations all badges were "dead".

A letter from the firm was put in testifying to Mr. Randall's skill and experience.

*Dismissed.*

Mr. W. J. Foster, Tooting Junction, a married press worker at Pain & Sons, asked for temporary exemption on account of his wife's delicate health. He was 30 years of age, and classed in category A.

Dr. Love: Don't you think we ought to do something to prevent so many wives having delicate health at these times, Mr. Chairman? (Loud laughter.)

The appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. F. Gale, a C2 greengrocer, coal and coke dealer, and carter, aged 35, with six children, and a delicate wife, also had his appeal *dismissed*.

A. Cherry, a 30-year-old engineer's assistant, and classed A, put in an appeal for a fortnight's exemption, but did not appear.

Mr. H. V. White, acting clerk, said the man was called up on May 10th, so it was reasonable to suppose he was now in the Army. (Laughter.)

[M]



17.06.01

01 June 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening.

Two C3 men had their applications *dismissed*, the Chairman remarking that men in that class and B3 class would not have their cases considered until called up. Another, Mr. Sansum, of Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, a shipping clerk, received exemption till July 10th. He had been called up, through a mistake it was agreed, on an old classification of C1.

Mr. W. E. Miller, a clerk aged 41, Melrose Avenue, asked for exemption chiefly on the grounds that he had not yet recovered from an accident. He was classed A1. There were three children under five years of age, and a wife in ill health.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. Henry Fowler, of Fernlea-road, manager to his father, the well-known market gardener, asked for a further period of exemption. He cultivated three acres in Bond-road and more land at Wallington. Mr. W. Moore, solicitor, claimed that appellant was in a certified occupation. Moreover, his father was left with very few men and was too old to do much work himself. In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Fowler said the ground in Bond's-lane was now entirely vegetables, and they had few flowers anywhere. They grew a considerable amount of fruit. Appellant was B1.

*Three months.*

Mr. H. Woods, the well-known pig farmer, claimed that his business was of national importance too. He had about 150 pigs, including 45 sows, and all his time was devoted to the work. He was 39 years of age and had six children. Mr. Moore said appellant was originally classed B2, but the military authorities, strange to say, had since been able to pass him for general service. He carted a good deal of waste from military hospitals.

In reply to the Chairman, appellant said since his brother had been called up he had entire charge. His father had retired from the business altogether, and his brother had sold his share. He worked from four in the morning till late at night.

—Mr. Moore declared that appellant had indirectly lost three litters of pigs through having to attend the drills of the Volunteers.

*Three months.*

The Military Representative (Mr. Edwardes Jones) asked for a review of the exemption of Eugene Guenot, a French foreman market gardener, in the employ of Mr. Gaston Dutriez. In reply to Dr. Worsfold, appellant said he looked after ten acres of salad and other vegetables, and had two men with him, aged 69 and 62. He was not helped by his employer, who had the pig department to attend to.

Mr. Moore said the man was in a certified occupation.

Dr. Worsfold: You were exempt from service in the French Army so that you could, if you chose, join the British Army, were you not?

Appellant (emphatically): No, sir. I was never in the French Army. Before coming to England I was in Belgium, where all my relations are. Mr. Guenot, aged 37, was classed A. The *six months' exemption*, ending August, was *confirmed*.

Mr. F. S. Walker, of High-street, Colliers Wood, was medically rejected from the Navy in 1915, but is now classed A. He put in a medical certificate from Dr. Mitchell Bruce, of Harley-street, to the effect that his heart was affected. *Sent to Medical Appeal Board.*

Mr. W. A. Martin appealed for the manager of his Fair Green butcher's shop, Mr. M. Carthy, aged 28, and married. He said five butcher's shops in Mitcham had been closed during the war, two of which were his. The business served a poorer class of people. In reply to the chairman, a solicitor said it was a shop trade entirely; there was no slaughtering. The man was classed B2, and previously had been rejected twice. *Disallowed.*

Mr. A. G. Mizen appealed for his ploughman and carman, Mr. J. Parker, classed for General Service. As he was a married man, over the age of 25, and in a certified occupation, he was given *three months*.

Mr. C. Sayers again appealed for his plumber, Mr. W. A. Yexley, a married man, classed C1. He put in a list of firms and residents for whom he often had important work to do, and said if his man was taken another tradesman, fortunate to have a man over military age, would get the business. *Disallowed, but not to be called for a month.*

Messrs. Hall & Co. asked for the exemption of two coal carmen, aged 32 and 31, one classed A and the other B2.

Mr. Percy Palmer, manager, reminded the Tribunal that merchants had been asked to get in a store of coal in the summer, so as to be able to supply poor people with better results next winter. Only strong men could do the work. Chapman, the A man, *disallowed*, the other *three months*.

Mr. E. J. Undermark, owner of two boot repairing shops at Tooting Junction, married, and classed C1. *Three months.*

Mr. Try, a clerk, of Tooting Junction, asked for permission to make an appeal, though over time. —Dr. Worsfold said the man had had five different extensions of time from the military authorities as an act of grace, because of illness, and now, after exhausting the military, he was asking the Tribunal to take it up.

Appellant said it was not an act of grace at all. He sent Captain Wyatt doctor's certificates each time, and it was only proper that he should grant the extensions.

Dr. Worsfold: But you could have written that you were ill.

It was decided to *hear the case at the next meeting.*

[M]

17.06.15

15 June 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Mall, on Wednesday evening. Dr. Worsfold was the Military Representative.

The most interesting case beard was that of Mr. J. K. Harvey, the well-known chemist, and Vicar's Warden of St. Mark's Church. In his statement he said he was 38 years of age, married, with three children. His was a one-man business, and everything he possessed was invested in it. In addition, he was pharmacist and dispensing chemist to the Surrey Insurance Committee. If taken into the Army he would have to close down his business as it was impossible to get a qualified man to manage it. That would be stark ruin for him. After being entirely rejected, he had recently been passed as fit for general service. He very much disagreed with that classification.

A letter from the Surrey Insurance Committee was read, asking for adjournment of the case. The Clerk to the Committee wrote to the Military Representative (Mr. Edwardes-Jones) [who] was unable to agree to the exemption of Mr. Harvey, but as he had to make a report to the War Office giving his reasons, and the Committee would report also, it was suggested that the case be *adjourned for the decision of the Army Council*.

The Tribunal unanimously agreed to that course being taken. Mr. Harvey then asked for permission to go before the Central Medical Board. He did so mainly for the following reasons: His total weight was only 6 stone 7 lbs. A soldier's pack, when he was on active service, was 90 lbs., and in addition there was his rifle and his own clothes. As his weight was 91 lbs. and the pack 90 lbs. without the rifle, the Military authorities were actually asking him to carry many pounds more than his own weight. (Laughter.) He was physically incapable of doing it.

The Chairman: I think you had better await the result of the report, Mr. Harvey. It may not be necessary to go to the Board.

Dr. Love: What Mr. Harvey wants to know is whether he will be perfectly safe meanwhile. The Military Representative has refused to agree to his exemption simply because he is an A man.

The Chairman: Certainly he will be safe.

Dr. Love: Speaking as his medical attendant, I say the classification is perfectly absurd.

Dr. Worsfold said he had received a letter from Mr. Edwardes-Jones, suggesting that it would be better to await the decision of the War Office. He added: "I can tell you, Mr. Harvey, that the Bantams are quite as good as the big men at the Front."

The Tribunal agreed to await the Army Council's decision, as it might not be necessary for Mr. Harvey to go before the Central Medical Board.

The Streatham Cemetery Company, Lonesome, appealed for Charles Brunger, foreman gravedigger. Mr. L. E. Field, who described himself as "one of the unfortunate individuals who brought the cemetery into being," said they had only six men left out of a staff of twelve. The Tribunal would appreciate the Company's difficulties in the circumstances when he said that they had on an average 100 interments a week. Mr. Brunger, who was classed B2, was the only man that could do the work.

*Three months.*



Councillor J. M. Leather appealed for his carter, Alexander Wilde. He said he was the only man of military age engaged in the work, and was of the greatest importance to him as a market gardener. The man was 37, married, with 6 children, and classed C2.

*Three months.*

Mr. E. Birch asked for the exemption of his butcher's manager, in charge of the London-road shop. The man was classed C2. The shop supplied a working-class neighbourhood and munition workers with dinners. He had taken the place of his son, who had joined up.

*Three months.*

Messrs. J. S. Deeds & Sons asked for the exemption of Arthur Garrett, their foreman purer, classed C3. It appeared, however, that the man had a protection certificate under the new order; the Chairman therefore decided that the case was out of the Tribunal's hands. The application was *dismissed with power to appeal again* when called up.

Mr. Frank Swift, Colliers Wood, in the employ of the Red Cross Society as a mechanic, and the owner of thirty odd cottages, applied for exemption. Appellant said he had been discharged from the Royal Marines, after being crushed by an armoured car in the present war. Previously he served twelve years with the Colours, and in South Africa received a gun-shot wound. He left as a sergeant. He had six children, all under 13, and was in such poor health now that he was shortly giving up the Red Cross work, as it was too heavy. He had recently been classed C2.

*Two months.*

Mr. Frederick Harvey, dairyman, applied for the exemption of his son, W. T. Harvey, a cowman, aged 25, single, and classed C2. He had two sons in the Army. There were 22 cows in milk.

The Chairman: Could not a woman help you?

Mr. Harvey: Do you think there is a woman in Mitcham who would get up at four in the morning and come and milk my cows? (Laughter.) One of those feather-bed dairymaids, who go on rounds where there are no cows, might be useful, I daresay. (Laughter.)

Appellant, who had had 14 months' exemption, was given *three months*.

No fewer than seven men asked for leave to go before the Central Medical Board, including two originally classed C3 now classed fit for general service, and a man totally blind in one eye, half blind in the other, and extremely deaf. *Four applications were granted*. All men looked physically unfit.

The Tribunal was in the unusual position of being without a Military Representative at the hearing of several cases. Councillor Leather did not adjudicate on his own application.

[M]

17.06.29

29 June 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Mr. R. J. Cole, aged 31 and classed B1, a well-known figure, asked for permission to go before the Central Medical Board. He declared himself very dissatisfied with the present classification as he knew he was suffering from a weak heart.

Mr. W. J. Moore, solicitor, produced two medical certificates and on the strength of those the *permission was granted*. Appellant is at present engaged at Messrs. Cock and Corfield on Government work.

The appeal of T. T. Clarkson, employed by Mr. A. C. Clarkson, horse-slaughterer, was *dismissed*. Applicant is aged 27, single, and classed A.

A letter-writer to monumental masons, aged 34, and classed B2, asked for exemption. He said if he joined the Army he would lose a big connection which had taken a long time to build up. There were six children. Appellant was previously rejected.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. J. C. Balls, licensee of the Victory Hotel, High-street, Colliers Wood, asked for absolute exemption. He had been at the hotel for five years, and there was not a single complaint against him. All his money was invested in the business, which needed his constant attention. The hotel supplied a lot of travellers with meals. Applicant is 32 years of age and classed C3.

Dr. Worsfold: Can you tell us what particular complaint led the Medical Board to class you C3?

Appellant (a man apparently of fine physique): Heart trouble.

*Dismissed*, with leave to appeal when called up.

Mr. E. W. Baker, formerly a ganger and now a labourer in the employ of the Metropolitan Water Board, asked for further exemption. The man's domestic troubles were considerable, and in addition, he was 41 years of age and classed C1.

*Two months.*

Mr. J. C. May, aged 23, single, and classed C3, had his claim *dismissed*. He produced a certificate to prove that he was undergoing dental treatment and could not eat the Army food. He had been under treatment since April and would not be ready for his teeth, according to the certificate, for three or four months.

Mr. H. J. W. Hateley is a clerk in the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture, aged 35. At the last meeting of the Tribunal he was given permission to go before the Central Medical Board, as he was first classed C3 and recently classed as fit for general service. He now appealed to put himself in order in case the decision of the Central Medical Board was unfavourable to him,

and as he had a case for exemption on other grounds. Applicant, whose case was *adjourned*, is married and resides at Colliers Wood.

Mr. E. J. Callaghan, licensee of the “Cricketers’ Arms”, was represented by Mr. W. J. Moore, who stated that appellant supplied 280 teas daily and meals to 14 employees from the Arsenal. There were two women assistants in the business but he was the only man. The business required his presence. Appellant, who is 39 years of age, classed C1, and had had 6 months’ previous exemption, was given *a further 3 months*.

Mr. S. A. Holder, an optical glass worker, living at Courtney-road, Colliers Wood, applied for exemption on the ground that he was at work on grinding glasses for the Navy and scientific work, which was a scheduled trade; and also that he was unfit for military service, in spite of being classed as fit for general service. He could not stand up for any length of time. Appellant, who is 20 years of age, told the Military Representative that he sat down to his work.

The Clerk (Alderman Chart) said appellant was not of the age to come within the rule with regard to that particular trade.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. A. E. Cubison appeared for Mr. H. H. Dale, of the “Gardeners’ Arms”, London-road, who asked for leave to appeal again. After some discussion, leave was granted. The case was taken in camera. —The appeal was *dismissed*.

“I was a canteen manager at Warminster early in the war: could I not do such work now?” asked Mr. W. S. Collier, a 41-year-old gramophone record presser, with five children. Appellant added that he had been classed C2 and C3; now he was passed as fit for general service. He could not possibly be fit. He had enlarged toe-joints for one thing.

*Disallowed* but not to be called up for one month.

There were no fewer than thirty-five cases for hearing, but the Tribunal kept well up to time. Several times it had to wait until the appellants arrived. Few of the cases were of particular interest.



[M]

17.07.20

20 July 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Mr. J. J. Enright, a builder's labourer, rejected under the Derby Scheme as unfit for service, has now been classed A1, by the Special Medical Board. He declared to Dr. Worsfold that at Kingston he was examined thoroughly but the Special Board did spend five minutes on him. He appealed for exemption on the ground chiefly, that his wife was an invalid, and would not be able to look after herself.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. W. J. Moore appeared on behalf of H. G. Francis, a foreman market gardener in the employ of Mr. G. Thompson for 14 years. He was 39 years of age, married, and the only man left with Mr. Thompson, who cultivates eight acres, all vegetables. Mr. Moore claimed that the man was in a certified occupation.

*Three months.*

Messrs. Mather and Archer, printers, appealed for G. H. Arnold, their machine minder. There are four machines and no one else to look after them. A member of the firm claimed that it was a skilled job. Mr. Arnold who is single, 25 years of age, and classed C3 had his claim *disallowed*.

Mr. W. Carlton, market gardener, appealed for a further period of exemption for James Excell, a skilled agricultural worker, aged 41, married and classed A. There was only his son and himself besides Excell to work the eight acres, all vegetables, except a quarter of an acre.

*Two months to allow a certificate to be obtained.*

Mrs. Broad, proprietress of the Merton Abbey Steam Laundry, appealed for H. J. W. Osborne, who is in sole charge of the machinery. She said she employed 40 women, and would have to close the laundry if Osborne joined the Army as it would be dangerous to life to continue. There was another man, but he was not an engineer. Osborne was only classed for Home Service. In reply to Dr. Worsfold Mrs. Broad said she could not get a substitute.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. Clement Carlton, market gardener, aged 28, and married, appealed for total exemption. He said he was in partnership with his father and was working 90 hours a week at the business. He maintained that his work was essential to the national welfare as he was engaged in the growing of food. Moreover war was totally opposed to his conception of the Christian faith.

*One month to enable him to get a certificate from the War Agricultural Committee.*

Ernest Sortwell joined the Army voluntarily a fortnight after the war began. After being in it a few weeks he broke a cartilage of the knee and was discharged. He has recently been medically examined and passed fit for general service. *Disallowed.*

Mr. H. W. Gilham, a Colliers Wood master baker, with two shops and using 30 bags of flour a week asked for further exemption. He is aged 37, married, with six children under fourteen, and classed C2.

*Three months conditional.*

Mr. W. Hunt, a baker, produced his marriage certificate to prove he was 42 last August, but unfortunately for him arithmetic was his undoing. The certificate said he was 21 in June, 1897. Several members thereupon indulged in mental calculations and discovered that the man would be 42 in August next.

*Three months conditional.*

Mr. Arthur Hyde (40) cartage contractor, Palestine-grove, employing 17 horses in conveying goods for Government contractors asked for further exemption.

Appellant, who is in a certified occupation, was given *three months*.

[M]

Mr. F. J. Try, a conscientious objector, had his case taken in camera. It occupied the Tribunal about three-quarters of an hour.

*Disallowed.*

[H]



17.08.03

03 August 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

William Good, a single man, classed A, engaged as a stoker at the gas works, applied for a month's exemption to enable him to dispose of his stock of twenty pigs, two breeding sows, and a horse and man.

Mr. W. J. Moore, solicitor, supported the appeal, and said all the man's savings were invested in the stock.

He was given *28 days' exemption*.

Mr. A. K. Welch, of Tooting, was a head gardener before the war, now he is engaged on putting down, removing and re-erecting gun and searchlight stations for H.M. Office of Works.

A member: Who pays you?

Applicant: A contractor.

The Military Representative: Then you are employed by the contractor?

No, sir, by the Government.

The Clerk (Ald. Chart), who said he had had some experience of the methods by which a certain number of men on Government Department work were employed, gave an interesting statement, which went to show that the man was really employed by the Office of Works.

The man, who appealed on domestic grounds, had his case *dismissed*.

T. G. Cain, of Bath-road, is aged 23, married, with two children, and classed "A". For four and a half years he was a "stretcher", but previously he was a tinsmith. His present employers are Messrs. Hepburn, Gale & Ross, of the belt factory, Church-road. He has worked for them for six and a half years. After leaving work in the evening he assists his invalid father in light tin work.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. W. C. Carter, of Fernlea-road, a master sanitary plumber, and a member of the Mitcham Special Constabulary, asked for further exemption. He is classed C1, aged 40, has a wife with valvular disease of the heart, and six girls, all under 14. After working from 12 to 14 hours a day on cottage property at Balham and other London areas, Mr. Carter said he did duty as a "Special" two nights a week, from 10 till 2, besides duty on Sundays and Saturday afternoons. He had not missed a single duty. His work on London cottage property was one of the greatest importance, as the conditions at most were a danger to health. The men were away soldiering, and the women, who worked out, reached home too tired to do much in the sanitary line.

*Four months, conditional.*

[M]

17.08.10

10 August 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Mr. R. J. Cole, an army mess tin inspector, aged 34, married, was represented by Mr. W. J. Moore. He had been originally classed C3, owing to heart trouble, now he is classed B1. In consequence of the disparity he asked for permission to go before the Special Medical Board. The wish was granted, and the Board confirmed the classification of B1. Applicant urged that his work was of national importance. Mr. Moore said his client had five brothers on active service. One had been killed and two wounded. A certificate from Dr. Love was produced with reference to applicant's wife. A certificate was also handed in as to the condition of applicant's heart.

*One month's exemption.*

Messrs Haseldene and Green, solicitors, asked for the exemption of L. G. Yerbury, dept. manager, residing at Colliers Wood. He was once examined and rejected. On being re-examined he was passed for general service. The Special Medical Board, however, classified him C3. Applicant claimed that he was only fit for sedentary work as he was suffering from Bright's Disease. During the past few weeks he had been very bad. "When a man is a clerk," said the applicant, "the army wants him if he is passed C3, but as I am a dept. manager at Messrs Holdron's at Balham, I should be more usefully employed as at present."

Mr. Watson thought the Special Medical Board would have rejected the man.

*Three months.*

Mr. Sidney R. Mundy, manager and engineer of his mother's laundry business at Figgs March, applied for further exemption. He is 37, married and classed C2.

Mrs. Mundy stated that she employed about 100 women supervised by her son. He also attended to the financial side of the business.

Counc. Parslow: Has she not an engineer as well?

Applicant: No, the man is a plumber.

Mr. J. Jeffree, butcher, Croydon, appealed for the exemption of the manager of his Tooting Junction shop at the Parade. The man was the only one left in the shop. In 1915 he was totally rejected, now he was classified C1.

*One month.*

Mr. L. E. Field, for the Streatham Parish Cemetery Co. again appealed for C. Brunger, the foreman gravedigger at the Cemetery which is 40 acres in extent. He stated that the man was 36 and classified B2, and is practically the only man capable of taking charge of the drainage system and machinery. There were formerly 12 men employed now there were six. There were about 320 burials a month and sometimes the difficulty of coping with them was great. Moreover, the busiest time was now coming on. The cemetery was so positioned that it was flooded by the overflowing of the Wandle and surface water, and during the floods last week the road,

Greyhound-lane, leading to the cemetery was a foot under water in places. He ventured to say that if it were not for the system of drainage the company had there the conditions would be very bad at times.

The Chairman: Bad for a cemetery.

Mr. Field: The land is all right and the drainage; it is the surface water that causes the flooding. Applicant also urged that Brunger had charge of the well and pump which disposed of the water.

Ald. Chart (the clerk): Where do you pump the water to?

Mr. Field: Mr. Chart knows very well. (Laughter.)

*Not to be called up for a month.*

The Rev. Bevill Allen supported the appeal of T. W. Rock, a young baker just arrived at Military age, add classed A. He stated that the lad was a Second Lieut. of the Boys' Life Brigade and was doing a useful work training boys for the Army and Navy.

The young man's father said he formerly employed 8 men now he only had an old man and his son. His wife served in the shop.

*Disallowed.*

[M]





17.08.24

24 August 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening. Dr. T. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative.

Eugene Guenot, foreman to Mr. Gaston Dutriez, market gardener, appealed for a further term of exemption. Mr. W. J. Moore, solicitor, claimed exemption on the ground that appellant was in a certified occupation as a resident foreman. He was 39 years of age, superintended the rearing of about 800 pigs, and supervised the work of the farm generally. He had been in England nine years, and was still a French subject. A certificate from the Board of Agriculture was being obtained.

*Three months.*

Messrs. Wm. Harland & Sons, varnish and colour manufacturers, asked for the exemption of A. J. Wagstaffe, a member of the clerical staff. He had been granted a month's exemption by the Merton Tribunal.

A solicitor stated that the firm had released fourteen members of the clerical staff for the forces, and Mr. Wagstaffe was the first man in that department they had appealed for. He had acquired a technical knowledge of the work, which could not be picked up easily by anyone else. Moreover, he is physically unfit for military service, being practically blind in the right eye, and he had to "turn down" the Volunteer work he had undertaken.

*Three months.*

Mr. Arthur Fryatt, a clerk to a collector of the King's taxes, aged 29, married, stated in his appeal for permission to go before the Special Medical Board, that he was very cursorily examined at Kingston. He was classed B2, but one of his eyes was in a serious state, and the other was bad. The appeal had been adjourned to enable applicant to be examined by an oculist. He now produced a certificate from one to the effect that one eye was myopic, and the other rather badly affected by myopia and astigmatism, and had been operated upon about thirteen years ago.

*Sent to Central Medical Board.*

Mr. D. H. Goodenough, Park-road, Colliers Wood, iron and steel and machinery merchant, appealed for a further period of exemption on the ground that he was solely engaged on work for Government departments. He had been engaged in the same business for sixteen years, and it was a certified occupation. He was classed C2. Asked why he had not applied for a protection certificate, Mr. Goodenough replied that he had applied for one for a clerk, but it was not considered necessary until the man had been refused exemption by the Tribunal.

The Chairman: That rather puts us in the position to refuse the application, and leave it to the authorities to decide whether you are a person who should be exempted.

Applicant: Well, I submit that does not interfere with your power to give me exemption on the other grounds I have urged. Mr. Goodenough then put in evidence of his connection with other businesses engaged on Government work, and his qualifications as a mechanical engineer.

*Six months.*

John Henry Greenhow, Boundary-road, Colliers Wood, aged 18, a member of the Seventh Day Adventists' Church, Wimbledon, and colporteur in the employ of the International Tract Society Ltd., Watford, appealed as a conscientious objector. As a Christian he could not take up arms against his fellow men, nor engage in munition work. At the same time he recognised that he owed obedience to his country, where it was not contrary to God's command.

In reply to Dr. Worsfold, appellant said his mother and grandfather belonged to the same church, and he was baptised in the faith. He would not object to engaging in Red Cross work at the Front.

Dr. Worsfold: That settles it then.

Appellant: But I would rather go on the land, as I am the support of my mother.

In reply to further questions, the young man stated that one brother, out of a family of eight, was in the Army. He and his sister and his mother were the only members of the church.

*Disallowed*, with one month's grace to join a non-combatant corps.

[M]



17.09.07

07 September 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evening. The Military Representative was 2nd Lieutenant A. E. Hayne.

Mr. C. Forster, Church-road, considered that as a dustman for Wandsworth Borough Council he was doing work of national importance.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. E. A. E. Townsend, of Lonesome, had conscientious objections to military service. He explained his objections to the length of eleven pages of foolscap. As a reasonable and intelligent human being, he could not get away from the fact that killing is murder. War is merely the vendetta on a gigantic scale, and, pursued to its logical conclusion, would end in there being one left of each contending nation. He objected to non-combatant service, as he would become an accessory before the fact. He could not join in saving life, as he would be a supporter of the military machine. He was not a member of any religious body, but he was a member of the No Conscription Fellowship, and had belonged to the Communist Club. He could not undertake any other work than that in which he was engaged: bootmaking and repairing, which he considered of national importance. He had not much time to engage in philanthropic work. He was compelled to sacrifice all his time to earn money to pay for his share to this calamitous war, much against his will.

*Disallowed.*

Mrs. R. Cross, The Fountain, Western-road, appealed for her barman, W. H. Wickens, age 18. He was the only hand they had. Besides doing the bar and cellar work, he served in the bar.

*Disallowed, with one month's calling up notice.*

Mr. L. Newman, Colliers Wood, an electrotyper, classified A, had, on an appeal to the Special Medical Board, been re-classified C2.

*Disallowed, with one month's calling-up notice.*

Messrs. Hancock & Corfield, appealed for W. T. Fellows, a carpenter, making crates.

*Three months' conditional exemption was granted.*

Mr. H. Woods, Pore-road, Mitcham, a pig breeder, with 200 pigs and 48 breeding sows. He collected waste from military hospitals, and supplied fat for munition purposes.

*Three months' conditional exemption was granted.*

Mr. H. Fowler appealed for his son, his manager and salesman of his business of nurseryman and fruit-grower. Appellant was 70 years old and had but his son, a man of 70 and a boy of 16 to carry on, in place of five hands before the war. He had about three acres in Bond-road, with about 600 feet of glass.

*Three months' conditional exemption was granted.*

[M]

17.09.21

21 September 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal, at the Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evening. The Military Representative was Sec. Lieut. A. E. Hayne.

Mr. F. W. Gough, Colliers Wood, a shell turner, considered he was doing work of national importance. He was classed A. He had had a certificate of protection, now rendered of no avail to him as he had had a calling-up notice.

*Claim disallowed.*

Mr. A. T. G. Priest Kimberley, Streatham-road, a telegraphist, age 18, single, applied for a medical re-examination. He was classed A. At 15 he had enlisted, and had fought in France. After two years he, having been wounded and become ill, was sent home on the authorities becoming aware of his being under age. He had had an operation, which had not removed all the trouble.

The Tribunal agreed in allow appellant to *go to the Central Medical Board.*

Mr. N. H. Wilson, Locks-lane, an electrical instrument calibrator, wanted medical re-examination. He produced a doctor's certificate.

*Sent to Special Medical Board.*

Mr. S. D. Nicholls, Jordan-avenue, applied for a medical re-examination. He had been variously classified B1, C3 and A.

Case *adjourned* that applicant might produce doctor's certificate.

Mr. H. G. Clements, of Bond's-lane, a laundry proprietor, aged 31, classed C2. He had bought the business from his brother-in-law. He was the only man and ten to twelve women were employed. The business could not be carried on without appellant.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. W. T. Harvey claimed for his son, age 26, single, classed C2. Women would not get up at 4 o'clock in the morning.

*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. J. M. Leather claimed for Mr. A. Wilde, a carter, classed C2. He was the only employee of military age, being 37 years old.

*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. B. Dendy appealed for his wheelwright ironworker, Mr. J. Hoskins, classed A. Mr. Dendy had much important work, including agricultural implements.

*Three months, conditional.*

Mr. R. J. Cole, of Church-road, Mitcham, a mess tin inspector, classed B1. He claimed he was doing work of national importance. He had three children, and his wife was not strong.

*Case disallowed.*

Mr. E. Brice appealed for a manager of his butcher's shop. The man was classed C2, and was absolutely indispensable to the carrying on of the branch.

*Three months, conditional.*

[A]



17.10.05

05 October 1917

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal, at the Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evening. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the Military Representative. Those also present were Councillors Frank Baker, E. E. Snowsill, W. H. Parslow, J. D. Drewett, Dr. H. Love, J. Thompson, and Mr. A. D. Watson. Ten cases were heard.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, in asking for the exemption of Mr. E. J. Callegham, of "The Cricketers", Mitcham, said he had offered protection for the people against air raids. There were no men employed. A woman could not do the cellar work.

The Chairman: We have got to consider whether the business is of importance to the public.

Mr. Moore: They do a good catering business as well. I submit it is a case for exemption. This business has got to be carefully looked after in these times.

Chairman: He is passed C1?

Yes.

After deliberation, the Tribunal decided to *disallow* the appeal.

Mr. J. W. Rondeau, age 27, a shopkeeper, carrying on a general hardware business, said his was a one man business, which he had carried on for five years, and which was his sole means of a livelihood. He had a wife and four children to support. He was classified B2. If he were to join the Army he would have to close.

Military Representative: What do you sell, jam?

—I sell salmon, and anything else.

Chairman: Bread?

—No, sir, I don't sell bread.

Mr. Watson: Where is his shop?

Clerk: Western-road, Mitcham.

Applicant said he got very small profit from the business.

Mr. Watson: In addition to your living.

—Yes.

The Clerk stated that the applicant had not sent back his old exemption certificate. The applicant was liable to a fine for not sending it back.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Mr. George Jewell, age 21, single, a carman, of Alfred-terrace, Mitcham asked for exemption on the ground of ill health. The applicant was not present, being ill. He was represented by his master. He was passed C2. He had been discharged from the Army, after having several 170 days. The discharge paper said the man was willing and sober.

Military Representative: When did the doctor say he would be well again?

He will never get better. He has got dropsy. The doctor says he will be worse.

*Three months' exemption* were granted on the grounds of ill health.

Mr. E. Cummings, age 41, C2, gravedigger, residing at West Fields, Mitcham, asked the Tribunal to exempt him on account of his seven children. He had received six months' exemption, and three periods of three months' exemption.

The Chairman: Are your circumstances the same as before?

Yes, sir.

The Chairman: Have you still got the seven children?

Yes, sir.

Chairman: That is the main point.

*Three months' exemption* was granted in this case.

The next applicant also had a large family. He considered he was of more use to the civil population, making bread, than he would be in the Army. Mr. Thomas Gilbert was the name of the applicant, who was a baker, aged 41, passed C2, and resided at Marlborough-road, Colliers Wood. If he were called up for the Army his family would suffer serious hardship. He had a wife and six children, and the Army allowance would not be sufficient to provide for them he said.

The Chairman: You are employed by J. A. Taylor, of Furzedown Market, Mitcham-road?

—Yes, sir.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. George Burling, aged 36, a market gardener, residing at Phipps Bridge-road, said he was cultivating 3½ acres of land for a varnish firm in Mitcham. In addition to that he had himself 40 rods of land, and he sold the produce to greengrocers. He was passed C2.

*Three months' exemption.*

[M]



17.10.19

19 October 1917

Counc. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal, on Wednesday evening, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Fourteen appeals were dealt with.

Dr. Cato Worsfold, the Military Representative, said he wished to raise a point. Where there were some men who wanted an adjournment of the hearing of their cases, would the Tribunal consent to the Military Representative consenting to the adjournment, and not let the applicant come before the Tribunal?

Counc. Frank Bates said the Tribunal would, he felt sure, consent to the arrangement. If some particular circumstances arose, and the Military Representative should be empowered to let the cases be adjourned, instead of the cases coming before the Tribunal in the usual way for the Tribunal to adjourn them.

Ald. Chart: The doctor would, I feel sure, use his discretion (hear, hear).

The Tribunal adopted this course.

Mr. Arthur Hyde, age 41, C2, unmarried, a cartage contractor, residing at Palestine-grove, Merton Abbey, appealed. He said he was in sole charge of sixteen horses, engaged in carting to and from the docks every day.

Military Representative: Have you any definite contractors, or is it just from week to week?

The war has upset things a great deal.

Military Representative: Can you give us any evidence that this is going on?

Applicant: It is the only work I do. I can show you orders, plenty of them. The people I work for are doing all kinds of Government work.

*Three months' exemption* was granted as a reserved occupation.

Mr. H. J. W. Hatley, age 35, married, clerk, residing at Clive-road, Colliers Wood, appealed. He was passed C1. He had made an application to the Civil Liability Commissioner and had not received any result yet. If he were to go in the Army at present his wife would only receive 16s. If he were exempted for two months it would put matters somewhat straight.

The Chairman: Those are the facts of the case?

—Yes.

Military Representative: Is your wife capable of taking up any employment?

—I am trying to get her to do something.

Military Representative: You are only asking for a temporary exemption?

Counc. Baker: How long have you put in your claim?

—Only a day or two ago.

Counc. Parslow: They will not take any notice of it until he joins up.

The claim was *disallowed*, with *one month's* calling up notice.

Mr. Hy. Bourne, 41, C2, married, residing at East Fields, Mitcham, a tramcar washer, was the next applicant. His wife, he said, was a chronic invalid, and he had five children dependent upon him.

Chairman: What is the matter with your wife?



—Consumptive, sir.

Counc. Baker: Are you blind in in your eye?

—I am near-sighted.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. H. W. Gilham, aged 38, C2, carrying on business as a baker at Devonshire- road, Colliers Wood sought exemption. He said he had two shops and a wife and six children. He did 16 sacks a week single-handed, except with the aid of a man who worked on Friday. If he was called upon for military service it would mean the closing of two shops.

Military Representative: What kind of bread do you bake?

—Only war bread.

Chairman: You have two shops?

—Yes, sir.

*Three months' exemption* was granted as a certified occupation.

Mr. H. Slater, builder's clerk, residing at Robinson-road, Colliers Wood, said he was the sole support of his widowed mother. He had been in the Army for seven months and was sent back for being under age, having made a misstatement about his age on enlistment. Applicant said his father had died, and that altered the circumstances, for he would have joined again.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Mr. T. Harris, cartage contractor, of Christ Church-road, Colliers Wood, asked for exemption for a carman. He said the man was engaged in carting munitions of war to and from the Powder Docks. Owing to the work being heavy it was essential that men who were experienced in the work should remain to do it.

Counc. Frank Baker: Do you employ boys?

—Yes, but they are a deuce of a trouble. They worry you to death. They go to sleep, stop away and are a nuisance generally. (Laughter.)

Military Representative: How many horses have you?

—Eighteen working horses now.

*Three months' exemption*.

Mr. R. S. Osborn had had his case adjourned for him to go before the Special Medical Board on April 18th last. Mr. E. Jones, the district representative, wrote to the Tribunal stating that the man was classified B3 and notified Dr. Worsfold of the fact in June last.

The Chairman remarked that it was rather a long time ago.

The Clerk stated that the applicant resided at Pitcairn-road, Mitcham, and was 38 years old. He was a carman, delivering food-stuffs to wholesale shops.

The case was *disallowed*.

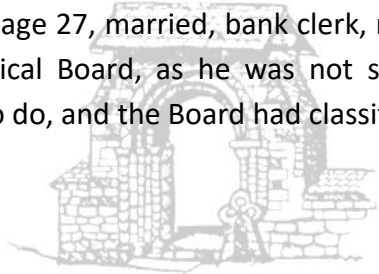
Mr. Moore, solicitor, appeared in support of the application for exemption for Mr. F. S. Walker, aged 38, married, a porter, residing at High-street, Colliers Wood. Ald. Chart said the case was on the same lines as the last one. Mr. Jones, the district representative of the military, wrote stating

that the applicant was passed C3 by the Special Medical Board, previously being passed for general service. Mr. Jones wrote stating that so long as June last he notified his Merton assistant representative of the fact that the man had been classified. Applicant said he had been in the Royal Navy for 10 years. He was discharged from the Army through heart trouble. He had served through the Boer War.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. H. Vine, age 27, married, bank clerk, residing at Thirsk-road, Mitcham, asked to go before the Special Medical Board, as he was not satisfied with his classification of B1. This the Tribunal consented to do, and the Board had classified him C3.

[M]



Counc. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal, on Wednesday evening at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Those present were: Councillors Frank Baker, Leather, Drewett, A. Mizen, Thompson, and Snowsill, and Messrs. Davis and Watson. Seven cases were dealt with.

"Take a seat, Mr. Swan, will you?" said Ald. Chart to Mr. E. G. Swan, age 35, of Pitcairn-road, Mitcham. The applicant did so. He said his wife suffered from consumption, and the doctor said she must not be left alone. Applicant said he did all the domestic work himself. He had had 16 months' exemption altogether.

Counc. Baker: Have you any lady relative that could look after your wife?

Applicant: No, sir, I have not, worse luck.

The Chairman: Who looks after her during the day?

—The woman downstairs.

Applicant said he was passed C3.

Military Representative: Has your wife's health improved since you made the last application?

—No, sir.

Military Representative: Is it likely to improve?

— No, sir, I am sorry to say.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. T. F. Watson, age 41 (C3), printer's manager, of Whitford-gardens, Mitcham, said he was useless for military service on account of an accident to his right hand which happened some years ago. He had a wife and two children to support. His circumstances were exactly as they were on the last occasion. He said he was managing the business for the proprietor, who was on service in France.

The Chairman: I suppose that your hand is just the same as before?

—Yes, sir.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. A. Tomsett, age 39, married, foreman joiner. Briscoe-road, Mitcham, said he appealed on conscientious and health grounds. He said he had poor health, and his wife was delicate. The Army allowance was insufficient to pay for nourishment. "I appeal for your mercy, gentlemen, said the applicant. "If I get exemption I will go in an aircraft factory or munition works. I think I will be more useful there than in the Army." He said he was under the doctor all winter, and if he could do that he could "jog along."

Counc. Baker: Do you claim on conscientious grounds?

The Chairman: No, he doesn't.

Mr. Watson: He has a conscientious objection on health grounds.

Applicant: That's right, sir.

Military Representative: You have not tried to join the National Service?

—No.

*Three months' exemption* on condition applicant did work of national importance.

Mr. A. Buss, age 41, bread baker, of Fieldgate-lane, Mitcham, said he was in his master's business as a bread baker. He had a wife and three children dependent upon him. He said he was in a certified occupation.

The Chairman: Why have you not been medically examined?

Applicant: I should lose a day's work.

Chairman: You should get examined.

Counc. Baker: I think it is in his interests.

The case was *adjourned* for examination.

Ald. Chart: Don't think you will be examined next day. It will take a few days.

Mr. Walter Mays, cork manufacturer, of the Abbey Cork Works, High-street, Colliers Wood, asked for exemption for Mr. T. W. S. Cavey, age 41, B1, motor driver and mechanic, residing at Birdhurst-road, Colliers Wood. Applicant has exemption for so long as the man remained in his employment. He was engaged in delivering all Mr. Mays' important Government contract work. The average mileage was 250 miles a week.

Counc. Baker: I suppose it is all Government work that Mr. Mays does?

Applicant: Oh, yes, it is most important.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

The Rev. W. K. Roberts, of St. Mark's, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Captain James Crook, Church Army captain, of "The Good Shepherd", Lonesome, who was passed for C2. The case was heard in camera.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

[M]



17.11.16

16 November 1917

Counc. G. Farewell Jones presided over a sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham, on Wednesday evening. Those present were: Councillors Frank Baker, Parslow, Drewett, Thompson, Mizen, Snowsill, and Messrs. Davis, Annan, Downing, the Clerk (Ald. R. M. Chart), and the Military Representative (Dr. T. Cato Worsfold). Six cases were dealt with.

The Clerk reported that, under the new conditions, the Tribunal had no power to allow applicants to be re-examined. The applicant must apply for a form from the local Tribunal, who must send him to the Appeal Tribunal, who would decide whether the man should be examined or not.

Mr. N. H. Wilson, age 18, single, Locks-lane, Mitcham, asked for a re-examination. He had had an examination, and passed C3.

The Chairman: What grounds have you for exemption?

—None, sir.

Counc. Mizen: You don't want any exemption?

—No.

The Chairman: Then you will withdraw your claim?

—Yes.

The Clerk: You only wanted to be examined?

—Yes.

Mr. A. Buss, age 41, married, C3, bread baker, of Fieldgate-lane, Mitcham, appealed. He said he was in a certified trade. His master served hospitals with bread. Applicant had a wife and three children to support.

The Chairman: That is all we want to know. You will hear from us.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. L. G. Yerbury, age 25, married, departmental manager to Messrs. J. Holdron, Balham, and residing at Clive-road, Merton, appealed. Applicant said he was suffering from Bright's disease and kidney trouble. He tried to insure his life without success. On the outbreak of war he tried to join the Army but was rejected. He also tried to join up in the Derby scheme, but was again rejected. He was medically examined under the Military Service Act, and was classified C3. Under the Review of the Exemptions Act he was passed C3. He considered he was absolutely unfit for the Army.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. H. A. Mawe, age 35, married, C3, order clerk to Photo Process Engravers, of Garden-avenue, Mitcham, sought exemption on domestic and health grounds. He said the same conditions prevailed as on the last occasion. He was discharged from the Army, but was examined by an Army doctor, who passed him C3. He said the doctor's rulings were more likely to be ruled from headquarters than from his judgment.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. E. S. Wicks, age 41, C3, clerk of Devonshire-road, Merton, appealed on health grounds. He was rejected from Whitehall four times when endeavouring to join the Army.

Military Representative: You say you go round collecting cheques?

—Yes.

The Chairman: Have you received a calling-up notice?

—Yes; a sergeant came round to arrest me, and told me to report at Kingston on the morrow. I did so, but the calling-up notice was a clerical error.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. S. D. Nicholls, age 30, married, residing at Garden-avenue, Mitcham, is the advertising manager to the *Sunday Pictorial*. He appealed on the grounds of ill- health. He had been examined and passed B1, then, on another examination, C3, then A. He then wished to be re-examined by the Special Medical Board. This the Tribunal decided to do. He went to the Board, was examined, and passed for General Service. Applicant said he would like a month's exemption to clear up his personal affairs.

The Tribunal decided to ask the National Service Representative not to call the applicant up until a month's time.

[M]



17.11.30

30 November 1917

Counc. G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham, on Wednesday evening last. Six cases were dealt with. No soldiers were made.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, asking the Tribunal to furnish particulars of how many claims for exemption have been made, and number of appeals granted and disallowed.

Mr. Thompson: How many appeals have we had?

Ald. Chart: About 1,513, but that does not include those in the Derby scheme.

Mr. D. E. Hancock, age 33, B2, operative brewer, asked for exemption for so long as his wife lives. His wife was ill and extremely weak and helpless. "It is one of the most distressing cases I have ever seen," was the phrase on a doctor's certificate.

Alderman Chart: Who looks after your wife while you are away?

—A nurse.

Chairman: How many children?

—Two.

Ald. Chart: The mother has been like this ever since your married life began?

—Yes, it developed three months after.

The Tribunal decided to grant *three months' exemption*.

Mr. A. W. C. Carter aged 41, married, Fernlea-road, Mitcham, a master builder, appealed on business grounds. His staff consists of his young son, two discharged men and one man over 50 years of age. He was classified C1 and was a Special Constable. He has had total exemption so long as he resumed his present employment. He had seven children and a delicate wife. A certificate from the inspector of the Mitcham specials, stating that the applicant was very efficient in the discharge of his duties. Applicant said he did a great deal of sanitary work.

The Chairman: I suppose the position is as before?

—Yes, sir.

Ald. Chart: About how many houses have you to attend to?

About a thousand, sir.

*Three months' exemption.*

Messrs. Harlands and Sons, varnish manufacturers, of Phipps Bridge, Mitcham, asked exemption for a commercial clerk. They said if the man was taken for military service it would seriously retard the business of sending varnishes, etc., to Government firms for aeroplanes, etc. Applicants had made every endeavour to replace the man but without success. They had already lost fourteen of their clerical staff. It was very important in view of the Government contracts that this man should remain in his present occupation. He was passed C2.

The Chairman: The medical classification shows he is no use for military service, although he is important to the firm?

Representative: Yes.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Messrs. Ryner and Co., of the Santoy Works, Western-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. H. Worthington, age 36, C3, married, the general supervisor. Applicants said they were engineers engaged on important work for the Government. The works were started at the request of the Ministry of Munitions. Mr. Worthington had to supervise the workers and see that they did their work efficiently.

*Three months' exemption* on condition the applicant joins B class in the Volunteers.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, on behalf of Mr. G. Dutriez, market gardener, of Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. Eugene Guenot, who held a War Agricultural Certificate.

Ald. Chart: If he has that certificate he need not worry the Tribunal. He is exempt while he holds that certificate.

Chas. Hawkins, age 24, C2, single, who had been in the Army and discharged, was granted *three months' exemption*.

[M]





17.12.14

14 December 1917

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Seven cases were dealt with. Mr. Arthur Haynes was the National Service Representative.

The solicitor representing Messrs. Hancock & Corfield, who were appealing for a man, wrote, stating that he was fulfilling public engagements at Sutton, and asked the Tribunal to adjourn the case until the next meeting.

The National Service Representative objected. There were other solicitors, he said.

The Chairman said the man was 41, and passed C2.

The Tribunal decided to *adjourn* the case until the next sitting.

Mr. Moore, in appearing in the appeal for exemption for Mr. H. Fowler, of Bond- road, Mitcham, said his client held an agriculture certificate.

Counc. Mizen: He can stand over until it is withdrawn.

The Tribunal decided to *adjourn* the case until the certificate was withdrawn.

Mr. W. Chilcott, age 29 (C2), a paper traveller, of Jersey-road, Tooting Junction, said he had one child, and a happy event was expected shortly in the family. There was no one to look after the wife if he joined up. Applicant said he had left his late employers, and was now a lathe operator. He held an exemption certificate, made by his employers. He said he was passed for labour at home, and was willing to do that work if needed. He had been rejected previously. Applicant said he had noticed that some Tribunals had given men conditional exemption if they did work of national importance.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. J. W. Withendon, age 42, C2, of Belgrave-road, Mitcham, said he was employed at Merton as a bread baker. He baked a lot of the bread at home. Applicant, who said he was in a certificated occupation, said he had four children to support.

The Chairman: What do you mean that you bake the bread at home? Have you a baker's oven?

—I have a baker's shop, sir.

*Conditional exemption* was granted.

Mr. H. Wood, of Sherbourn Farm, Mitcham, had an agricultural certificate. He asked exemption. He was a stockman and carter.

The Chairman: We adjourn your case so long as you hold this certificate.

—Thank you.

The Chairman: Are you on your own?

—Yes, sir.

A Member: Where is his place?

The Clerk: Old Tom Annan's place in East Fields.

The case was *adjourned* until the certificate was withdrawn.

Mr. H. Morton, age, 37, married, a boot repairer, residing at Mitcham-road, that, being engaged in the repair of boots mainly for the poor classes, he considered he was in a certified occupation. He was passed A1, had nine children, and conducted a one man business.

The Chairman: The circumstances are the same as before?

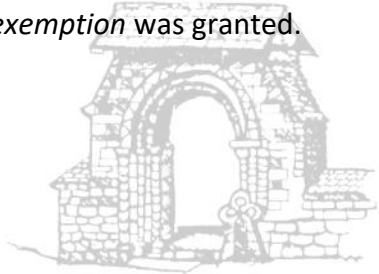
—Yes.

The Chairman: The same family?

—Yes, and quite enough.

*Conditional exemption was granted.*

[M]



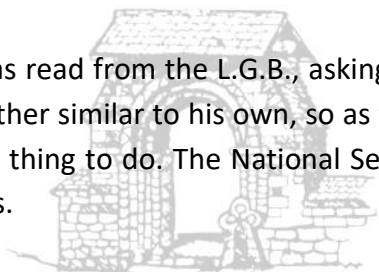
# 1918

18.01.04

04 January 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening last. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

A circular was read from the L.G.B., asking the Tribunal to see if a man in a certain business could manage another similar to his own, so as to release more men. The Clerk said he thought it would be a difficult thing to do. The National Service Representative said the scheme was being tried in the Midlands.



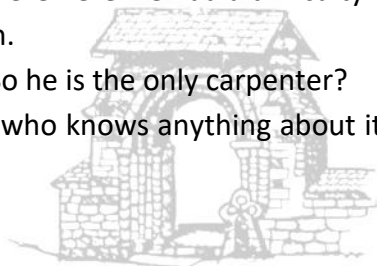
Messrs. Hancock & Corfield, of Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. W. T. Fellows, age 40, C2, married, a carpenter, making cases for Army mess tins. It was essential that the firm should have the man, to enable them to fulfil their Army contracts. He was doing very useful work for the applicants, who employed between four and five hundred people. It was in national interests that the man should be allowed in his present employment.

The Chairman: The last time you were here we had a difficulty with the case. We thought the work could be done by an unskilled man.

National Service Representative: So he is the only carpenter?

—He is the only one we have got who knows anything about it. We took him on at the request of the Government.

*Disallowed.*



Mr. J. M. Leather, market gardener, asked for exemption for Mr. A. Wilde, age 37, residing at Sibthorp-road, Mitcham. Applicant produced an agricultural certificate. The Chairman said the appeal could be withdrawn, and the man would not be called up while he held the certificate.

Mr E. Birch, pork butcher, of London-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. A. E. Bouchard, age 41, C2, his manager. Applicant said the man was occupied in the distribution of cooked meats to the workers and poorer class of people in Mitcham.

National Service Representative: Are there any pigs left in Mitcham?

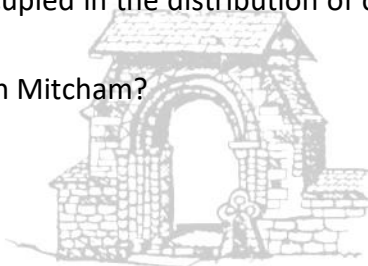
—I hope so, I am sure. sir.

Counc. Leather: There are a few left yet.

The Chairman: He makes the meat sausages?

—Yes.

*Three months' exemption.*



Mr. W. B. Dendy, wheelwright, of London-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for [J. Hookins] his smith, age 39, passed for general service. The man was indispensable and was the only smith he had.

The Chairman: He works on carts and vans?

—Yes.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. E. Harvey, dairyman, of Commonside, Mitcham, asked for exemption for his son, age 26, single, passed for C2. Applicant said serious hardship would ensue if the man was taken for military service. It was expedient in the national interest that the man should remain in his present occupation. Applicant said he had 26 cows, all producing milk.

The Chairman: Don't you employ women?

—I don't think you will find any women who would come to my place at five in the morning.

The Chairman: I think so.

—Not in Mitcham, sir. (Laughter.) Men are very independent now. You can't say a word to them now. You have got to eat humble pie. You have got to say "Will you do it?" not "You have got to do it."

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. J. R. Cummings, age 40, B2, married, West Fields, Mitcham, a gravedigger, said he had seven children, and asked for exemption on those grounds. He was passed C2. The eldest child was fourteen years old, and the youngest seven months.

The Chairman: How long have you been at the cemetery?

—Six years, sir.

Mr. Davis: How many interments did you have last week?

—Me and another man did sixty last week.

*Three months' exemption.*

[M]

J. R. Cumming (40), married, one child, Devonshire-road, dairyman, in a one-man business, asked for an extension of his exemption.

*Three months' conditional.*

W. P. R. Enifer (41), married, Boscomb-road, compositor, applied for exemption on the grounds of ill health, but did not produce a medical certificate.

*Disallowed.*

E. Cummings (41), married, Simmonds-cottages, West Fields, C2, gravedigger at Streatham Cemetery for six years, with seven children, asked for further exemption.

*Three months' conditional.*

[H]

18.01.25

25 January 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening, at the Vestry Hall. Nine cases were dealt with. Mr. Arthur E. Hayne was the National Service Representative.

The Clerk formally reported the death of Councillor Leather, who was a member of the Tribunal. It was decided to enter the regrets of the Tribunal on the minutes.

The Local Government Board wrote asking the Tribunal to furnish particulars of the cases of conscientious objectors who had been refused exemption. Many Tribunals, they stated, had refused exemption to conscientious objectors, owing to their not knowing that they had power to grant exemption.

The Croydon Appeal Tribunal wrote, asking the Tribunal to co-operate with the tribunal in regard to the new Local Government Board circular on One Man Businesses. They wanted to adjourn any case that came before them for consideration by the Tribunal who knew the local circumstances. The Tribunal agreed with the proposals of the Croydon Tribunal.

The Local Government Board wrote asking the Tribunal not to give exemption just because a man was in the Volunteers, unless he had strong business or domestic grounds.

Mr. E. J. J. Undermark, age 41, married, boot repairer, of Seeley-road, Tooting, said he had a lease on his premises. He had been before the Tribunal on five occasions. He was passed C1.

The Chairman: The circumstances are just the same as before?

—Yes.

Applicant said he had a Grade 1 manager at his other shop. He had a lady on the finishing machine.

Mr. Jones: How many repairs do you do a week?

—About eighty pairs at each shop.

Mr. Jones: About the same in each shop?

—Yes.

The Tribunal granted *three months' exemption*.

Mr. Thomas Gilbert, age 42, married, baker, of Marlborough-road, Colliers Wood, asked for exemption. He had a wife and six children. The Army pay would not keep the family he said. The applicant further stated he had had fifteen months' exemption, was passed C2, and was in a certified occupation. He considered he was more use as a baker to the civil population than he would be in the Army.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. A. J. Hyde, age 41, married, Palestine-grove, Mitcham, cartage contractor, said he was engaged in carting to and from the docks and railways. He was passed C2, and had been before the Tribunal five times.

Mr. Jones: The circumstances are the same, I suppose?

—Yes, except there is a greater difficulty in getting labour.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. J. W. Rondeau, age 29, B2, general shop keeper, of Western-road, Mitcham, said his was a one man business, and had a withered right arm. If he joined the Army he would have to close down, as it was impossible for his wife to carry on, as she had four children, all under six years of age.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. H. T. Harris, age 41, married, Thirsk-road, Mitcham, booking representative of the Broadwent Film Printing Co., appealed. He said he had bad health, and was passed C3. His firm were distributing war propaganda films for the War Savings Committee all over the country free of charge.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. H. W. Gilham, age 38, married, master baker, of Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, asked for exemption. He was classed C2, had a wife and six children, and another was expected. Should he be called to the Army, serious hardship would ensue. He had two shops, which he ran himself, with the assistance of a young lady. Applicant made the bread himself.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. W. H. Slat[t]er, age 18, single, butcher's clerk, Robinson-road, Colliers Wood, said, owing to death of his father, a soldier, he had to support his mother. He had served six months in the Army, although he was only 15. His brother was serving. Applicant's mother was entirely dependent on him, as the pension had not come along yet.

The Clerk: She gets the separation allowance for six months.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

Mr. George Jewell, aged 21, single, carman, Palestine-grove, Mitcham, asked for exemption. He said he was in a very bad state of health, and was passed C2. A doctor's certificate stated that the applicant was unfit for service and had already been invalided out of the Army through ill health.

*Six months' exemption was granted.*

[M]

James Philpott (42), married, C2, of 52, Park-avenue, manager of cap manufactory belonging to Messrs. Dunn and Co., applied for his exemption to be prolonged. No fresh facts were brought forward since last appeal.

*Disallowed.*

[H]

18.02.08

08 February 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham National Service Tribunal on Wednesday evening last at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Six cases were dealt with. Mr. Arthur Hayne represented Dr. Cato Worsfold, the National Service Representative.

Mr. A. A. Burkwood [Birkwood?], age 32, married, manager to a basket manufacturer, of Ascot-road, Mitcham, appealed. He was previously rejected three times, and since the Review of Exceptions Act was examined and passed C3. He was suffering from consumption he said. He was being attended by Dr. Osborn, of Mitcham. Two of applicant's uncles had died of that same complaint, also his grandfather; he asked for conditional exemption.

*Conditional exemption* was granted on grounds of ill health.

Messrs. Hugh Stevenson & Sons, Board Manufacturers, of Merton Abbey Mills, Merton, asked for exemption for Mr. Arthur Charliess, age 38, married, a foreman carman. Applicants said the man was engaged in carting their boards to their Summerstown works. The boards were for the Prisoners of War Committee. Mr. Harris, contractor, of Merton, had appealed for a man who also engaged him as a carman. Applicants said Mr. Harris had contracts with the applicants to do work.

Ald. Chart: Mr. Harris contracts for yard work, he is employed by Mr. Harris, who ought to appeal.

Applicant: Mr. Harris is employed by me, so is Mr. Charliess.

Ald. Chart: The application is out of order.

*Refused a hearing.*

Mr. T. F. Watson, age 42, C3, printers' manager, of Whitford-gardens, said he is conducting The Mitcham Printing Works for his employer, who is on active service in France. Owing to an injury to his right hand he considered he was useless for service.

Mr. Hayne: I want to be quite frank with you, I have very seldom seen you there.

Applicant: I have seen you there, Mr. Hayne. I am out frequently.

*Conditional exemption* was granted.

Mr. E. G. Swan, age 35, married, porter, of Pitcairn-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption. He has had six periods of three months' exemption and one period of one month. Applicant said his wife was suffering from consumption and was pregnant. He was passed C3.

Mr. Jones: How many children have you got already?

—One. My wife is very bad during air raids. She should not be left.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

When Mr. Martin, of Messrs. Martin and Co., refrigerator manufacturers, appeared before the Tribunal to appeal for their 18-year old clerk, who was described as single, he did not attend with the young man [H. Bloy].

Mr. Hayne: Eighteen and single! I think he ought to be here. We should like to see this young man who is only 18 and single.

Ald. Chart: The Chairman will say whether the Tribunal requires the young man's attendance. Applicants said they had Government contracts, and the young man had sole charge of the office. They required still to train another.  
The appeal was *disallowed*.

Mr. A. Tomsett, age 37, married, C3, joiner, of Briscoe-road, Colliers Wood, said he was in ill health, and has to be continually under the doctor's treatment. His wife is in a delicate state of health. The Tribunal recently gave applicant a short exemption on condition he took up some work of national importance. The applicant had done this, and was working at an aeroplane works. He considered he was doing better work for his King and country in an aircraft works than in a military hospital, where he was sure to be if he joined up.  
*Conditional exemption was granted.*

[M]





18.02.22

22 February 1918

Councillor Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening last. Nine cases were dealt with. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

A circular was read from the L.G.B., stating that all appeals by Russian subjects should be adjourned and not dealt with.

J. Lovatt (19), single, 94, High-street, Colliers Wood, carman, appealed for three months' exemption to enable him to find a substitute. He was not medically classified.

*Three months (final).*

Mr. Devereux appealed on behalf of James Crook (38), C2, 96 Lilian-road, Lonesome who is missionary at the Mission of the Good Shepherd, Lonesome, Church Army captain, for a further extension of exemption, and said if it were refused it would be a calamity, owing to the good and useful work he was doing at Lonesome, where he looked after the welfare of about 2,250 persons.

*Three months, conditional.*

[See *Mercury* report below.]

[H]

Mrs. Johnson, greengrocer, of Colliers Wood, asked for exemption for her assistant in the shop. She asked for three months' exemption, in order to find a substitute. Her husband had joined up. Mr. Johnson appeared before the Tribunal in the uniform of the R.F.C. He said there was no one in the shop to do the heavy lifting. They also dealt in coal and coke.

Dr. Worsfold: Can you give us any promise that you will find a substitute?

—I will try my hardest, sir.

*Three months' final exemption.*

The Rev. Roberts, Chaplain to the Forces, asked for exemption for Capt. Crook, who is missionary at the Mission of the Good Shepherd, Lonesome. He was working under the Church Army. The district in which he was engaged was a very difficult one. His chief work was writing letters to soldiers on behalf of their wives. He had a parish of over 2,500. Doctors would not go there in illness unless they had a guarantee from Captain Crook.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mrs. S. L. Munday, a widow, carrying on a laundry business, asked for exemption of her son, her manager. Owing to her age, it was impossible for her to carry on. She employed one hundred women, and had between three and four hundred customers. Her son's health was not good. She had released eight men for military service, and had only appealed for this one. He was passed C3. The Chairman: The position is exactly the same as last?

—Yes.

*Conditional exemption was granted.*

Mrs. Matthaie, baker, Denison-road, Colliers Wood, in asking for exemption for her 18-year-old son, said she was patriotic, but she had lost one son partially through the war. He was passed, but came back from the camp three days after and died afterwards of consumption. She said she would feel it very much if this son was taken, as she was depending upon him in the business. He was passed "A", but was not in robust health.

Chairman: Is it a shop trade?

—Shop and round trade.

Councillor Snowsill: Didn't Mr. Matthaie, your husband, die of consumption?

—No.

*Disallowed, with a month's calling-up notice.*

Mr. Harris, cartage contractor, of Christ Church-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. A. Charliess, age 39, B2, married, a carman in his employ. Applicant said the man was engaged in carting munitions of war to and from the docks. He was the only man Mr. Harris had got with the exception of boys. He could not get the boys to work on Sundays. Charliess was the only man who would come in and help to clean the horses. He did not know what would happen if the man was taken.

*Six months' exemption.*

Mr. H. A. Mawe, age 36, married, order clerk, of Garden-avenue, Mitcham, said he was in a delicate state of health. If taken from civil life he would be compelled to go into hospital. He had already been discharged from the Army.

*Six months' exemption.*

Mr. L. G. Yerbury, 35, married, Clive-road, Colliers Wood, departmental manager, said he had tried to join the Army in 1914, but was rejected. He again tried to join, but was again rejected. He was afterwards passed C3. A further examination resulted in being passed A. He again was subjected to medical examination at the request of the Tribunal and passed C3.

*Six months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. T. H. Goodenough, 38, married, Park-road, Colliers Wood, secretary, director, etc., said his brother and himself had taken over the business, and had started operations as a Limited Company. He was governing director for life. He had sole managing powers, and as secretary drew all cheques and kept the books. He was passed C2.

*Six months' exemption.*

[M]

18.03.08

08 March 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham National Service Tribunal on Wednesday. Mr. Arthur Hayne was the National Service Representative. Five cases were dealt with.

The Clerk reported having received several Local Government Board circulars, but stated he had not had time to study them. He suggested that the Tribunal adjourn these matters until the Chairman and himself had studied the circulars. This was agreed to.

Mr. D. G. Hancock, age 39, B2, operative brewer, of Lower Green, Mitcham, asked for exemption on the grounds of his wife's helplessness owing to illness. He had two children to support. Applicant produced medical certificates stating that Mrs. Hancock's condition at times gave great cause for anxiety. A nurse had to be in constant attendance to her.

The Chairman: Do your boys attend school?

—Yes, a local school.

Counc. Mizen: He is B2?

—Yes.

Mr. Watson: What do you mean by operative brewer?

—I am engaged in brewing, I am third brewer.

*Conditional exemption was granted.*

Mr. W. C. Carter, age 41, C1, married, builder and house decorator, of Fernlea- road, Mitcham, asked for absolute exemption on the grounds of financial and domestic hardship. His was a one-man business, and if he joined the Army the business would close. He was engaged on sanitary work in houses in poor parts of London. His son had joined the Army.

Chairman: You are working entirely on your own, not for any other builder?

—All on my own, sir. Applicant further stated he was a special constable, and had not missed any duty.

*Conditional exemption was granted.*

Mr. A. Buss, aged 41, married, bread baker, of Fieldgate-lane, Mitcham, appealed. He said he was in ill health. He was examined at Kingston, and was put in grade 3, and had had two periods of exemption of six months. Applicant submitted he was in a certified occupation.

*Conditional exemption was granted.*

Mr. A. J. Adams age, 36, married, cash collector, Western-road, Mitcham, asked for a medical re-examination. He was previously rejected, but was called up under the Review of Exemptions Act. He was again called up, and placed in grade 2.

Chairman: Have you any medical certificate as to your condition?

— No, sir.

Chairman: We shall want it.

The case was *adjourned* for medical evidence.

Messrs. Harland and Sons, paint and varnish manufacturers of Phipps Bridge, asked for exemption for Mr. A. J. Wagstaffe, age 41, commercial worker, and the firm stated if this were taken away from his occupation it would disorganise the part of the business which was connected with Government work. He was passed C2.

The Chairman: The conditions are the same, I suppose?

—Yes, we are engaged on Government work.

The claim was *disallowed*.

[M]



18.03.29

29 March 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of this Tribunal at the Vestry hall on Wednesday week. Dr. Cato Worsfold (National Service Representative) was unable to be present, and wrote stating he had asked Mr. Watson, a member of the Tribunal, to act in his absence, but the Chairman pointed out that that was irregular, as Dr. Worsfold had not the power to appoint a deputy, and further, it would be unwise to ask a member of the Tribunal to act in that capacity. Consequently the business was transacted without a National Service Representative being present.

A. J. Adams, Grade 2, applied for a special medical examination, and produced two medical certificates.

*Granted.*

W. G. Musco (40), Grade 2, married, 43, Oakwood-avenue, cutting machine mechanic, applied for one month's exemption owing to the illness of his wife. He had five children.

*Disallowed.*

C. Hawkins, married, C2, Bygrove-road, was appealed for by his employer, Mr. J. Seale. He had been discharged from the army as medically unfit, and asked for extension of exemption.

*Disallowed.*

J. Collins (32), married, Grade 1, 23, Frinton-road, G.P.O. sorter for 15 years, applied for a special medical examination, and produced two medical certificates.

*Granted.*

Henry Tyler (18), Grade 3, 4, Commonsides East, was appealed for by his employer, Mrs. Tyler (his mother), greengrocer. She asked for his exemption as her husband was already in the army, and she had only her son to depend upon to assist her. She had a large and young family to maintain. Her son had a deformed left hand, and suffered from varicose veins. It would mean absolute financial ruin if he was taken.

*Three months, conditional.*

[H]

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the fortnightly sitting of the Mitcham National Service Tribunal. Dr. Cato Worsfold represented the National Service. Five cases were dealt with.

At the last sitting of the Tribunal Dr. Worsfold wrote stating that Mr. Watson, a member of the Tribunal, would sit as his representative. The Chairman questioned Dr. Worsfold's right. At last Tuesday's sitting Dr. Worsfold stated he considered he was right. The Chairman differed. It was not right for a member of the Tribunal to act as the National Service Representative. Councillor Parslow said the member should resign from the Tribunal for the moment. Mr. Poston did not think so. The Chairman said a member of the Tribunal should not be an advocate of one party and be a member of the Tribunal at the same time. Dr. Worsfold said he was afraid the proceedings of the Tribunal were out of order if the National Service Representative was not present. He had a right to appoint a deputy if he liked. Councillor Parslow asked if Mr. Watson took over Dr. Worsfold's position on the last occasion. The Chairman: No. The Tribunal did not accept it. Councillor Parslow: Then the matter drops. Dr. Worsfold said the point was quite interesting and he was asking headquarters if he was right. The Clerk suggested that the Tribunal write to the National Service Ministry on the matter to see if they were. This was adopted.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that the recruiting of Russian subjects would be resumed, but they would not be put in fighting units.

A new regulation was received stating that the National Service Representative must state his views in front of the applicant in future.

Mrs. Higgins, of 17 Tynemouth Road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for her son, age 17, grocer's assistant. She said her eldest son was reported killed and the second returned to France last week. As this was the last son she very naturally wanted to retain him.

Chairman: You are not yourself doing any work?

Applicant: No.

Have you been medically examined?

—No, I went to Kingston and they told me the Medical Board had been transferred to Camberwell. *Adjourned* for medical examination.

Mr. F. Harvey, of Tamworth Dairy, Commonside East, acted for exemption for Mr. W. T. Harvey, aged 26, single, a milkman. Serious hardship would ensue if the man was called up. He was classified C2. He was not fit for the Army. He was applying for a protection certificate from the Surrey Agricultural Committee. The position was the same as the last occasion.

Dr. Worsfold: If the Agricultural Board say he ought to join the Army, I suppose you will let him go?

—I shall have to. You will have to study the dairymen and cowkeepers more than you have done.

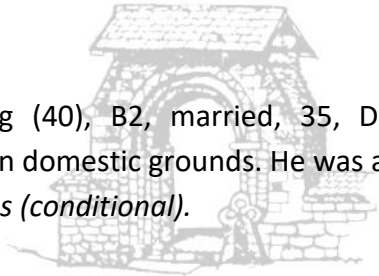
*Adjourned.*

S. Waite (33), Grade 1, married, 56, Garden-avenue, technical manager of bank-note rolls, applied for two months' exemption to put his business affairs in order. He had received a calling-up notice for the 4th inst.

*Not to be called up for one month.*

E. Cummings (41), C2, 8, Simmonds-cottages, gravedigger, seven children, asked for extension of exemption.

*Disallowed.*



J. R. Cuming (40), B2, married, 35, Devonshire-road, dairyman, appealed for extension of exemption on domestic grounds. He was a special constable, but had a badly deformed right hand.

*Three months (conditional).*

[H]



18.04.19

19 April 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening.

With regard to the point raised at the last Tribunal by the National Service Representative (Dr. T. Cato Worsfold) as to whether he had the power to appoint a member of the Tribunal to act as his deputy, and the Chairman's adverse ruling, the Clerk read a letter from the director of recruiting stating that, strictly speaking, the appointment of a deputy should be confirmed by headquarters, but in the case of an emergency the representative could appoint a deputy, who should not be a member of the Tribunal. That clearly showed that the Chairman's ruling was correct.

A circular was read stating that the National Service Representatives have received instructions to ask for the review of the exemptions granted to men in Grade I or Grade II, or classed A, B1 and C1, and asking the Tribunal to help by dealing with the cases as quickly as possible. The Clerk read a further communication stating that the Director of National service was cancelling from April 24 the exemptions granted to men in certain occupations.

Dr. Worsfold: Shall I have to take the first step?

The Clerk: No, the men's exemptions will cease and they will be called up.

Many members thought these two communications contradicted each other, and even the National Service Representative did not know what to do.

Ald. Chart cleared the matter up by stating one order took away a man's exemption and the other the National Service Representative asked for a review of certain cases.

Chairman: I don't think we can do anything.

The matter dropped.

[H]

The Clerk reported that Mr. Matthiae, baker, of Denison-road, Merton, had appealed against the Tribunal at Croydon, who dismissed the appeal.

Mrs. Higgins, of Tynemouth-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for her son, Cecil. On the last occasion the case was adjourned for medical examination. Cecil had now been graded 2. He was 18 years old and a grocer's assistant. He was her last son. Her eldest was reported killed in 1915 and the other returned to France a short time ago after being twice wounded and is now reported as being killed.

The Clerk: Are you a widow?

—Yes.

Chairman: Has he a calling-up notice?

—Yes.

Mr. Davis: Is he the last son?

—Yes.

Mr. Davis: And the only support of his mother?



—Yes.

*Six months' exemption* was granted conditional on the boy taking up work of national importance.

Mr. E. Birch, butcher, of London-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for his manager, age 41, passed C2. The man was indispensable to the business which supplied some 3,000 munition workers with cooked and uncooked meats. The work at the present time was naturally more difficult, said Mr. Birch.

Dr. Worsfold: Is that 3,000 daily, weekly or monthly?

—Weekly.

Mr. Davis: Is this business confined to munition workers?

—Oh no. The district has many munition workers.

Dr. Worsfold: How many children?

—Seven children.

Chairman: When were you last examined?

—Last October twelve months.

Chairman: It is a wonder they have not called you again.

*To join up in a month.*

Mr. H. D. W. Pearson, age 36, a cutting machine minder, of Briscoe-road, Colliers Wood, asked for temporary exemption. His wife suffered from heart trouble. She has been an out-patient of a heart hospital. The Munitions Recruiting Officer wrote stating that applicant's protection badge had been withdrawn, and asked that the man might have permission to lodge an appeal.

Dr. Worsfold: You are only asking for time?

—Yes.

The claim was *disallowed*.

[M]



18.05.03

03 May 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham, on Wednesday evening. Ten cases were dealt with. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

Mr. Arthur Mills, 41, married, overseer, etc., Garden-avenue, Mitcham, asked for temporary exemption on domestic grounds. He had a child born three months after war broke out. He had another child.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. J. W. Rondeau, age 27, general stores proprietor, Western-road, Mitcham, said his was a one man business. He was passed B2. He had a withered right arm. He had four children and had carried on his business for the past four years. If he joined up he would have to close his business.

Chairman: The facts of the business are the same as before?

—Yes.

*Six months' exemption* was granted on condition applicant joins the Special police.

Mr. A. J. Hyde, age 41, cartage contractor, Palestine-grove, Merton, said he was engaged on work which was of a vital nature. He had 11 horses. He was also a licensed coal dealer. He was passed C2.

Ald. Chart: That is Grade 3.

Chairman: You have no one but boys and women employed?

—That's right, sir.

Dr. Worsfold: You cart for munition firms?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: You cart to and from the docks?

—Yes.

Mr. Watson: What is the matter with you, why are you C2?

—Eyesight.

*Three months' exemption* on condition of applicant joining the Volunteers.

Mr. E. J. Undermark, age 41, C1, boot repairer, of Seeley-road, Tooting Junction, asked for conditional exemption on the grounds that he has a lease on his premises.

Chairman: This medical card is dated November, 1916.

Counc. Mizen: He is in Grade 2.

Dr. Worsfold: Who helps you in the business?

—Two men and a lady, one is a discharged soldier still attending the hospital.

Dr. Worsfold: You want exemption because you have a lease on your premises?

—Yes, and because I am in a certified occupation. I have two shops.

Dr. Worsfold: You feel equal to garrison duty at home, don't you?

—I do 250 pairs of boots a week, you know.

Dr. Worsfold: What is the average cost to the people?

—Men's I charge 5s., for ladies' 3s 6d.

Dr. Worsfold: That is soling and heels?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: Is there any boot-repairing shop near you?

—No.

*Three months' exemption* and granted on condition applicant becomes a Special Constable.

Mr. H. T. Harris, 41, C3, London representative of the Broadwest Films Ltd., and residing at Thirsk-road, Mitcham, said his health was bad. He partially supported his invalid sister and also his mother-in-law. Applicant had one child. He considered he was doing work of national importance. His firm was making films for the purpose of furthering the sale of War Bonds, and the booking the films was done by him. His firm was now engaged on another huge production for the sale of War Bonds. He did all the booking without payment.

Chairman: Are you not paid for your services?

—I do not get a farthing.

Dr. Worsfold: Are they doing any other business?

—Oh, yes.

Dr. Worsfold: And don't you get a salary for that?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: Then, will you explain why you said you did the work for nothing?

—When I book the usual films of my firm, I introduce the other films to the managers.

Dr. Worsfold: Oh, I see.

Chairman: You have not been examined since June, 1916?

—No.

Dr. Worsfold: When were you married?

—In October, 1915.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. T. T. Bond, age 36, married, manager, Links-road, Tooting Junction, asked for exemption. It was in the national interests that he should remain in his present occupation and severe hardship would ensue if he were called up to his family. His firm was doing work for the Government. Applicant said his employers were appealing to the dilution officer. He was in Grade 1. The claim was *disallowed* with one month's calling-up notice.

Mr. T. Gilbert, 42, married, baker, Marlboro-road, Colliers Wood, employed by J. A. Taylor, of Furzedown-market. He had a wife and six children depending on him. He is suffering from stomach trouble and had to have all his food prepared for him. He was passed C2.

Dr. Worsfold: Your employers are not appealing for you?

—No.

Mr. Watson: Are you the foreman?

—No.

Chairman: He is in Grade 3.

Applicant said they only made war bread.

Dr. Worsfold: How many men are working with you?

—A good many, sir.

Dr. Worsfold: About a score?

—Quite that, sir. Mr. Taylor has several shops and all the bread is baked in Furzedown.

Dr. Worsfold: You have six children?

—Yes.

Ald. Chart: One is over sixteen.

Chairman: What is the second?

—Fourteen.

*Three months' exemption* was granted on condition applicant joined the Special police.

Another baker appealed. He was an only son left, the other was serving. He was 31 years of age. He went to Camberwell Baths last Monday, he said, to be medically examined, but they told him he had to get a permit.

Ald. Chart: He will have to apply to Kingston for it.

—Can't I write for it?

Ald. Chart: I doubt whether you will get it. You can try it. Ald. Chart said they had not got any forms and had never been supplied with a form.

Counc. Drewett: The object of the form, I suppose, is to get another examination.

Dr. Worsfold: Yes.

Ald. Chart: We have a National Service clerk on these premises and has been here ten weeks and he tells me that the forms can only be obtained at Kingston.

The case was *adjourned*.

Mr. H. W. Ge[i?]lham, age 39, C2, married, master baker, of Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood. He had a wife and seven children to support. He further stated he was a C2 man, with two shops and has had five previous exemptions.

Chairman: He was examined in June, 1916.

Dr. Worsfold: Who have you to help you bake?

—No one.

Chairman: Any round?

—No, only four customers close to the shop, my little boys run round to them.

*Three months' exemption* was granted on condition applicant joins the Specials.

[M]

18.05.10

10 May 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided at the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday evening last. Four cases were dealt with. It has been decided to divide the Tribunal into two sections, each to sit on alternative weeks. Dr. Cato Worsfold, the National Service Representative, asked if there was a quorum.

The Chairman: Oh yes, three is sufficient.

Ald. Chart: If the the attendance falls short, I shall have to send out a three-line whip. (Laughter.)

A letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that the right of appeal was the same as before. The decision of appeal must be announced to the applicant at the time. Applicants must apply for leave to apply for exemption. If that leave is refused, applicant can appeal against the decision. If the Appeal Tribunal decide that the applicant can appeal, he must have his case heard by that Tribunal.

Ald. Chart said he had a précis of the regulations written out, so that it would be much easier for the members to understand.

The Tribunal thanked Ald. Chart for his kindness.

The first case was the appeal of Mr. Wm. Woodcock, 43, Grade 2, Morden-road, master decorator, now engaged on munitions. He had been a special constable for 12 months. He had four children. He had a one man business. A letter was read from the Special Constabulary stating applicant had attended all special duties, and most of his drills to the satisfaction of the inspector. He was now engaged in a munition factory, and was becoming proficient. A letter was read from the firm stating that applicant was in their employ.

Chairman: Then you have given up your business?

—Yes, I had to.

Chairman: How old is the eldest?

—Sixteen.

Chairman: A daughter?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: What were your hours?

—8 at night until 6.30 in the morning.

Dr. Worsfold: Will you have to drop your special constabulary duties?

—I don't know.

Coun. Drewett: What was the reason why you changed your vocation?

—Materials were getting short.

Counc. Drewett: Your wife is delicate, I think?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: If it was possible you could do a little work in the specials in the daytime?

—Yes, sir.

The claim was *disallowed*. "There do not appear to be any reasons for exemption," said the Chairman.

Mr. Albert R. Mark, aged 38, B1, married, carman, Birdhurst-road, Colliers Wood, appealed. Serious hardship would ensue if he were called up for military service. He had a wife and five children. Applicant was engaged in carting foods for his employers. If he joined up he could only leave 14s. 6d. for his wife and children to live on.

Chairman: You have appealed on domestic grounds, so the value of your work in distributing foods does not come into it. You have been re-examined?

—Yes, I went before the Medical Board on Monday and am now in Grade 3. Applicant went on to say that his wife was very delicate.

Chairman: What is the age of the oldest child?

—Sixteen, sir.

Counc. Baker: Are not your employers going to appeal for you?

—They understand they can't, or else they would.

Dr. Worsfold: Are you in the Volunteers?

—Yes, 15th County of London. He said he had been in them for two years.

Counc. Drewett: So far as your family is concerned the Civil Liabilities will look after them.

—They won't do much, sir.

Counc. Drewett: The children are healthy, I suppose?

—Pretty healthy, sir.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. G. H. Aday [Way?], aged 34, Grade 1, married, head bullion clerk, Garden-avenue, Mitcham, appealed on domestic grounds. Applicant said he had no intention of evading military service. He only asked for a short time, about a month.

*One month's final exemption* was granted.

The Tribunal had adjourned the case of Mr. A. W. Turner for him to be re-examined. Mr. Turner wrote to the Tribunal stating he had not yet been called for examination.

The case was further *adjourned*.

[M]



18.05.17

17 May 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening last at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Five cases were dealt with. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

The Clerk reported he had secured a short guide to the regulations. He only had three copies, he said. They were much more useful than the regulations themselves.

A letter was read from the Ministry of National Munitions asking for the names and addresses of the chairman and members of the Tribunal and their telephone numbers.

Chairman: My wife absolutely refuses to have the telephone in the house. (Laughter.)

The adjourned case of Mr. A. W. Turner, who was ordered to be examined again, came before the Tribunal. He was to be examined on July 10th. The case was further *adjourned*.

Messrs. Birch and Sons, butchers, appealed for Mr. E. A. Bouchard. He had received a short term of exemption, and he appealed against it to the Appeals Tribunal. They had referred him back to the Tribunal, so as to obtain leave to renew the application. Applicants carried on three butcher's businesses in the district and were supplying 5,000 registered customers. It requires exceptional effort to cut the meat.

Chairman: I hear the chewing of it does. (Laughter.)

Applicant's solicitor said it was impossible for a woman to do the work. It was impossible to replace the man who had been in applicant's employ for a number of years.

Chairman: The Tribunal thought on the last occasion that Mr. Birch had plenty of time to get a woman to fill a man's place.

The solicitor urged that the business was of national importance. The man's age was 41, and he was graded 1, previously being passed C2. "He walks nearly as bad as I do," said the solicitor.

The Tribunal decided *not to grant leave to re-appeal*.

"You are at liberty to appeal against that," remarked the Chairman.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, asked for exemption on behalf of Mr. A. E. Cooper, 41, Grade 1, Graham-road, Mitcham, a dry-cleaner. He was employed by a munition factory. Notwithstanding that, he had been able to conduct his business, but if he were to join up, the business he had conducted for the past 20 years would have to close. The business consisted of cleaning work for large firms in London. He has done all he could, he has been a Special Constable, and had done his work satisfactorily. Although he was graded 1, he had a doctor's certificate testifying to his ill health, and an appeal was going to be made against the grading.

Chairman: You can only do that by leave of the N.S.R.

Mr. Moore said that under the new regulations the Tribunal could seriously consider the circumstances of a case where very serious hardship would ensue if the man were called up.

Chairman: How many customers have you on your books?

—Twelve.

Mr. Moore: They are very big people.

Mr. Watson: You are in Grade 1. That must have been quite a recent examination.

Chairman: 24th April, 1918.

The Chairman asked what applicant was doing at the munition factory.

—Star shells.

Dr. Worsfold: How long have you been a Special Constable?

—Three years.

Dr. Worsfold: And two-thirds of your time are on war work apparently?

—Yes.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. E. G. Swan, 30, married, Pitcairn-road, Mitcham, appealed on account of his wife, who was suffering from ill health.

Mr. Poston: What is his grade?

Applicant: C3.

Mr. Watson: I think we can take it that he is in Grade 1, as he had not been examined for a long time.

Ald. Chart: No, sir, that is when a man has not been examined. This man has been examined and passed C3.

Dr. Worsfold: Any children?

—Yes, sir, one, ten years of age.

Dr. Worsfold: If you, Mr. Chairman, accept this grading, I don't press for this man.

The case was *adjourned for re-examination*.

"Do I get paid for that, sir?" asked applicant.

"Oh, no," said the Chairman.

"I shall lose my pay," he said.

Mr. E. W. Rodley, 41, C2, married, Aire-road, Colliers Wood, employed as a painter. He was a great sufferer from piles. He had a delicate wife and children.

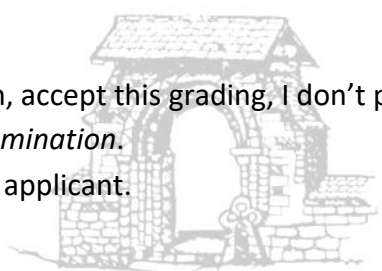
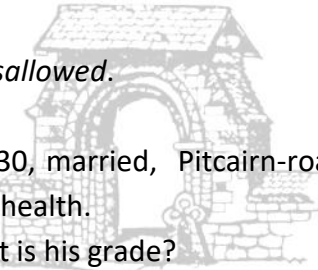
Mr. Davis: What is the date of his grading?

Chairman: He was C2 in May, 1917.

Dr. Worsfold: I request the Tribunal to adjourn the case for a medical re-examination.

The case was *adjourned for re-examination*.

[M]





18.05.24

24 May 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Four cases were dealt with. Mr. Arthur Hayne represented the National Service Representative. Councillor G. R. Helmore, the Deputy Director of the London Region, put in an appearance before the proceedings of the Tribunal. Ald. Chart did not know the gentleman, and asked him if he required exemption. "No," was the reply, "I am the Deputy Director of Recruiting." In regard to grade 3 men, Councillor Helmore said the Tribunal, on the consent of the National Service Representative, could grant exemption without asking the man to appear.\*

[M]

For the first time in the history of the Tribunal business was delayed 25 minutes owing to a quorum not being present. After being telephoned to, Councillor A. Mizen, J.P., dashed up in his motor and saved the situation.

[H]

Mr. Devereux, of Tynemouth-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Capt. James Crook, a church missionary, 38, married. It was said that Capt. Crook had a strong hold on the affections of the people. He was passed C2.

Mr. Hayne: Has anything been done as regards the religious side of Lonesome?

—There is no religious resident in the place. I have all the chapel people coming to me to have their pension papers signed.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. Helmore: I would like to see him graded. He might be a Grade 2 man now.\*

[M]

Mr. Worrell, applicant's solicitor, noticing Coun. Helmore, addressed him as the "National Service Representative."

Coun. Helmore: You are mistaken, Mr. Worrell, I am here in another capacity. You remember me, for you have seen me when I was Military Representative at Camberwell. (Laughter.)\*

[M]

Mr. Worrall applied on behalf of J. S. Powell (35), married, Grade 2, Caithness-road, produce broker, for exemption, first on the grounds of his business occupation, and secondly on the ground that applicant was a conscientious objector in so far as taking the life of another person was concerned. The Chairman said he must ask the applicant the usual questions, and was proceeding to catechise him, when Mr. Worrall intervened, and said, he thought it best to withdraw that point, inquiring if the the case could be adjourned for his client to consider what answers could be given to the various questions.

The Chairman: Certainly not. The case must be settled now. How is it this is the first application for exemption?

Applicant: I was in a starred trade, but my certificate was withdrawn last December, and I at once started in business for myself.

Three medical certificates of recent date were produced, stating he was suffering from varicose veins and a deformity of the foot.

It was ultimately elicited that applicant was not entirely in agreement with the principles of conscientious objectors.

*Disallowed.*

[H]

Mr. Butcher, solicitor, asked for exemption for Mr. F. P. Lock, aged 36, Grade 1, carpenter, of West Gardens, Robinson-road, Colliers Wood. He appealed against his medical grading. He is first totally rejected from the Army. Applicant was in a certified occupation in 1916. Mr. Butcher said his client was not a shirker. He was quite willing to join up, but he considered he was graded too high. The other day, said Mr. Butcher, applicant went to a board at Bow, where he was passed for general service. Mr. Butcher said he could give six cases where "A" men had been taken for the Army and had been in hospital ever since. Applicant produced medical evidence as to his health.

Mr. Hayne: I suppose you produced this medical evidence at the the Board?

—Yes, sir. I showed it to the doctor, who brushed it aside.

Mr. Hayne: You are putting up shelves?

—Yes, at £4.

Mr. Hayne: £4. I congratulate you. It is a high wage for such light work.

Applicant: I am also interested in chemicals.

Coun. Drewett: His real application is for a re-examination.

Mr. Butcher: Quite.

Coun. Helmore: I would suggest that you would adjourn the case for two of three weeks and let them go to the Board of Assessors.\*

*Adjourned* for a fortnight.

Mr. Wm. Bull, 26, Grade 1, married, Eveline Villas, Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, a tinsmith, appealed. He asked for a re-examination by the Special Medical Board. He also asked for exemption on domestic grounds.

Chairman: This month.

Mr. Hayne: When was he graded?

Applicant said he was C1 in June, 1917.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Mr. Gilham, baker, of Colliers Wood who last week received exemption on condition he became a "Special", wrote to the Tribunal asking them not to impose the condition. After working in a bakehouse, even a black man could not stand the cold outside.

The matter was *deferred*.

[M]

\* According to [H], Councillor Helmore came only as a spectator, and took no active part in the proceedings.

18.05.31

31 May 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday last.

The case of E. G. Swan was an adjourned one for medical examination, and he was now placed in Grade 3.

*A further exemption of three months.*

William Radley, C2, was another adjourned case for re-examination, and applicant was put in Grade 3. Applicant was engaged on Government work, and he was given *three months conditional* on remaining in his present occupation.

E. Pithers (38), C2, married, 53, Fernlea-road, Mitcham, baker, applied for extension of exemption. He suffered from very bad health. His appeal was on occupational grounds.

*Adjourned for 14 days* for medical re-examination.

Applicant strongly objected, as he claimed to be engaged in a certified trade, and to be above the age limit. He considered whatever his classification he could still claim under the certified trade heading. It was ultimately decided to grant him *three months, conditional*.

H. A. Ruff, (32), B1, Fair Green, Upper Mitcham, civil servant in the Admiralty, asked for total exemption from any service as he was a conscientious objector. He refused to undertake non-combatant service, and he was prepared to sacrifice everything rather than undertake military service. He was willing to undertake agricultural work or other duties of national importance.

*Disallowed.*

[H]



18.06.07

07 June 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over a sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham, on Wednesday evening. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

The Local Government Board wrote asking for a return of decisions for the month of May. The Clerk said he had acceded to the request.

The Local Government Board also wrote stating that a new exemption card had been issued to certain applicants; and that in certain cases men engaged in agricultural work had been withdrawn from the schedule of certified occupations.

[M]

Dr. Cato Worsfold (National Service Representative) read a letter from Sir A. Geddes, stating that at the present critical stage of the war even greater efforts and sacrifices than those already made were necessary on the part of all classes of the community. The demand for men in the higher medical grades or categories was insistent, and must be met at once if the national forces were to be maintained in adequate strength.

[H]

The adjourned case of Mr. F. P. Lock for medical examination came before the Tribunal. Applicant said he went to Croydon to be examined. He found that his name was struck out of the list by the request of the National Service Representative, as it was desired that he must be examined in London.

Dr. Cato Worsfold: I cannot understand that.

The Tribunal decided to again *adjourn* the case.

Applicant said he had received his calling-up papers. He had sent them back.

Ald. Chart: You ought to have brought them here. I would have endorsed them. You may get them again; if so bring them here.

Mr. H. T. F. Rossiter, 43, grade 2, married, voluntarily attested, Clarendon-grove, Mitcham, clerk, cashier and book-keeper, appealed. He asked for six months' exemption, or as long as required on army contracts. He was also cutter for army clothing. Owing to his special knowledge, it would now be impossible adequately to fill his place. He was cultivating an allotment, which supplied his family of six. Applicant's employers wrote stating he was engaged in cutting riding breeches for the American army. Applicant said he served through the South African war. His ill health, caused through the war, quite unfitted him for army service.

Chairman: You are a cutter for army clothing contractor?

—Yes, and I am also in the position of being the only one left in a limited liability company.

Applicant said he wanted to state he was patriotic to the core. He was not appealing on personal grounds alone. Since the war was on he had been in the volunteers but war work made him give it up. He was also in the Specials, which he had to resign also. He said he suffered very severely for his patriotism. He was in the field when the war ended and was afterwards out of work for five months.

The National Service Representative said he was willing to allow the applicant four months.  
The Tribunal granted *three months' exemption*.

Mr. Edward Holmes, age 43, grade 2, married, wholesale music-seller, of Garden-avenue, Mitcham, said his business was owned by himself and his partner. His partner was in the army and if he were taken the business would come to an end. He was engaging discharged soldiers and the premises in town were on a long lease. He had been in the business for 29 years. The present business was commenced in 1908. He had a wife and one child and a sister depending upon him, his mother also partially depended upon him.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. F. J. Mitchell, age 37, boot and shoe repairer, temporary lamp-lighter, Church-road, Mitcham, grade 1, appealed. His principal and usual occupation was boot-repairing. He received a protection certificate as a lamp-lighter, which was withdrawn.

Chairman: You are grade 1?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: What is the number of boots you repair in a week?

—On an average sixty.

In answer to question applicant said he held conditional exemption from Croydon as being a boot repairer.

Dr. Worsfold: How many children have you?

—Three children.

After the Tribunal had deliberated, the Chairman told the applicant that his certificate of exemption had not been cancelled and *still held exemption*.

[M]



18.06.14

14 June 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening.

The Clerk gave a report on appeals to the Surrey Appeals Tribunal.

A proclamation was read withdrawing certain exemptions, but only sons of widowed mothers were still exempted.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board asking for a return of the members of the Tribunal. They required the names and address and ages of the members and particulars of any public offices they hold.

A gravedigger, Mr. C. Sullivan, age 43, A, of Western-road, Mitcham, employed at the Streatham Park cemetery was appealed for by his employers. All the men had gone and only two gravediggers were left. It was impossible for a young and inexperienced man to dig a grave. It was also impossible for an older man to do the work. The work had been done very satisfactory, but they did not know what was going to happen in the winter. Applicants had advertised for men without success. Graves that were opened were not fully filled in for some time, owing to the shortage of labour. An old man was doing the clerical work, but, owing to the work, he broke down and was now in an asylum.

Dr. Worsfold: How many funerals do you have a day?

—Between four and five thousand a year.

Chairman: They get overtime, the men?

Dr. Worsfold: I recommend four months.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

Mr. W. M. Sayers, age 27, A, married, Church-road, Mitcham, engine-driver at Mitcham Gas Works, appealed. He asked for sufficient time to enable his wife to look after his 30-rod allotment and his sows, pigs, chickens and rabbits. He would remain in his present occupation while he had exemption.

Chairman: Rather a big allotment

— Yes, it is as much as I can manage.

Dr. Worsfold: Has your wife any sister?

—Yes, at Croydon.

Chairman: His certificate of protection has been withdrawn.

Mr. Davis: How can she look after this 30-rod allotment?

—She will do the best she can.

*To join up in two months.*

Messrs. Baines and Partners, Ltd., sheet metal workers, of Church-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. H. Woolmore, age 43, grade 2, married, sheet metal worker residing at Penge. The firm was represented by a young man who stated it was his first appearance before a Tribunal

so he hoped the Tribunal would excuse any lapse on his part. Among their employees were 10 discharged soldiers and rejected men. The man was indispensable to the firm.

Chairman: Why have you not applied for a protection for this man?

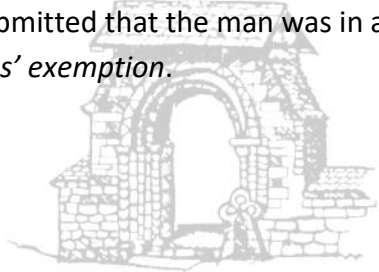
—We have had notice from the military authorities asking us to apply for protection for all our men between 40 and 50.

Chairman: You do not want our help then?

—This man has had a calling-up notice.

Applicant submitted that the man was in a certified occupation.

*Three months' exemption.*



[M]



18.06.21

21 June 1918

The Mitcham Local National Service Tribunal is now divided into two sections. One section meets one week, while No. 2 section sits the following week. This arrangement enables members to attend to their own personal businesses. It also helps the army authorities in obtaining men at a quicker rate than hitherto. Speeding up the appeals, and giving the decision to the applicants on the same day is a new departure of the Mitcham Tribunal, which gives satisfaction to the applicants. Dr. Cato Worsfold is the recognised National Service Representative attached to the Tribunal, and Alderman R. M. Chart, J.P., is the Clerk. He reads the cases to the Tribunal and gives advice when it is needed.

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the Tribunal on Wednesday evening at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the National Service Representative.

The Clerk reported an appeal to the Surrey Appeal Tribunal. Mr. H. P. Lipscombe, of High-street, Colliers Wood, had his exemption appealed against by the N.S.R. The N.S.R.'s appeal was allowed and applicant *to join up*.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board asking the Tribunal to speed up the hearing of appeals.

Chairman: We are doing that (hear, hear).

Mr. F. P. Lock's case had been adjourned on two occasions for him to be medically examined. Mr. Lock appeared before the Tribunal and said he had not been examined yet. He was told he would receive a notice when they wanted him, he said.

Chairman: They gave you nothing in writing?

—No.

The case was *adjourned* again for a week.

Messrs. Liptons, provision merchants, of High-road, Streatham, asked for exemption for Mr. Wm. Lagell, age 43, Grade 2, married, manager of Robinson-road, Collier's Wood. It was of national importance that the man should remain in his present occupation in food distributing.

Ald. Chart: The case should not have come here at all. The business is at Streatham.

*Referred to Wandsworth Tribunal.*

The Streatham Park Cemetery Co. asked for exemption for Mr. J. T. Ruff, aged 44, Grade 2. Three-fourths of the staff had joined up. One of the sons of Mr. Ruff was with the colours. He was digging common graves which are dug very deep. It required an experienced man to do the work. They had between 4 and 5 thousand interments a year. The cemetery had no reserve labour whatever. Advertising in the local papers for men was of no avail. Young men could not be trusted to do the work, and it was not possible for an old man to do it.

*Two months' exemption.*



Mr. Henry Tyler, aged 18, single, Grade 3 was appealed for by his mother, carrying on business as greengrocer and fishmonger at Common Side East. Her husband was in the army, and she had 4 younger children to support. Applicant's husband, writing to the Tribunal, said his son was the only one to carry on the business, and he was depending on him.

*Three months' exemption.*

Mr. Wm. J. Hastings, aged 44 Grade 1, of Mitford Gardens, a chauffeur employed by Mr. Mallaby-Deeley, M.P., appealed on grounds of ill health. He suffered from double rupture.

Dr. Worsfold: I suppose you are not doing much motoring now?

—No, sir.

*Adjourned for medical re-examination.*

Mr. Horace Roffe, age 43, married, Fortescue-road, Colliers Wood, plasterer's foreman, appealed. He had 7 children, the eldest being 11 years. He submitted he was on work of national importance. He had not been graded.

The claim was *disallowed*.

Applicant: I appear at Whitehall tomorrow morning, sir?

Chairman: Yes, if you have got your calling-up notice.

[M]



18.06.28

28 June 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the local Tribunal on Wednesday at the Vestry Hall.

Messrs. Hall and Co. appealed for their employee, C. F. Chapman (32), Grade 2. A letter was produced from the Controller of Coal Mines cancelling this man's calling-up notice until July 8th, when fresh instructions would be issued.

T. Weller (46), Grade 1, married, 5, [illeg]-cottages, Mitcham, was represented by Mr. J. W. Moore, who produced letters from local firms showing that he was engaged on Government work of importance. He had received a calling-up notice. He was a cartage contractor, and claimed he was in a certified occupation.

*Disallowed.*

William Gray (41), Grade [illeg], married, 34, Marian-road, builder's labourer, was represented by Mr. E. Cubison, who stated that the applicant was in the employ of Mr. Sayers, builder, who was appealing for his exemption. He was doing important sanitary work at the military hospital, Western-road, also in private dwellings, and was very skilled in this work.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. Cubison also appeared for W. H. Gay (47), Grade 2, married, 29, Robinson-road, laundry proprietor, and explained that applicant employed nearly 50 hands. The whole of his capital was invested in the business.

*Three months conditional.*

H. Wyatt (18), Grade 1, single, 9, Allen's-cottages, Lonesome, contractor, [illeg] for Messrs. Mizen. Mr. Butcher, solicitor, said that applicant hoped to carry on the business until his brother returned from France, but unfortunately he had been killed. The applicant worked on his father's farm, comprising 12 acres; vegetables only were grown.

*Dismissed, but not to be called up for a month.*

J. W. Luetchford (43), Grade 1, married, of Upper Norwood, laundry manager, said his business was situated in Grove-road. They did washing for over 3,000 troops: twenty hands were employed.

*Disallowed.*

C. Saunders (44), Grade 2, married, 310, High-street, Colliers Wood, cartage contractor, asked for exemption as his was a one-man business. He carted old metal, mostly for Mr. Hyams.

*Disallowed. Not to be called up for a month.*

W. A. Smith (44), Grade 2, married, 11, Grenfell-road, taxicab driver, asked for three months' exemption. He had eight children, his two eldest sons being in France. He asked for time, as his wife's health was very indifferent. He was in the employ of Mr. Roberts, South Kensington.

*Three months.*

J. Freeman (41), Grade 1, married, 25, Gordon-road, Carshalton, fireman and timekeeper for Messrs. J. Pain Ltd., said he was discharged from the Army in 1915 as medically unfit and not likely to become an efficient soldier.

*Disallowed.*

F. Money (43), Grade 1, married, harness maker, said he was disappointed with his grading. He repaired the harness for most of the coal merchants at Merton Abbey and other places. He asked for two months to clear up his existing contracts.

*Three months and exemption from Volunteer service.*

C. Lack, Grade 1, married, London-road, Mitcham, draper, appealed for exemption and explained the ill health of his mother, his Special Constabulary duties, and other public positions he held. He was the manager of his drapery business and asked for time to arrange his business affairs.

*Three months conditional.*

[H]



18.07.05

05 July 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Eight cases were dealt with, four were adjourned cases, and one was an application by the National Service Representative. Dr. Cato Worsfold was the N.S.R.

The adjourned case of Mr. S. P. Dale came before the Tribunal. The man was graded 1. He had since been re-examined and placed in Grade 3. He was a Special Constable, There were notices to the effect that Grade 3 Special Constables would not be called up, he said.

Coun. Drewett: He is not likely to be called.

The case was *adjourned* for a fortnight for applicant to get in touch with the Commissioner of Police.

The adjourned case of Mr. A. J. Hastings was heard. He was initially graded 1 and his case was adjourned for his re-examination. Applicant said he had not yet been summoned for re-examination.

Again *adjourned*.

Another adjourned case, Mr. F. P. Lock, was heard. He was in grade 1 and the Tribunal had referred him to re-medical examination. He appealed on medical grounds. He now stated his appeal for re-examination was refused.

Ald. Chart: So you are still in grade 1.

—Yes.

Applicant said his age was 36, and he resided at West-gardens, Robinson-road, Merton. He was a carpenter and ship's joiner by trade. He was totally rejected first of all, he said.

Chairman: In the circumstances, he is a grade 1 man. We have no alternative.

Applicant: It seems to me, sir, when I went to the County Hall that those who can afford to get a certificate from a Harley-street specialist or get a solicitor can get a hearing.

Chairman: That does not really affect us.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

Mr. A. E. Shaw was another adjourned case for re-examination. He was in grade 2 and the Croydon Appeal Tribunal had granted his request for a re-grading.

Again *adjourned*.

The National Service Representative appealed to have the exemption of Mr. B. Dendy reviewed. Dr. Worsfold said the Mitcham Council appealed for the man as a fireman of the fire brigade. The N.S.R. appealed against the decision and the appeal was upheld and the local tribunal decision was ruled out.

Counc. Mizen said since then Mr. Dendy had appealed on his own behalf on business grounds and was granted exemption.

Dr. Worsfold: I did not know that. (to Mr. Dendy) You are looking after cars?

—Yes.

Counc. Drewett: You repair agricultural instruments?

—Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: He is 36, passed A, and surely he is not in a certified occupation.

Ald. Chart: It has never been decertified.

The Tribunal's decision was that they *confirmed its previous decision* and dismissed the National Service Representative's appeal.

Mr. Leather, nurseryman, of Laburnum Nursery, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. S. T. Tegg, aged 44, grade 2, his ploughman and carter.

Chairman: How many carmen have you got?

—Three carters, sir.

Chairman: All of military age?

—Over military age, sir.

Coun. Mizen: He can't appeal for the man as a ploughman, because he is engaged in agricultural work, and he can't be called.

Chairman: I should like some authority.

Coun. Drewett: We can deal with him as a carter.

Chairman: He has not been called?

—No.

Chairman: Then you need not appeal yet.

The case was *withdrawn* until the man was called up.

Mr. J. R. Cuming, age 40, B2, dairyman, of Devonshire-road, Colliers Wood, appealed. He had 400 registered customers, and serious hardship would ensue if he were called. He was a Special Constable.

Ald. Chart: He was examined twelve months ago.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Having lost her husband in the present war and having seven young children, Mrs. Simmonds, of Chapel-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption for her 18-year-old son, passed for general service. It would be very hard for her if the boy went, she said.

Counc. Drewett: He has been a good boy and stuck by the home.

Ald. Chart: How many children do you get a pension for?

—Five, sir.

*To join up in a month.*

[M]

18.07.12

12 July 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of the local Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday last.

N. Tucker (46), Grade 1, married, The Broadway, Mitcham, butcher, appealed for exemption on business grounds. He had three shops and 20 acres of grazing land. He had now twenty beasts. He only had one man (Grade 3) in his Mitcham shop.

*Six months*, conditional on his joining the Special Constabulary.

Applicant said he could not spare the time to join the "specials" until October 1st, which the Tribunal agreed to sanction.

A. Hawkins, (48), Grade 2, married, 36, Thirsk-road, commercial traveller for wholesale grocers, appealed for exemption. His wife suffered from bad health.

*Three months*, conditional on his engaging on some work of national importance and joining either the Volunteers or the Special Constabulary.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appeared on behalf of E. V. Bigsby, B1, 35 years of age, whose work was de-certified. Mr. Moore asked the Tribunal to reconsider the exemption granted and said Mr. Bigsby was a varnish maker, and that this was a certified trade. He was carrying out work of national importance as evidenced by the correspondence which he laid before the Tribunal.

The case was further *adjourned* for Mr. Bigsby to be re-examined by the Medical Board and graded.

The National Service Representative asked for the case of O. H. Wood (37), A, married, The Causeway, blacksmith, to be reconsidered as the work was not of national importance. He was medically examined in July, 1917. The National Service Representative asked the Tribunal to decide as to whether the work he was now doing was of importance.

Previous total exemption granted was *confirmed* on his joining the Special Constabulary.

Mr. Hand appealed for F. G. Birch (44), Grade 2, married, 75, Courtney-road, and asked for total exemption. The man was engaged on important Government work, which he would have to stop if he joined up. He had been in his employ for 15 years.

*Disallowed*: not to be called up for one month.

Jas. Seale (18), Grade 1, single, Lewis-road, de-tinner of iron, was appealed for by his father on the ground that he was very handy to him in the business.

*Disallowed*.

J. G. Beveridge (45), grade 2, Tamworth-park, taxicab driver for 17 years, has nine children, the eldest being totally blind, and he appealed for exemption on domestic grounds. Two daughters were at work.

*Three months*.

W. Scenling (46), Grade 2, married, of Thirsk-road, signwriter, appealed for exemption on the grounds that he was engaged on War Office work for a firm of contractors, in addition to his own private connection. He has three children.

*Disallowed.*

W. R. Mitchell (46), Grade 2, married, 17, Thirsk-road, taxi owner and driver, asked for exemption, as he had all his capital invested in his cab, which had been partially purchased in the hire-purchase system. He was a member of the County of London Motor Volunteers.

*Disallowed.*

P. J. O. Kelly (47), Grade 1, married, 28, Caithness-road, salesman for Messrs. Peter Robinson's for 15 years, asked for temporary exemption as he had three young children. His wife was not very strong. He had two allotments to cultivate.

*Disallowed.*

George Miles (24), A, married, 3, The Terrace, Firework-road, was employed by Messrs. J. Pain and Sons, and was engaged in making signals for the Government.

*Disallowed.*

A. H. Tofts, (45), Grade 1, married, clothing examiner, asked for exemption. He had lost a son in France and had five children. He had an allotment to cultivate. He had a son nearly 18 who would shortly have to join up.

*Three months, final.*

A. Cleaver (44), Grade 1, married, 2, Victoria-road, hairdresser, the owner of a one-man business, appealed for exemption. He had fought through the South African War. His wife was in very delicate health and had recently undergone an operation, and he had to send her away to recuperate.

*Disallowed: not to be called up for one month.*

[H]



18.07.19

19 July 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided over a meeting of this Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday.

In an adjourned case A. Tutt produced a certificate stating that he had been rejected as totally unfit for military service.

A. E. Shaw reported that he had received leave to be medically examined, but had not yet received a notice to attend.

Further *adjourned* for 14 days.

G. Kitchingman reported that he had an appeal pending for a medical examination before the Surrey Tribunal.

*Adjourned.*

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appeared on behalf of M. Weller, whose application had been disallowed by the Tribunal recently, but against which decision he had appealed to the Croydon Tribunal. Mr. Moore said the appeal had not yet been heard. He asked the Tribunal for leave to have the case re-heard, in order that the Tribunal might reconsider its previous decision, in view of the fact that new grading had been sanctioned by the National Service Recruiting Headquarters. So far as his client was concerned, it meant that since the hearing of his application Grade 1 was now termed Grade 1, B1, and on this he based his application for reconsideration.

The Tribunal decided *not to grant leave* for a re-hearing, as the new facts would be put before the Croydon Tribunal when the appeal was heard.

[H]





18.07.26

26 July 1918

Mr. G. Farewell Jones presided at a meeting of the local Tribunal at the Vestry Hall on Wednesday last.

Mr. Homan appealed for W. Woodstock (45), Grade 1, butler, and asked for a month's exemption in order to give him time to find a substitute.

*One month, final.*

W. H. Field (Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor) reported that he had obtained permission for another medical examination, and the case was *adjourned* for seven days.

Mr. Moore appeared on behalf of A. V. Bigsby (39), B1. This case was brought up by the National Service Representative for the Tribunal to reconsider the exemption granted. He claimed Mr. Bigsby to be engaged in a certified occupation, but the National Service Representative argued that this was not the case under the Military Service Act, 1918. After considerable discussion it was decided to *confirm* the exemption previously granted on condition that he joined the Special Constabulary.

C. Clamp (49), Grade 2, married, 212, High-street, Colliers Wood, brushmaker and pigkeeper, claimed exemption. He had 50 pigs and supplied the trade. He also had contracts for supplying brushes and brooms to most of the surrounding Councils.

*Six months* conditional on continuing in the same business.

F. G. Carter (45), Grade 1, 8, Edmund-road, explosive factory storekeeper, appealed for exemption on the ground that he was engaged on work of national importance. He was in the Special Constabulary. He had seven children. He produced letters from Messrs. J. Pain and Sons, his employer, and Chief Inspector Poston.

*Six months* conditional.

H. W. Gilham (38), C2, 20, Devonshire-road, master baker, asked for total exemption, as he was engaged in a certified trade. He made on an average 3,000 loaves per week. He has seven children.

*Six months* and exemption from Volunteer service.

T. Gilbert (42), C2, married, 45, Marlborough-road, baker, has six children, and suffers from indifferent health. He is engaged in a certified occupation and asked for exemption. There were 14 men employed in the same bakery and they used 200 sacks of flour weekly for bread.

*Six months*, exempted from Volunteer service.

A. J. Hyde (43), C2, married, Palestine-grove, cartage contractor, has 14 horses and his work is chiefly for the Admiralty, to and from the docks and the principal railways. He is still serving in the Volunteers, Merton Company.

*Six months*, conditional.

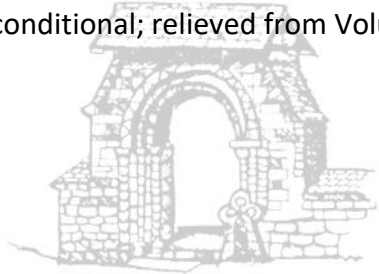
J. T. Baker (24), Grade 1, single, Causeway, Mitcham, signal maker, employed by Messrs. Pain and Sons, claimed exemption as he was employed in work of national importance. He had been in his present work for ten years, but his protection certificate had been withdrawn.

*Disallowed.*

J. Good (48), Grade 2, married, 108, Church-road, labourer, asked for exemption, as his wife was a confirmed invalid and quite helpless.

*Six months, conditional; relieved from Volunteer service.*

[H]



18.08.02

02 August 1918

The Mitcham National Service Tribunal is continuing its sittings. The number of men of the new military age that appeal for exemption is small as compared with the number of the younger men who have appealed. The Tribunal deal on an average with about ten cases every week. The National Service Representative is Dr. Cato Worsfold, and the Chairman is Councillor Farewell Jones. The Tribunal sat last Wednesday evening at the Vestry Hall.

A letter was read from the Balham and Tooting Traders' Association, forwarding copy of their recent resolution passed by them protesting against Advisory Committees being formed for protection to employees of Co-operative societies. The tradesmen did not enjoy such a privilege. They considered it most unfair. The Clerk stated they were asked to help to put representatives on the Co-operative Societies' Advisory Committee, but they had no power. No action was taken.

The case of A. E. Shaw came up for consideration. He wrote stating he had not yet received any notice to be re-examined.

*Adjourned.*

Mr. Horne, secretary of the Tooting Bec Golf Club, asked for exemption for Mr. C. W. Chandler, aged 47, Grade 2, their head groundsman. The grounds contained one hundred acres and a considerable amount of hay was derived from it. Much of the ground had been turned into allotments. The members of the club were over military age. The man had seven children, one was in the Army. It was submitted that the man was better in his present occupation than being a hospital soldier.

Chairman: Has he got charge of the haymaking?

—Yes, we have got twenty to thirty tons of hay out of it.

*Three months' exemption* and exempted from volunteer obligations.

Messrs. Curtis Bros and Dumbrill, dairymen, of Gorringe Park Dairy, Mitcham, asked for exemption for Mr. Geo. Ward, aged 48, Grade 2, who was helping the wife of the manager who had joined up, to manage the business. He also did a round. They were serving 1,200 customers a day.

*Three month's exemption* was granted and exempted from volunteer obligations.

The Home and Colonial Stores asked for exemption for the manager of the Mitcham-road, Tooting, shop. The man was grade 2. He was a grocer's manager, and was indispensable, being in charge of a food distribution centre. It was essential in the national interest that the man should remain in his present occupation. He lived in Mitcham and had five children.

*Three months' exemption.*

[M]

G. H. Jewell sent a doctor's certificate that he was suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic fever.

*Six months.*

A. R. Mark (38), Grade 3, married, 11, Birdhurst-road, carman and contractor, who delivers provisions to shops and has five children, asked for a further extension of his exemption. He has been a Volunteer for two years.

*Three months, conditional.*

E. J. J. Undermark (41), C1, married, 78 Seeley-road, boot repairer, asked for a further extension of his exemption as he was engaged in a certified trade. He held his premises under lease and employed two men and one woman.

*Three months, conditional on his joining the Special Constabulary or Volunteers.*

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appeared for George York (46), B1, married, 3, St. Mark's-road, undertaker and funeral furnisher. It being a one-man business it was expedient, he contended, he should continue in his business, as there was a great shortage of undertakers. It was very difficult to carry out the orders received, and he had to assist others in his trade.

*Two months, final.*

Mr. Moore also appeared for F. Hutton (48), B1, fishmonger, Fair Green, and asked for conditional exemption on the ground that it was in the national interest he should remain to carry on the business. A large number of munition workers and their children were supplied with nutritious meals in the way of fried fish and potatoes. Applicant was also supervising three similar businesses owned by brothers in the Army, and two shops for a sister. He asked to be allowed to amend the claim on the ground that the man was in a certified occupation, as he was also a fish curer.

The Clerk pointed out that only curers for wholesale firms were certified.

*Three months and exemption from Volunteers.*

C. W. Wheatley, master butcher, Colliers Wood (48), B2, claimed conditional exemption as the proprietor of a one-man business. His was the only butcher's shop in that neighbourhood, and his only son was a merchant seaman.

*Three months' exemption without Volunteer service.*

H. Davis Morgans (48), Grade 2, Warren-road, bought ledger clerk, applied on domestic grounds. He was a widower, with two children, and had no relatives to look after them.

*Two months' exemption in order to give appellant an opportunity of making some arrangement for the care of the children. Applicant did not see how he could make any arrangements. Some men might get married again, but just now that was too risky an operation. (Laughter.)*

Mr. J. M. Pitt, builder, applied for the exemption of C. Weller (48), B2, Grade 2, 12, Century-road, house repairer, who was now doing work formerly done by men who had joined up. Weller also put in an appeal on domestic grounds. In the evening he was employed by Typke and King, chemical manufacturers.

*Disallowed, not to be called up for one month.*

John Marsh Pitt (46), B2, 5, The Park, builder, who owned fifty cottages and superintended the repair of 50 others, appealed on business grounds, and also for absolute exemption as a conscientious objector. Several letters were put in supporting the claim. The Rev. R. Richman wrote that although he held different views to Mr. Pitt, he felt bound to testify to the earnestness and sincerity of his convictions. Mr. R. A. Bush and Mr. Ed. Grubb, M.A., of Croydon, wrote in similar strain and the Society of Friends wrote to the effect that appellant acted as their visiting chaplain at Brixton Prison. Mr. Mizen did not think it necessary to have the replies read to the set of questions specially provided for C.O.'s: they had all known Mr. Pitt longer than the writers of those letters.

Appellant, in reply to Dr. Worsfold, said he had two sons employed on the land, one had just left school and the other was going to France to work with the Society of Friends War Victims' Relief Committee, of which he was also a great helper. He would not object to going to France for similar work, but he thought it was more suitable for younger men.

The Tribunal eventually decided to grant *absolute exemption*, and Mr. Pitt promised to use all his spare time in the interests of the community.

[H]



18.08.09

09 August 1918

The Clerk reported that only one appeal had been lodged against the decision of the Tribunal since its last sitting.

The adjourned case of Mr. A. J. Slater came before the Tribunal. It had been adjourned for re-examination. Permission of the Appeal Tribunal had been granted, and appellant was still waiting to be examined.

*Adjourned.*

The Streatham Park Cemetery asked for exemption for Mr. J. T. Ruff, Grade 2, aged 44, a gravedigger. The staff was totally inadequate for digging graves. 287 interments were conducted in July. Owing to the fact that some of the men had been ill, the orders had to be refused for a few days. Other cemeteries had to put the bodies in the churches until graves could be dug. This was owing to shortage of labour. Such a state of affairs was serious. Bodies had to be removed to the mortuaries until graves could be prepared. Some undertakers' businesses had been doubled during the past 12 months. It was a difficult thing for the undertakers to consider what is to be done with the dead. Undertakers had contemplated ceasing to give up undertaking for a week, so as to bring to the notice of the authorities the position of those who have to bury the dead. If more labour was taken away from gravedigging, a grave menace would come about. Applicants had two gravediggers and a foreman. In busy times they had on an average 100 interments a week.

*Three months' exemption* and exempted from Volunteers.

Mr. George Tratt, aged 44, B2, single, master butcher, of Western-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption through his solicitor. His was a one-man business with 1,430 registered customers. He asked if the National Service Representative had seen the arrangements which the Federation of Master Butchers of the National Service had come to.

Mr. Hayne: No.

The Solicitor said the business was an old-established one and his was the third largest butcher in Mitcham.

Chairman: Do you go to market?

—Yes. If I am not there I get what is left.

Coun. Mizen: And the customers grumble?

—They grumble afterwards.

*Six months' exemption*, applicant to become a Special.

Mr. Henry Moore, licensed victualler, of "The King's Arms" inn, Mitcham, appealed. He had six sons, one in the Merchant Service was drowned at sea. The turnover was heavy. He devoted his spare time to cultivating land, assisted by his children. Applicant was 47 years of age and was placed in grade 2, which, his solicitor said, was equivalent to B2. It was essential to have responsible man on the premises. There were 17 years to run on the lease. The whole of his capital was sunk in the business.

Chairman: Fully licensed?

—Yes.

*Three months' exemption* was granted, applicant to join the Volunteers.

Mr. George Uridge, 48, Grade 2, Gorrington Park Parade, a coffee-shop keeper, said he had two children. Hardship would ensue if he were called.

Chairman: How long have you had it?

—Eleven years.

Mr. Davis: Where is it?

—Tooting Junction, corner of Inglemere-road, sir.

Chairman: You live on the premises?

Mr. Hayne: How many days a week do you open?

—Seven.

Mr. Hayne: What do your clients pay you, 1s. 6d.?

—Oh no, we can't charge more than 1s 2d.

Mr. Hayne: What class of customers have you?

—All classes, men on the road.

*Three months' exemption*, applicant to join Specials or the Volunteers.

[M]



18.08.23

23 August 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided at the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening. Ald. Chart, the clerk, being on his holidays, was represented by Mr. White.

Captain Crook, of the Church Army Mission, Lonesome, appealed. He had been in Grade 3. Applicant was not present.

Dr. Worsfold agreed to exemption.

*Six months' exemption* and exempt from Volunteers.

Mr. T. Harris, cartage contractor, of Christchurch-road, Merton, appealed for Mr. J. Charliess, aged 39, married, a carman. Applicant stated the man was engaged in carting munitions of war to and from the London docks. His men had left him one by one to join the army and this is the only man left.

Dr. Worsfold: How many horses have you got?

—Sixteen, and twelve boys are employed.

*Three months' exemption*, exempt from Volunteers.

Mr. H. A. Mawe, C3, married, of Garden-avenue, Mitcham, appealed. He was an order clerk with a firm making printing blocks of plans and newspaper illustrations. He put in a lengthy statement as to his medical condition and complained of the Medical Board. He has personally supervised and carried out Government work. He suggested he was more of use to the country in his civil life than being a soldier in the army. His age was thirty-six. His firm were making the plates for the stamp of the coming luxury tax.

Dr. Worsfold: Are you doing any voluntary war work?

—No, I feel very tired when I get home.

*Six months' exemption* was granted.

Mr. Frank Smith, aged 46, Grade 2, widower, employed as a painter and decorator, and residing at East Fields, Mitcham, asked for a month's exemption in order to enable his daughter to return to look after his home during his absence.

The month was *granted*.

The National Service Representative of Wimbledon asked that the exemption granted to Mr. J. Stevens, aged 40, foreman baker, of Streatham-road, Mitcham, be reviewed, as it was no longer necessary in the national interests that he should remain in civil employment. Appellant said he had five children and was B1. He was manager in the shop.

Dr. Worsfold: Who have you under you?

—A lad.

Dr. Worsfold: How long has shop been established there?

—About seven or eight years, I believe, sir. He said he was employed by Mr. Keirle, baker. His employer wrote to the Tribunal asking that the man be exempt as the shop was necessary to the neighbourhood.



Dr. Worsfold: How many shops has Mr. Keirle?

—Three.

Dr. Worsfold: Do you do any fancy bread or confectionery?

—Nothing at all. I have no time.

Dr. Worsfold: Personally, Mr. Stevens, you have no objection to serving, I suppose?

—No, I have no conscientious objection.

Dr. Worsfold: No, I mean, there is nothing in the family?

—Well, it would be bad for my wife and children.

*Adjourned for medical re-examination.*

Mr. E. Pithers, aged 38, C2, baker, of Fernlea-road, Mitcham, asked for exemption on the grounds of ill health. He had bad teeth, bad hearing, and suffered from piles. He submitted also that he was in a certified occupation.

Chairman: You are a baker employed by the Maltina Bread Company?

— Yes.

Chairman: Your circumstances are the same as before?

— Yes.

Dr. Worsfold: Which part do you particularly do?

— Oven work.

Dr. Worsfold: How many men are working there with you?

— About twenty-five.

Dr. Worsfold: You have very poor health, I understand?

— Yes, very poor.

*Three months' exemption and exempt from Volunteers.*

At the end of the sitting Dr. Cato Worsfold, the National Service Representative stated that, owing to his being the prospective candidate for Mitcham at the next General Election, he had placed his resignation in the hands of the Ministry of National Service. He had been associated with the work for six years. He was chairman of the original Territorial company, chairman of the committee of Kitchener's Army, chairman of the local Derby Recruiting Committee. Then he became Military Representative and later National Service Representative. His task in the latter capacity was a painful one to him. It was a piece of war work which had to be done. He wished to say he very much appreciated the courtesy that had been extended to him by the clerk and the members of the Tribunal.

The Chairman voiced the Tribunal views when he stated they were very sorry that the doctor was leaving them. He had always been very fair and they had always worked well together.

It was resolved that a vote of appreciation of the doctor's work be entered upon the minutes.

[M]

18.08.30

30 August 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening.

The Clerk gave a report on appeals to the Surrey Appeal Tribunal. In one case, where a man was turned down, he appealed and was granted exemption until February: another was given to October. An undertaker's appeal was dismissed.

The Clerk reported the receipt of L.B.B. circulars. Veterinary surgeons were to be exempted. The Clerk said there was only one in Mitcham, and he was over age. Another letter suggested the formation of a committee to organise part-time labour in the district. No action was taken.

Mr. A. E. Shaw, an adjourned case for medical examination, came before the Tribunal. He was now in B3 (Grade 3). His age was 43 and married. He resided at Caithness-road, Mitcham and is a musician and was employed at the South London Palace. He supported his four children; one just left school. His wife was away ill. He could not support them on the money which the War Office granted. He did not want his wife to come back and find the home gone.

Chairman: You have a boy at sea?

—Yes.

Chairman: Your wife is still in the hospital?

—Yes, sir.

Chairman: Are you still in an orchestra?

Yes, but I am now at the Hammersmith Palace. He asked that he could withdraw his appeal until he was called up.

Ald. Chart: What advantage would be gained?

Chairman: I don't think there would be any.

Mr. Hayne: It would only mean a few weeks.

Applicant: It is only a suggestion of mine.

Counc. Drewett: I think we can get on with the case.

*Three months' exemption, and exemption from the Volunteers.*

Mr. G. Kitchingman wrote asking for a further adjournment of his case, as he had not been re-examined. His was an entirely one-man business. He supported his mother and widowed sister and her son.

*Adjourned for a fortnight.*

Mr. W. J. Hastings, aged 44, who was originally in Grade 1, was sent to be re-graded, and was again Graded 1. "It is a ridiculous decision. I am double ruptured," he said. He resided at Mitcham and was aged 44. He was chauffeur to Mr. Mallaby-Deeley, M.P. He could not walk for a long distance. He had been offered employment at an aeroplane factory, and had accepted the offer and was working.

Applicant was *ordered to join up.*

“Very good, sir” said applicant, when the decision of the Tribunal was communicated to him.

Mr. D. B. Goodenough, aged 39, C 2, said he had a calling-up notice for re-examination on Saturday.

*Adjourned* for a fortnight.

Mr. Edward Holmes, aged 43, Grade 2, married, of Garden-avenue, Mitcham, and having a musical dealer’s business in town. He acted as agent to about 400 provincial dealers. He also supplied music direct to the troops. The premises were taken on a long lease. His partner had joined up, he said, and he remained to carry on. They had received a licence for the purpose of sending music to France for educational purposes. The business of sending music to France to the troops was rapidly increasing. Among applicant’s staff were 5 discharged soldiers.

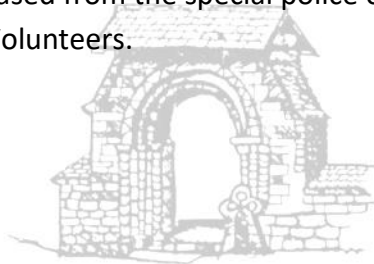
Mr. Hayne: If you went into the army, your business would go to other firms, so that faint is not very strong.

The appeal was *disallowed*.

Mr. H. T. F. Rossiter, 43, Grade 2, married, residing at Clarendon-grove, Mitcham, a secretary, asked for six months’ exemption. He said he was engaged in cutting riding breeches for the American Army. He had been released from the special police on account of his military work.

*Three months*, and exempt from Volunteers.

[M]



18.09.13

13 October 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening. Mr. A. Hayne was the National Service Representative. It was reported that Mr. Hayne had authority to be the National Service Representative for the Mitcham District.

It was reported that the Military Service Acts would also refer to American citizens.

The Mitcham Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade wrote drawing the Tribunal's attention to the Brigade and asking that appellants who were granted exemption should be ordered to join the Brigade. Men were being exempted on the understanding that they joined the Special Constabulary. They trusted the Brigade should also have consideration.

The adjourned case of Mr. G. Kitchingman for re-examination came before the Tribunal. Applicant was originally "A," but was now in Grade 2. His age was 46 and resided at Links Road, Tooting Junction. He was in business on his own account and submitted his was a one-man business.

Chairman: What business is it?

—General draper's warehouse. His father established the original business 50 years ago.

Chairman: It is not merely an agency?

—Oh, no.

Chairman: So you dispatch and stock?

—Yes. I send by carrier.

Chairman: How long have you had the business yourself?

—Seven years.

*Three months' exemption* granted "to make final arrangements," said the Chairman.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, appeared in support of the application for exemption by Mr. W. H. Field, who had been sent to be re-examined. He was now classed Grade 2, the same grade as originally. His age was 46, and married and residing at High Street, Mitcham, in business as an off-licence holder. All his capital was invested in the business. He would lose his all if he joined the Army.

Mr. Moore said his client's business was known to many people in Mitcham. He supplied beers and spirits to a large number of customers. That kept people out of public-houses, submitted Mr. Moore. There was a large turnover and the case warranted exemption. His health would not permit him doing volunteer work, if that condition was made on granting exemption. It was much better to have off-licences than public houses," said Mr. Moore.

Ald. Chart: You sometimes appeal for public houses. (Laughter.)

*Three months exemption* "to make final arrangements," said the Chairman.

The adjourned case of Mr. J. Stevens came up again. It was an appeal by the National Service Representative. The case was adjourned for the man to be medically examined. He had been examined and placed in Grade 2.

The Clerk said it was a Wimbledon case, which had been transferred to Mitcham.

Mr. Hayne: I am sorry, Mr. Stevens, to trouble you, but I have no papers about it and I want to ask you to put it off.

*Adjourned* for a fortnight.

[M]



18.09.27

27 September 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening last at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Mr. Hayne was the N.S.R.

The case of Mr. Stevens, a baker manager, of Mitcham, came before the Tribunal again for a review of his exemption by Mr. Hayne. It will be remembered that Mr. Hayne, although he had asked that the man's exemption be reviewed, knew nothing of the case, and he asked for an adjournment. On this occasion Mr. Hayne said it was no longer in the national interests that the man should remain in his occupation.

The Tribunal granted applicant *conditional exemption*.

Mr. C. Lack, aged 43, Grade 1, draper, of High-street, Mitcham, appealed. His business could not be managed by a manager, as it was personal. The business had been in the hands of the family since 1850. He was hon. secretary of the East Ward Relief Fund also.

Chairman: Your case is the same as before?

—Exactly.

Mr. Hayne: He was told before that he must not expect exemption again.

Mr. Chart: I don't know who told him, but it was not said in this room.

Counc. Mizen: Any assistants?

—Four young ladies.

Counc. Drewett: You are the owner of the business?

—Yes.

Counc. Mizen: You joined the Special Police at its inception?

—Yes.

*Six months' exemption*, the Tribunal considering the man was in the new lists of certified occupations.

Mr. D. B. Jones, aged 33, Grade 3, Rustic-avenue, Mitcham, an engineer, a working partner of a business at Kennington, appealed. He said there was no change in his position, as when he appealed on the last occasion. His partner was in the Army, he said. He employed eight men.

Chairman: You are Grade 3?

—Yes, sir.

Mr. Hayne: How long has your partner been in the Army?

—Since the outbreak of war.

The Tribunal granted *six months' exemption*.

Mr. F. Money, aged 44, Grade 1, harness maker of High-street, Colliers Wood, said he was in a certified occupation. There was no change in his condition.

Chairman: It is your own business?

—Yes.

Mr. Hayne: Only wholesale people are certified.

Mr. Chart: He manufactures harness. He is certified.

*Conditional exemption* was granted on condition applicant became a volunteer.

Mr. W. E. Orchard, aged 46, Grade 2, a taxi owner and driver, of Park-avenue, Mitcham, complained of his ears. He said he had two sons dependent, also his wife.

Chairman: You are Grade 2?

— Yes, sir.

*Disallowed.*

Mr. A. J. Bush, aged 44, Grade 2, a commercial coachman, appealed. He said he was a widower. He had four children to support, and, in addition, had two sons serving. There was no change in his conditions since his last exemption.

Chairman: What are your special grounds?

— Looking after the children.

Chairman: Who looks after them during the day?

— The eldest girl.

Mr. Hayne: The eldest girl is 17?

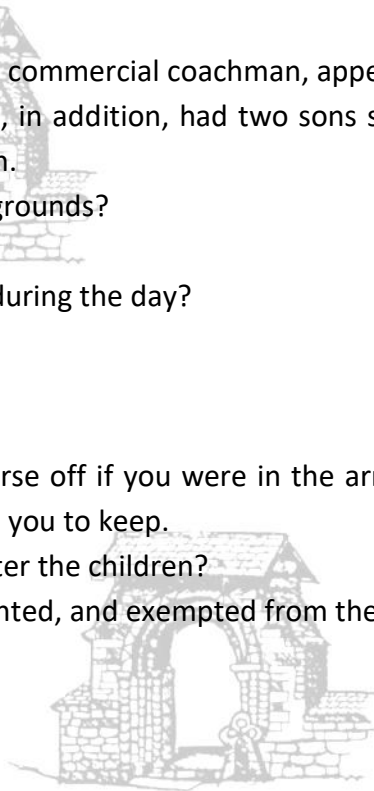
— Yes.

Mr. Hayne: You would not be worse off if you were in the army. There would be the separation allowance and there would not be you to keep.

Applicant: Who is going to look after the children?

*Three months' exemption* was granted, and exempted from the Volunteers.

[M]



18.10.11

11 October 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening last at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Mr. Hayne was the National Service Representative.

A Local Government Board circular was read stating that some doctors were appealing to the Local Tribunals. Such cases must go before Medical Tribunals.

Mr. A. J. Slater, aged 46, Grade 2, repairing cottage property, and residing at Lewis-road, Mitcham, said four of his sons were in France. He was engaged in doing repairs to small cottage property, by order of the sanitary authorities. His time was fully occupied on the work.

Chairman: You work on your own?

—Yes, sir.

Mr. Hayne: Has any effort been made by the man who employs him to replace him?

—No.

Mr. Slater's solicitor said he made the appeal on his own behalf.

Chairman: This list of certified occupations definitely places him in a certified occupation.

*Three months' exemption* and exemption from the Volunteers.

Mr. W. H. Gay, 44, Grade 2, married, laundry proprietor, Robinson-road, Colliers Wood, said he was the proprietor of the Grosvenor Model Laundry, High-street, Colliers Wood. There were three receiving offices. They employed between forty and fifty hands. All the savings of his wife and himself were sunk in the business. The machinery required skilled attendance, and without it the business would have to close. He was a skilled engineer, and ran the machinery, repaired and cleaned it. The business was in the new list of certified occupations.

Chairman: You are your own foreman?

—Yes.

*Conditional exemption* was granted, and exempted from the Volunteers.

Mr. A. T. Tofts, 45, Grade 1, an examiner of cloth, residing at Miller-road, Merton, said he had had a very bad illness and his heart was weak. A doctor's certificate was enclosed supporting applicant's statements regarding his health. During his last period of exemption, he had been at home ill.

*Adjourned* for medical re-examination.

Mr. Horne, Hon. Sec. of Tooting Bec Golf Club, asked for exemption for Mr. C. Chandler, aged 44, Grade, 2, their head groundsman. By keeping the man they were able to extend hospitality to the officers and men of the Overseas Forces. They also urged that the club should be kept open in the interests of sport. The man looked after the ground. He cut the grass and made the hay. Applicant asked for exemption in order to keep the club going.

Mr. Hayne: Have you made any effort to replace him?

—Yes, we have tried the discharged soldiers. I believe they have got rather an aristocratic view of the worth of their labour.



*Three months' exemption.*

[M]

Mr. W. J. Martin, 26, Grade 3, married, 9 Caithness-road, coal merchant's traveller said his wife suffered from bad health. He had been rejected and was now in Grade 3. He asked for temporary exemption for a month.

*Three months' exemption, and exemption from the Volunteers.*

The National Service Representative: Mr. Martin is only asking for a month.

Mr. Mizen: That is nothing to do with the National Service Representative.

Mr. Chart (the Clerk): You have no right to interfere with the judgment of the Tribunal.

Mr. Parslow suggested he should keep his place while he was at the Tribunal and not interfere with its decisions. He was too personal.

Mr. J. G. J. Beveridge appealed for an extension of his exemption and was granted a further *three months*, and no Volunteer service.

[H]



18.10.25

25 October 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Tribunal on Wednesday evening, at the Vestry Hall, Mitcham. Mr. A. E. Hayne was the National Service Representative.

The Local Government Board wrote stating that the order that leave of the Tribunal should be received before an applicant could appeal, had been rescinded.

Mr. Thompson raised the point that some young men whose claims had been dismissed by the Tribunal were still following their occupations. He wanted to know if there were any power higher than the Tribunal of the Appeals Tribunal that could protect these men. Mr. Chart said he would look up the cases.

The case of Mr. A[lfred] Tofts came before the Tribunal. The case had been adjourned for medical re-examination. The applicant resided at Miller-road, Mitcham, being a cloth examiner. His age was 45, and he was previously Grade 1. He was now in Grade 3. Applicant stated he had had a very bad illness.

The Chairman: What are you applying for now?

—I don't think I am fit for the Army.

Ald. Chart: He says his heart is affected.

The Tribunal granted *six months' exemption* and exempted applicant from the Volunteers.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, asked for exemption for Mr. F. Hutton, 48, B1, fishmonger and fish fryer, of Fair Green, Mitcham. It was in the national interests that he should remain in his present occupation. He supplied a large number of munition workers food. His three brothers were in the Army, and he was buying the fish for their respective businesses. Mr. Moore submitted that, under the circumstances, exemption should be granted. There were six businesses being carried on by applicant's exertions.

*Six month's exemption* was granted and exempt from Volunteers.

Mr. C. W. Wheatley, aged 48, Grade 2, butcher, of High-street, Colliers Wood, said he was the only butcher in High-street, Colliers Wood. If he were taken for the Army, he would have to close down. On the last occasion, he received three months' exemption.

The Tribunal decided to grant *six months' exemption* and exempted the applicant from Volunteer service.

Messrs. Curtis and Dumbrill, dairymen, Streatham-road, appealed for Mr. G. Ward, Grade 2, milk examiner.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

Mr. A. R. Mark, aged 38, Grade 3, married, of Birdhurst-road, Colliers Wood, a carman, appealed. He said he was employed in the wholesale distribution of cooked foods. He was a member of the Anti-Aircraft Section of the Volunteers.

The Tribunal concurred and granted *six months' exemption*.

Mr. E. J. Undermark, aged 44, C1, boot repairer, of Seeley-road, Tooting Junction, appealed. His circumstances were the same as when he appealed before the Tribunal on the last occasion. *Six months' exemption* as a certified occupation. Applicant to join the Special Constabulary or the Volunteers.

[M]



18.11.08

08 November 1918

Councillor G. Farewell Jones presided over the sitting of the Mitcham Local Tribunal on Wednesday evening. Mr. Hayne was the National Service Representative.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that where a man is a Special Constable he should be released from the Volunteer obligation.

Counc. Parslow: I think some of the young men who are specials should be in the Army.

Mr. G. Moody, aged 47, B2, married, of Beddington-corner, a cartage contractor, appealed. He submitted he was in a certified occupation. As he was doing Government work, he considered it was expedient in the national interests that he should remain in his present occupation.

Chairman: I see he is in Grade 2.

—Yes, sir.

Chairman: You are a cartage contractor on your own. It is your own business?

—Yes.

Chairman: How many horses have you got?

—Two.

Chairman: Any carts?

—Two vans, sir.

Chairman: That is your sole occupation?

—Yes.

*Three months' exemption*, and exempt from the Volunteers.

The Home and Colonial Stores, provision merchants, asked for exemption for Mr. W. Miller, aged 47, Grade 2, their manager. He was the father of five young children and had been in the Volunteers since the beginning of the war. He cultivated thirty rods of land. Applicants submitted the man was certified and was indispensable.

Chairman: You say this man is protected?

—Yes.

Chairman: How long has he been with you?

—Thirty years.

Applicants said a large number of their staff were away with the 'flu. Mr. Miller looked after other branches. He was at the Elephant and Castle lately, and all over the place.

*Three months' exemption* was granted.

The Streatham Park Cemetery asked for exemption for Mr. J. T. Ruff, aged 44, Grade 2, married. The assistant secretary, Mrs. Thomas, said the directors of the company were mostly undertakers and were very busy, seventeen interments had taken place up to that day (Wednesday). There were ten bodies waiting to be buried next week. They were refusing orders daily. On an average three people were being taken from a family. There were a great dearth of gravediggers, and she asked for exemption while the 'flu was so bad.

*Six months' exemption* and exempt from the Volunteers.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, in asking for exemption for a lad of 18, was told he could not do so owing to the Proclamation. The Clerk said the claim must be struck out.

Mr. H. Moore, aged 47, Grade 2, licensed victualler, of "The King's Arms" Inn, Mitcham, appealed. He had been exempted on condition he joined the Volunteers. He joined the Volunteers and had done his duties satisfactorily. But he asked on this occasion to be released from the Volunteers owing to his business. His wife was ill and could not attend to the business. He had been ill since he appealed before. Since his wife had been ill he had had no one to help him.

*Three months' exemption* and exempt from the Volunteers obligation for a month.

Mr. J. W. Rondeau, aged 27, B2, proprietor of a general hardware business at Western-road, Mitcham, appealed. He said he had a right withered arm. He had a wife and five children to support. Applicant said he had invested his little savings in the business, and serious hardship would ensue if he were called.

*Six months' exemption* and exempt from the Volunteers.

[M]

The Armistice was signed on 11 November, and there were no more hearings.



# Mitcham Cases

heard by the

## Surrey and Croydon Appeals Tribunal

Town Hall, Croydon

### Members of the Tribunal

The Right Honourable the Viscount Midleton

Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart., D.L., J.P.

Lieut.-General Sir Edmond R. Elles, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., Vice-Lieutenant of Surrey

Sir Frederick Thomas Edridge, D.L., J.P.

Sir Charles George Walpole, K.B., J.P.

Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., D.C.L., Dean of the Arches

Sir Arthur Wakefield Chapman, D.L., J.P.

Charles Tyrrell Giles, K.C., D.L., J.P., High Sheriff of the County of Surrey

Charles Frederick Allison

Robert Frederick Colam, K.C., Recorder of Croydon

Edward William Grimwade, J.P.

Edward John Holland, J.P.

Stephen Kavanagh

John Kelsall, J.P.

Arthur C. Pain, J.P.

Harry Poulter

George Patrick Ralls

William Robert Skeet

Ralph Neville, secretary

Sir Lewis Dibdin was usually the chairman.

[A]



A meeting of the Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal was held on Saturday at the Croydon Town Hall Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., presided, and other members present were Sir Jeremiah Colman, Sir Frederick Edridge, Mr. E. W. Grimwade and Mr. H. C. Allison, Mr. Ralph Neville (Clerk), and Mr. Edwardes-Jones (Military Representative).

Frederick Moon (37), solicitor's managing clerk, had applied for total exemption to the local Tribunal, on the ground that he was the only son and sole support of a widowed mother, aged 65. He also thought he was medically unfit. As he failed to appear, the local Tribunal refused the application. Applicant said he had sent his claim in in writing, and the Chairman told him he was quite in order. Applicant said he did not want total exemption, although he claimed it at the local Tribunal, but he thought he should be put on the same footing as married men of his age. He did not want to shirk his military duty. There was only one clerk left in his office beside himself. They had a big appeal case on, and most of it was left to him. "It is rather funny," continued applicant, "but we are rather busy now."

*Exemption for one month was granted.*

The appeal of Messrs. Mizen Bros., for four men, three of whom had attested, was *held over* until after the time granted by the local Tribunal had expired.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appeared for Mr. Frederick Harvey, who appealed from the decision of the local Tribunal in respect of his son, who was his cowman, and said the milk supply was of national importance. It had been suggested by the local Tribunal that milkmaids could be got to do the work, but they were not obtainable, and it took too long to train a girl. The work was done by himself, aged 50, a son of 26, whom he was applying for, another son, aged 24, and an odd man. Mr. Moore submitted that that was a case in which, if total exemption could not be given, a reasonable time should be allowed father and sons in which to dispose of the business, for it would have to be sold if the sons were made to serve.

The Chairman said the Tribunal could not give two or three months to both sons. They would have preferred to meet applicant's views.

Mr. Moore, after consulting his client, said if time was allowed this son, no appeal would be made in respect of the other.

The Tribunal, however, *confirmed the decision of the local Tribunal*, and refused the application of Mr. Moore to take the case to the Central Tribunal.

Albert Walter Philpot, attested, market gardener, stated he was the sole support of his father, aged 75. A letter was handed in from the father, which stated that another son had joined up on the previous day, and he also had a grandson serving with the colours.

*One month* from that day was allowed.

Frank Edward Cartwright, a traveller, in the employ of the Mitcham Margarine Co., said he was the sole support of his widowed mother. The local Tribunal refused his application. Applicant now

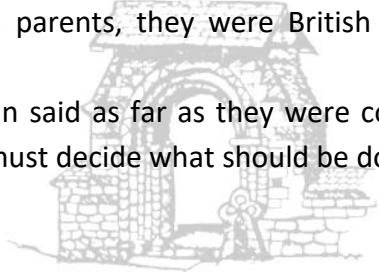
asked for two months' extension, in order that he might make arrangements to keep his connection going. If he had not attested, he would have got off better.

The Chairman agreed, and applicant was *put back two months* from that day.

Charles Martini (23) and Henry William Martini, a tall and stout youth of 19, appealed against the decision of the lower Tribunal. They were the sons of German parents, the father being interned in the Isle of Wight. The Mitcham Tribunal based its decision on the ground that although applicants had German parents, they were British subjects, born on British soil, and had never been to Germany.

The Chairman said as far as they were concerned applicants would have to go, and the military authorities must decide what should be done with them.

[H]





This sat on Saturday morning and afternoon at the Croydon Town Hall. Mr. R. F. Colam, K.C. presided, and other members of the Tribunal were Sir Frederick Edridge, D.L., J.P., Mr. E. Grimwade, Mr. Allinson and the Clerk, (Mr. Ralph Neville).

Mrs. Towers, of Mitcham, said if they took her son Arthur there was only the workhouse for her. She objected to go and live with married sons because she had had her time with children, and wanted now a little quiet. She also had a strong objection to lodgers. She had had some. Arthur Towers, the son, said he was a labourer. His wages lately had been over £2 a week. The Tribunal allowed *a month* to enable the mother to get lodgers or make other arrangements. Mrs. Towers left, much resenting the proposal that she should again be bothered with lodgers.

[A]

The Mitcham Margarine Company, on behalf of F [E?]. G. Davis appealed against the decision of the Local Tribunal, which refused the six months' exemption claimed on the ground that any person of ordinary intelligence could perform the work that Davis was engaged on, viz., churning margarine. The company claimed that margarine making was of national importance. Their works turned out fifty tons a week, and with the exception of the manager Davis was the only churner left. The secretary said 15 out of a staff of 40 had gone to the war. His own two sons had enlisted—one was in a soldier's grave and the other was serving in the Navy. If Davis was not indispensable the appeal would not have been made. He had been in the employ of the company for four years.

Replying to the Military Representative, he thought a man might be trained in six months in churning.

The Chairman: Could you not do it in four months?

The Secretary: Then you would say: Could it not be done in three months, then two, and so on. (Laughter.) I have tried to be quite frank with you. It will take six months.

*Exemption for four months* was granted on the understanding that applicants would endeavour to qualify an unenlistable person in churning, but if that was impossible they are to apply again at the end of that time.

Henry Thomas Howell claimed on the ground that his was a certified trade. Although only aged 20, he was a cartage contractor, fuel merchant, pig breeder and a carrier of foodstuffs for pigs. The business was the result of his hard work during the last four years. He started it when he was 16, with a capital of £6 which he had saved up. He did not do much in pig dealing now, and only had eleven pigs. He had three conveyances and one horse and a good deal of tree wood and other stock.

The Chairman: You know you must be 25 before your trade can be certified. The Government think you would be a better soldier than a pig dealer.

Applicant: I don't think so.

The Chairman: No, but the Government does.

Defendant admitted that it was to preserve his personal business that he wanted exemption. If he went it would mean total ruin and he would have nothing to look forward to in the future. The Chairman said the application would be adjourned for a month, when it would be *dismissed*. That was done in order to give applicant an opportunity of making arrangements.

G. H. Norris applied for an exemption for his son, A. V. Norris, an unattested young man of 19, who, he said, was a pig breeder and stockman. He collected pigs' wash for his father's 150 pigs. Mrs. Norris, who appeared for her husband, said he was sixty years of age. There was an uncle of the boy who had a part of the farm, but he could not assist applicant as he had his own pigs to look after. The Military Representative said the Local Tribunal had an intimate knowledge of pig breeding businesses in the district and had a farmer as a member of the Tribunal. It had decided that the young man could be spared.

The appeal was *dismissed*, which drew from Mrs. Norris the remark: "It is not fair; he is doing his bit."

A Mitcham appellant claimed on the ground that he was in the position of a married man and had exactly the same responsibilities. He had a child aged three and was about to marry the mother. The Chairman said there was no material evidence before the Tribunal showing there would be exceptional hardship and the appeal would be *dismissed*.

A Mitcham chauffeur, aged 25, who worked for his mother, wrote stating that he drove wounded soldiers about daily, and appealed the refusal of the Local Tribunal to grant him exemption on the ground of hardship. The appeal was *not allowed*.

Messrs. Lancaster and Co. appealed against the decision of the Local Tribunal that the manager of their Mitcham coal wharf, aged 24, could be replaced by a man of over military age. The managing director of the firm appeared to support the appeal, and stated that no appeal had been made in regard to men in other branches or wharves. The young man was now doing the work of five men, he himself being the only other man, with the manager, to superintend three wharves.

Replying to the Chairman, applicant stated strenuous efforts had been made to get additional help and also to replace the manager.

An *adjournment of three weeks* was granted.

An astonishing statement was made by a representative of the Tandem Smelting Co., who appealed against the decision of the Local Tribunal that the work of three particular men was not so arduous or of so skilled a nature that it could not be done by men ineligible to serve in the Army. The representative said: "The reason for the decision by the Local Tribunal is purely prejudice against the company."

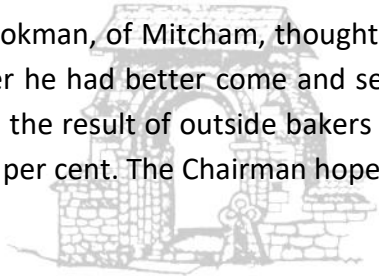
The Military Representative: You must not say that.

The representative maintained that the three men were entitled to war work badges, and the case was *adjourned* to the first meeting of the Tribunal after May 1st to see what the action of the Ministry of Munitions would be.

Eugene Croft, of Mitcham, is a musician at the Gaiety, and has financial responsibilities. He therefore asked for temporary exemption until he can arrange things. He suggested that he should have home service, say, in the Army Pay Corps, or at munitions. He could give till 6.0 p.m. and then go to his other work. He is to *see the Recruiting Officer*.

Mr. C. F. Brookman, of Mitcham, thought if there was any doubt in the Chairman's mind as to his being a baker he had better come and see him making the dough. Not only was he in a certified trade, but as the result of outside bakers not being able to keep up their rounds, his business had gone up 100 per cent. The Chairman hoped that meant profits too.

*Exempted.*



[A]



On Saturday, at the Croydon Town Hall, there was a sitting of the Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal, the members present being Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., (Chairman), Sir Jeremiah Colman, Sir Frederick Edridge, Mr. E. W. Grimwade and Mr. H. C. Allison.

Augustus Graham, an attested man, asked for three months' grace in order that he might remain to look after his wife, who was in a delicate state of health. At the sitting on April 15th he stated that he had been medically rejected when he attempted to join the Coldstream Guards, and the case was adjourned in order that he might be examined by a military doctor. He now produced a certificate which stated that he was fit for service except for vision, but ought to go before the Woolwich Medical Board.

The Chairman said appellant was not in such a bad state of health as he imagined he was at the previous hearing. He had better *go before the Woolwich Board*. If he was then rejected that would settle the matter, otherwise he could appeal before the Tribunal in a fortnight's time, and they would see what they could do for him.

Oswald Green appealed on behalf of G. A. Siviour, who was secretary and manager of his coal and cartage contracting business. The case had been adjourned in order that appellant might endeavour to obtain a badge for Siviour. The Ministry of Munitions had however written that already a sufficient number of badges had been sent to appellants, but that the refusal did not mean that the manager was not indispensable. A man who was engaged in work of national importance, although he might not be awarded a badge, might be entitled to exemption.

Replying to Dr. T. Cato Worsfold (Military Representative), Mr. Siviour said he was 24 years of age, and had been training for the position he now held ever since he left school. He married about twelve months ago. Mr. Green supervised the business, but he did much on his own initiative.

The decision of the local body was reversed and *conditional exemption* granted.

Messrs. Forster and Gregory, chemical manufacturers, appealed on behalf of E. B. Pinner, their secretary. There was no appearance, but on the appeal form it was stated that Pinner was the only man left in the office. The firm did a considerable amount of war work. He had attested, but had previously been rejected on account of his sight.

Dr. Cato Worsfold said this was a case in which a woman could do the work.

In *dismissing the appeal*, the Chairman said if there had been anything in the case the appellants would have appeared before them.

An appeal by Messrs. Mizen Bros. on behalf of Samuel Wheeler was heard in their absence. They stated that upward of 50 of their men had joined the forces, and many were in munition works. They had 400 acres of cultivated land and a large area of glasshouses. Wheeler was engaged in planting, growing, and cutting mustard and cress.

The Chairman: That is not a very skilful occupation, is it? I remember when I was about ten growing mustard and cress on a piece of flannel. (Laughter.)

Dr. Cato Worsfold said in fairness to Messrs. Mizen Bros. it should be stated that a certain amount of skill was required.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

J. M. Pitt appealed on behalf of his son, aged 21 years, who was a ploughman. He was a conscientious objector, and was prepared to suffer imprisonment and even death in defence of his principles. The claim at the Local Tribunal was made by the son, and the Chairman did see how the father could now make the appeal.

The father stated that his son was working at Belfast, and as there were now only three days in which to make the appeal it was not possible to get his son's signature to the form.

Sir Lewis Dibdin said he quite appreciated that, but in the case of a conscientious objector it was necessary for him to appear personally before the Tribunal.

The father said that but for the disturbances in Ireland his son would have been present that day.

The case was *adjourned* for a fortnight in order that the son might attend.

[H]



There was a sitting of the Appeal Tribunal at the Croydon Town Hall on Saturday, the members present being Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., (Chairman), Sir Frederick Edridge, Sir Jeremiah Colman, Mr. E. W. Grimwade and Mr. H. C. Allison.

Mr. Thompson appealed for exemption for George Charles Moody, of Merton Park, who was a gum runner and varnish maker in his firm's employ, where he had been for fifteen years. He was the only remaining member of their staff left between the ages of 18 and 41. If Moody went there would be a diminution of output, nine-tenths of which was for the Government and export trade. His father was the only varnish maker they had, and he was a "rule of thumb" man, and determined that his son should start where he had left off. Moody had consequently been to the Polytechnic, etc., and held certificates for his technical knowledge. It would be impossible to replace him if he went, and it was absurd to suggest, as the Local Tribunal did, that it would be possible to teach someone else to do the work. Roughly speaking, three-quarters of the work Moody was doing was for the India Office, and of the 1,200 gallons a week put out by the firm 500 were for the Government.

Replying to the Military Representative (Mr. Edwardes-Jones), applicant said he did not know there was a varnish maker on the Mitcham Tribunal, and he would be surprised to hear there was one.

The Military Representative said he was inclined to think Moody was in a reserved occupation and the Tribunal agreed and granted *conditional exemption*.

Ernest Atkins, a pig breeder, 24 years of age, wrote appealing against the decision of the Local Tribunal, which refused him any time, the Military Representative stating that applicant had twice been asked to attend and had failed to do so, nor did he appear at this Tribunal.

The Chairman said in spite of his absence they must deal fairly with him.

The Military Representative said had had no opportunities of checking the figures given by applicant.

The ground of the appeal was that both parents were delicate and a young sister was dependent upon the business. He had 61 pigs and four breeding sows. His only brother was serving with the colours, and there was no one to look after the business if he went.

The Chairman said that on the face of it it looked a case in which time should be granted and the claim was *adjourned for two weeks* in order that the Military Representative might check the figures of applicant.

Messrs. Pearson and Co. Ltd., manufacturing chemists, by their manager claimed exemption for Frank William Hall, warehouse manager, who had also charge of the export department. He is aged 31 and married, with one child. The ground of the appeal was that the retention of Hall would be in the national interest. The company had always borne military requirements when engaging workpeople, and the staff was mostly composed of females. In consequence Hall had no male assistant, and so could not be replaced. One of their staple preparations was a mother's food, which was something new. It was given to mothers and enabled them to breast-feed infants

and eliminated the need of artificial food for children. The business had been established at Mitcham since the war, but the firm was of some years' standing and Hall had been with it since the commencement. A very large proportion of their preparations was for export, and at present America was their principal customer. They had tried to replace Hall, but were unable to find anyone with the requisite knowledge.

The Military Representative said in most firms there were clerks of Hall's description. The business had only been in existence a short time, and it should be possible to train someone else in the methods of the firm.

The Tribunal accepted this view, and granted *two months' temporary exemption*, which the Chairman stated would be final.

Mr. Moore, solicitor, appeared for E. W. Bilham, a pig keeper and breeder, and appealed for an extension in order that appellant might get rid of his business, which had taken him four years to build up. The business of pig breeding, he said, was recognised as of national importance, and if possible men engaged in it should be kept at their work. He agreed it was not an exempted trade. Appellant had twenty pigs and five sows in pig, a horse, and two vans.

The Chairman said appellant was only 26 and a single man, and it had not been shown that he had made any effort to dispose of his business.

Mr. Moore said he had sold some of the pigs.

The Chairman: Yes, in the usual course of his business. Do give the Tribunal credit for a little intelligence.

The Military Representative said the local Tribunal was a body which had good knowledge of the pig-breeding business and after careful consideration had decided appellant ought to go.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

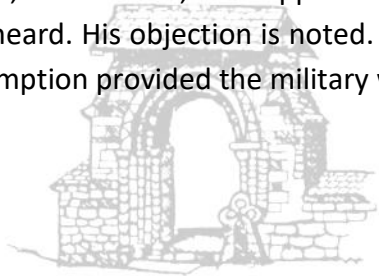
[H]



Thirteen appeals by the Tandem Smelting Company of Mitcham were adjourned for fuller information. Meanwhile a temporary exemption is granted, providing the output of the company is not less than 20 per cent. below the past average.

Mr. A. March, of Mitcham, who appeared in khaki, complained that he had to join up before the appeal was heard. His objection is noted. Applicant said he had been "hustled". He was given two months' exemption provided the military would give up his body for that period.

[A]





Mr Moore, who appeared for Messrs. Meller and Robinson, provision merchants, Mitcham, said the manager, Mr. E. C. Stevens, was indispensable for cutting up bacon. He was the only one in his department. The Chairman said a firm might have a dozen water-tight departments and say there was only one man in each. The decision of the court below—*exemption till June 24th*—was *confirmed*.

The Military Representative wanted Mr. H. E. Eld, a metal dealer, badly, but as he is 39 and has five girls and an adopted boy, he admitted that Mr. Eld would be a rather expensive article. His case is *adjourned*.

Mr. E. G. Loveday is a contractor for theatrical scenery at Mitcham. He has to keep mother, father and wife. His partner's chief value is his capital, because his age is 60, and he is practically a labourer. The present contracts could not be completed under three months. He is *given six weeks*.

On the testimony of a member of the Mitcham Urban Council, Mr. A. Richardson, although only 22 years, has a unique reputation in Colliers Wood as boot repairer. Mr. Richardson says it has taken all his life's savings to gain that position, and if called up business is lost. He is *to go*. Being unmarried, no exception can be made.

Harold Ely, of Streatham (38), is a market gardener, and fills up his time doing valuable munition work. He bought the land and business from his father and is paying for it by instalments. If he goes his father's income goes too. *End of August* to clear the crops.

The Military Representative for Mitcham has a very low opinion about cakes, and therefore held that the delivery of these was not sufficient reason why Mr. D. E. Robinson, a carman, should be excused from joining H.M. forces. The Chairman said he had an open mind on biscuits, and as another carman in the same firm has been exempted and then joined up, he thought this man might be *excused*. He was.

Rent collectors were not fortunate, in spite of employers insisting on their being national necessities. "Do you know," said the Military Representative to one applicant, "that there is a very great advantage in employing ladies to collect rents?"

The Applicant (dazed by the revelation): No. I didn't.

The Military Representative (dogmatically): Well, many firms have already found that to be so.

Mr. W. G. Channon was a collector for Mr. J. Wilson, of Mitcham. The Chairman suggested that Mr. Wilson might take on the work himself. Mr. Wilson was surprised. At his age to keep books and collect rents—why, he did not know where he would be. The Chairman hinted that many ladies could do the work well. Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. H. E. Claisey lost his appeal for an assistant, Mr. H. Bolingbroke, a dispenser for the National Health Insurance, Colliers Wood. The Military Representative said he had consulted, and had an agreement with the Insurance Committee, and certain names were written in his book of men to be saved. Mr. Bolingbroke's was *not among them*.

Mr. E. A. Want, of Mitcham, a motor-cab driver, had a distinct grievance against the Local Tribunal. It had acted most unfairly by him. If he left his wife would be destitute. The Chairman suggested that as Mr. Want had only been a short time in business and had been able to invest in a motor cab and a house and pay for them out of the profits he was doing fairly well. Mr. Want (shyly)—I should not like to say that. Mr Want is *going up in a month*, and meanwhile he is going to teach his brother to drive.

Mr. J. B. Turner, of Mitcham, has no hatred towards anyone; and has no desire to be at the front—in fact, is a Theist, and would prefer to stay at home. The Local Tribunal complained that he had refused to answer their questions. He had written to the Friends' Ambulance Unit, and they replied that they would accept him for work of national importance. The Chairman said the Tribunal must decide what that work was, not the Friends.

*Adjourned* for him to get agricultural work.

Mr. S. Taylor, another conscientious objector, of London House, Mitcham, willing to do farming, has his case *adjourned* to find work.

Mr. Percy Barrett's weak knees, which ought to save him from the Army, do not prevent extraordinary industry. He is 31 and a newsagent and stationer at Mitcham. He rises with the lark to attend to newspapers, works from 9 till 6 for the Gas Company, then at his shop until 10 p.m. He felt he was indispensable to the business, although the Chairman pointed out that he spent most of his time away from it. He would be grateful if he could be a "Special" or a member of the V.T.C.

In one month he is *to be a soldier*.

[A]



There were many Mitcham cases dealt with at a sitting of the Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal at the Croydon Town Hall on Saturday, when the members present were: Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., (Chairman), Sir Frederick Edridge, Sir Jeremiah Colman and Mr. E. W. Grimwade. Several of the cases were heard in private, including an appeal by the Military Representative against the exemptions granted to men in the employ of Messrs. Mizen Bros.

A claim for exemption was made by Mr. H. E. Geal, a varnish maker, on the ground that his wife was very ill and he had often to sit up all night with her. He was 39 years of age.

The Military Representative said the man had been passed for home service. Such men were not often called up.

The Chairman thought such men were often very expensive to the country.

*Three months' exemption was granted.*

J. B. Turner, a conscientious objector, who had been sent as an attendant to Netherne Asylum to work of national importance, now appealed, and said his nerves would not stand it. At his own request he was *transferred to non-combatant service.*

Mr. Robins, gas mantle manufacturer, applied for conditional exemption of A. W. Snare, the driver of his motor lorry. Appellant said he had acquired a considerable portion of German trade and had to have a motor lorry owing to the dislocation of the railway service. He told the Tribunal his experience in trying to get a substitute for the man applied for when the claim was refused by the local Tribunal. A lady came first, and said she had been taught motor driving by her husband, but did not think she could manage a lorry. A lad of 17 came, but appellant was unwilling to trust him with the vehicle. He gave a trial to a discharged soldier who went out with the lorry under the superintendence of the driver, but proved to have the drum of his ear burst and when he returned to the garage he ran into the wall and knocked it down. (Laughter.) Another disabled soldier promised to, but never, turned up. He tried a third soldier, and he went out with the lorry and almost immediately ran into a van and smashed up the radiator. "I had enough for one day and decided to appeal," added appellant. Although the driver was only 25 years of age the Tribunal considered he was in a certified occupation, and granted *conditional exemption.*

During the hearing of a private case an appellant suddenly said: "Can I show you my leg? I am a physical wreck and have only my brother to depend upon to do the business."

The Tribunal, however, did not wish to see his leg.

H. R. Norris, a pig dealer and breeder, applied for temporary exemption in order that he might dispose of his stock. He had been granted until August 21 by the local Tribunal and appealed for a longer period. He was a married man with six children. His business was separate from those of his father and uncle, although all three occupied the same yard, which was known as Eastfields. The decision of the Local Tribunal was affirmed for *exemption until August 21st*, but its finality was

removed. The significance of this was apparently not appreciated by the appellant, who said: "Will you tell me what I can do with the pigs?"

The Chairman: Don't be foolish; you know very well we cannot tell you what to do with them.

Appellant: I have six little children, and they must be fed. If I kill the pigs I shall be locked up, but I shall do it.

The Chairman: You had better think before you do anything to be locked up.

Appellant attempted to speak again, but the Chairman sternly said they had listened to all he had to say and given their decision and could hear nothing further, and appellant left the Chamber very dissatisfied.

A solicitor appeared on behalf of Mr. C. Stacey, who appealed for the conditional exemption of his bread baker, Arthur Birch. The solicitor argued that the Tribunal could not raise the question of whether the man was of more use as a soldier or not. He was in a certified occupation, and the Military Representative had not given appellant notice of his intention to object.

Mr. Edwardes-Jones (Military Representative) said the man was in a reserved occupation. He had not given notice as at the time of the appeal the new regulation was not in force.

The Chairman said appellant must have *exemption* for his man for the moment, but the Military Representative would apply that he should not be kept in civil employment.

The solicitor said they would meet that by showing the shortage of labour.

The Chairman: You can meet it how you like.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appeared on behalf of Thos. Abraham Maber, tobacconist, umbrella maker and hairdresser on the ground of great hardship if the business had to be closed, which it would be if appellant was sent. He had a delicate wife and partly supported a widowed mother. He was 24 years of age, with one child, and had two brothers in the Army

The Chairman: What is the size of the business?

Mr. Moore: I do not think it is a very large one.

The Chairman: Knowing your forensic abilities, Mr. Moore, I think we may take it that the business is a small one.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. Nicholls, market gardener, was granted by the Local Tribunal six months' conditional exemption for his ploughman and carter, H. T. and F. A. Jeeves, and against that decision the Military Representative appealed. Mr. Nicholls said he had 100 acres of ground on which he cultivated vegetables, with the exception of about 1½ acres on which he grew fruit. The two men were the only ones in his employ who could drive a pair of horses. At this time of the year he usually employed 30 men, but now had a staff of 20. He had 15 women.

The Chairman: Don't they get on all right?

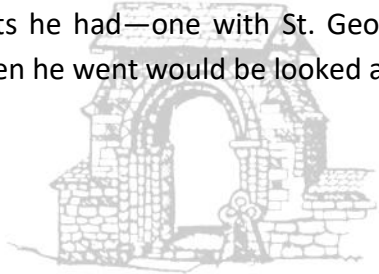
Appellant: Yes, but they are not like men.

Mr. Edwardes-Jones said that these decisions were given on a wrong basis. If the occupations were reserved, then exemptions should be conditional and not for a definite period. All he was concerned about was that decisions should be made regular.

The Chairman: We allow the *exemptions conditionally* on the two men remaining in agriculture, but there might be an application by the Military Representative on the ground that they should not continue in civil employment.

The decision of the lower Tribunal granting exemption until August 21st to C. Davison, a pig-breeder, of 27, was *affirmed*, but not finally, and it was explained to appellant that he could apply to this Tribunal again if necessary. He was married, with one child, and wanted exemption to finish two contracts he had—one with St. George's Hospital and the other with Chelsea Hospital. His business when he went would be looked after by his brother.

[H]



A calamity in a cemetery it was said would probably be the result of calling up Mr. Field (28), who was now at Streatham Park Cemetery and secretary of that company and a crematorium company. It seemed that there was a most complex drainage system that might do almost anything if it got out of hand, and he only understood it.

The Military Representative asked had applicant, knowing he would be called up, taken care to instruct others what to do? Applicant had not, and did not look at it in that way.

The Military Representative laid great stress on this. It was surely the duty of applicant to put all his work in such a condition that it could be carried out without him. He was an attested man.

The Chairman could not understand anyone having applicant's education taking a solemn oath to serve the King and at the same time not meaning to go.

Applicant said he wanted to appeal, if necessary, and that was why he attested.

*Three months.*

Messrs. Palmer and Co. of Mitcham asked for Mr. G. S. Alderman (24), Mr. W. Lenibam to be exempted. It was claimed that the trade was protected. They were timber merchants and built military huts. In regard to Lenibam appeal *dismissed*; Alderman *adjourned*.

The Military Representative opposed the local Tribunal granting Mr. A. W. J. Kent (29) six months' exemption. He is making munition boxes, has four children, and his wife is ill.

*Two months.*

Mr. E. J. Clarke (32), Mitcham, a carpenter employed at King George's Hospital, has a wife and three children, and is to be *medically examined*.

Mr. W. D. S. Beavis (27) is a clerk in the London Joint Stock Bank, and claimed absolute exemption on grounds of conscience. The Chairman said they agreed as to his conscience, but the question now was, what would he do of national importance?

Applicant: I am willing to do what I am doing now.

The Chairman: That won't do.

Applicant: I suppose you want me to do what you think best? Well, I want to know what reason you can advance for me to do something not so useful as the work I am doing now; and in doing which I cannot keep my wife. If I had qualifications for other things it might be different.

The Chairman: For you to go on as you are cannot be allowed. All of us have to make sacrifices, but you want everything to go on as before.

Applicant: No, I do not, because food has gone up in price, therefore things are not as before.

The Chairman asked what sacrifice he was prepared to make for the country. Applicant did not want to make any special sacrifice. He did not care what the rest of the country thought. He still maintained his own position.

The Chairman: Will you do any work of national importance?—No.

Then you will only be *exempted from combatant service*.

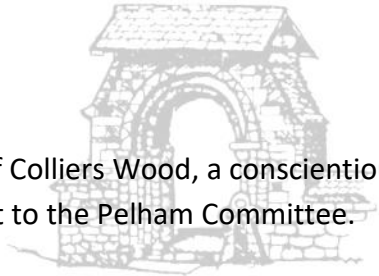
Mr. G. H. Johnson (30), of Mitcham, a commercial traveller, thought it very unfair he should lose a good berth. He was unfit for the Army. The medical report was very unfair. It took no account of some of his past suffering. The local Tribunal gave him conditional exemption. Now, on the application of the Military Representative, it was *reduced to three months*.

[A]

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04 August 1916

Mr. Jones, of Colliers Wood, a conscientious objector, was willing to do anything in a civil capacity, and was sent to the Pelham Committee.



The appeal of S. A. Michil, a works manager of 28, who stated that his two brothers being in the Army he was the only son left to support a widowed mother, was *dismissed*.

The appeal of Mrs. Crisp on behalf of her son, F. G. Crisp, *met with a similar fate*. He was 25 years of age, and although classed as single was a married man. Her two other sons were on active service, and she was partially dependent on this one for her maintenance.

Messrs. Robin, Ltd., claimed on behalf of their departmental manager, B. T. Yeomans, a married man of 29. Appellants were incandescent mantle manufacturers, and owing to the import of German mantles being stopped since the war, their business had enormously increased, and they now employed 500 hands. It appeared that the local Tribunal had granted the man two months' exemption, which they made final, and this Tribunal decided they had no power to deal with the appeal and appellants were referred to the Mitcham authority.

Mr. Gowen, solicitor, appeared for J. Williamson, a credit draper, who had been given two months' final exemption, but the claim was allowed to be reheard. He had been passed for sedentary work in England only. There was over £1,000 worth of debt outstanding on appellant's books, and as this was payable in small weekly amounts it would take some time to collect. The appeal was *allowed to stand over* generally.

H. L. Matthews, a conscientious objector, stated he had found work in a factory for the production of artificial limbs for wounded sailors and soldiers. He had endeavoured to find employment on a farm but had failed.

The Chairman: I think this is better.

The Tribunal *approved* the work, which appellant said he was commencing on Monday at the latest.

Norman Smee and Co. claimed exemption for A. Tears, a paint grinder in their employ. He was only 24, but was the sole man left in his department. They did have an older man, but could not apply for him as he was a conscientious objector. He had now joined the C. O. Corps, and the Military Representative had tried to reclaim him, but failed.

The Tribunal thought the man, considering his age, should go, but granted *six weeks' exemption*.

Mrs. Ella Vollam, a coat and costume maker for the wholesale trade, appealed on behalf of W. Monk, her foreman cutter, a man of 27. She did a large export business, and could not carry on without him. She was a widow with four children, and her only son, who was 18, had enlisted at the beginning of the war. She had a staff of six men and boys. Two of the men were over 60, and one was a cutter, but not so capable as the man for whom she was applying. "I haven't seen my boy for twenty months. Get him back and I will willingly let Monk go. He was my assistant cutter and getting on splendidly, but said he must go."

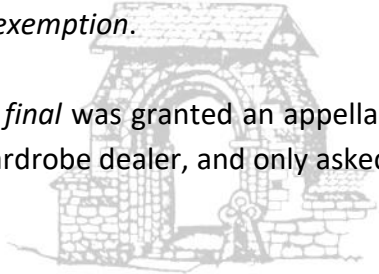


*Two months' exemption* was given, and appellant told she must make every endeavour to fill Monk's place.

The World's Stores had appealed for their Mitcham Stores manager, but in this and several other cases the papers had got mislaid, and the appeal only now came up for hearing. Appellants stated they recognised that the man, who was 29 and single, ought to go, and had been training a woman for the work, and in about three weeks she would be fit to take his place.

*Two weeks' exemption.*

*Two months final* was granted an appellant named Harris, a married man of 26. He was a marine store and wardrobe dealer, and only asked for time to see his wife over her confinement.



[A]



The Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal under the Military Service Act held a sitting at Croydon Town Hall on Saturday morning to hear appeals from the Mitcham district. Sir Lewis Dibdin, K.C., Dean of the Arches, presided and the other members of the Tribunal in attendance were Mr. R. F. Colam, K.C., Recorder of Croydon; Sir Frederick Edridge, Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart., Mr. E. W. Grimwade, and Mr. C. F. Allison, with the secretary, Mr. Ralph Neville.

The managing clerk to a firm of solicitors, whose claim for extension had been disallowed by the local Tribunal on the ground that he had failed to appear, appealed against the decision. He gave his age as 37, and said he was the only son of a widowed mother. He was under the impression that he was unfit for military service, having been under two operations without permanent relief. In addition to maintaining his mother he assisted an aged aunt, who lived in an almshouse. His father was an invalid for ten years before he died, and appellant had for years kept the home together. Two of his sisters were married, their husbands being in the Navy, and two other sisters were in service.

The Chairman: Your firm are not making any claim in their interests?

Appellant: I thought I had such substantial grounds for extension that I did not think their intervention would be necessary. I don't want total exemption, but I ought to be put on the same footing as a married man of my age. Lord Derby said that only sons in such a position ought to be allowed that concession. I don't want to shirk my duty. I understand that the married groups up to 37 are to be called soon, and I am quite willing to go then. My firm are very busy just now.

The Tribunal granted *a month's extension*, and the Chairman explained that that was in addition to the two months which came automatically in the case of an unattested man.

Two partners in a firm of varnish manufacturers, one a qualified analytical chemist, and the other manager of the commercial department, appealed through a legal representative for total exemption. Their claims had been disallowed by the local Tribunal.

Appellants were examined in private, and the Tribunal unanimously granted them *total exemption*.

Mr. J. W. Moore, solicitor, appealed for total exemption on behalf of a dairyman's son, aged 26. He referred to the supply of milk as being of national concern. There were 50 acres of land and 30 cows, and it would be impossible to continue the business if all the milkers went. The father, who was subject to rheumatism, two sons, and an odd man were responsible for all the farm work, milking and rounds. A suggestion had been made that the father should train milkmaids, observed Mr. Moore, but that took a long time, and through being improperly milked cows were often spoiled. One son was already in the Army, and another, who was younger than appellant, had been given a month's extension. He was afraid further extension would have to be applied for when his time was up, or the farm would have to be sold.

The Chairman: I don't think it is likely that you will be able to keep both these young men.

Mr. Moore: If that is the opinion of the Tribunal I think some reasonable time might be given the father, with the assistance of the sons, to dispose of the business, because that is what will have to be done.

The Chairman: We can give some consideration to one if we are sure of the other going. [illeg] military authorities, and they will settle whether they want you or not.

Appellant: But you cannot expect me to fight.

The Chairman: The military authorities will settle that.

Appellant: When I am called up I am a soldier, and when a soldier you cannot appeal.

The Chairman: The military people will settle how to deal with you. So far as we are concerned you have got to go, I am afraid.

Appellant: Yes, but this is the Appeal Court, I understand.

The Chairman: This is the Appeal Court from the local Tribunal, and they say "You must go," and we agree. We confirm their decision. That is all; there is no ground on which we can let you off.

Appellant (who appeared much disappointed): There is no ground. Thank you, sir.

The Chairman: You explain your position to the military people and they will deal with it.

"We recognise there is a certain amount of hardship, but not serious hardship," remarked the Chairman in *confirming the decision of the local Tribunal* and disallowing the appeal of a chartered accountant's clerk, aged 24. Appellant had claimed for absolute exemption on the ground that he was the only son of a widowed mother, who was infirm. It was elicited that the freehold of the house in which the mother resided was vested in her son and daughter, and money came into the home from other sources than appellant's allowance. The Tribunal held that there was no question of financial hardship, and with dependant's allowance, if appellant was accepted for the Army, the home might be maintained.

Two fathers argued that the nation would suffer unless their sons were exempted. The post office at one place could not do the work unless his son mended the bicycle tyres, while if the other son enlisted the public henceforth would find no fly waiting for them at a certain railway station. Even in face of these risks the Tribunal decided that the sons *must go*.

[A]



H. How, of Mitcham, passed for general service, said all his savings were sunk in a little grocery business. But it was acquired only last February. Appellant had strenuously denied that he took the business in the hope of avoiding military service; it was because his health gave way, and he had to move out of London. Appellant thought he would have to close his business if he went, but the Military Representative said his wife could carry it on.

Appeal *dismissed*.

John William Tyrell, 23, a pig and poultry dealer, was quite unable to get anyone to carry on his business if he went. This was his fourth Tribunal appearance. His father, aged 58, suffered from a strained heart, and had been medically certified as unfit for heavy manual labour.

The Chairman thought there was no reason why he should not turn to and do what he could; we were all now doing things that once we had given up doing.

*One more month*, to be final.

[A]



At the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday. Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. Cases following were all appeals from Mitcham.

Mr. George Woods, butcher, was engaged in most important work, that of removing refuse from hospitals, and has a wife and two children, but his appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. F. W. Relf, of Colliers Wood, a foreman packer at a cigarette manufacturers, did not think the separation allowance for his wife and family sufficient to keep them as they should be kept. A matter about which he was quite free from doubt was the national importance of his work—he was sending cigarettes to soldiers. He has *one month's* reprieve—final.

Mr. B. Thompson (24), working in the varnish and colour trade, with mother, father, sister dependent, having said all he knows of himself, is to *ascertain what the doctor knows*.

“The only man left to kill a horse with a poleaxe,” was the plea, and one would have thought the irresistible plea, of Mr. J. W. Jackson, a horse slaughterer, yet the Military Representative said that “until January was too long to spare him.” His legal representative said he had three children. His employer said he was indispensable. Calls would come at night from 24 miles round, sometimes seven times a week for that poleaxe, but if he went there would be none to answer. In spite of this—appeal *dismissed*.

One gentleman who had had three months until he could call himself “father” now asked for more time. “You see, gentlemen, these events never happen alone.” The Tribunal saw danger, and, in discretion, *dismissed* the appeal.

Mr. E. A. Stockbridge (39) has four children, and also works on munitions, and the point is what is he worth to the Army? The *doctor is to say*.

Mr. H. G. Loader (31), builder, of Merton, has one brother in the Army and another prisoner of war, and thought that vicariously he had done his bit. For him to go meant two men to lose employment and to close his business. He has *six weeks* to prepare for departure.

Mr. S. Taylor, although only 28, is a problem. That comes of being an amalgam of an ironmonger and a conscientious objector. His employer said that for 15 years Taylor had been in his employ, and his work was of national importance.

The Chairman explained that if he had not been an objector the issue would be simple. He would have to go, but now the applicant added: “Taylor is also cultivating waste land.” True, he is doing it for himself, but there it was, he was making cabbages to grow galore where there hadn't been one before.

The Tribunal felt that for the present a final decision presented too great difficulties. *Given till end of the year*.

Messrs. Mizen Bros. applied for a large number of hands to be spared on the ground of a certified trade and necessary to agriculture. Four men are to be *examined*, two of the healthier *go with the flag*, the others *to stay* with the stuff.

[A]



Messrs. Palmer and Co pleaded hard for Mr. Alderman. He had a badge and a certificate. The Military Representative said the certificate was expiring and with it the days of freedom. He is *to go*.

Messrs. Mizen Brothers said their position was getting more and more serious. They claimed for several hands. The appeals were *dismissed*, but it was understood they would not be called up till after January.

Mr. G. H. Baker had a nursery with all his savings in it, and the only means of keeping it going himself and a brother with varicose veins. *Given to December 31st*.

Mr. E. A. Stockbridge worked at Messrs. Pain's and had five children. What could his wife do left alone with them? And also the allowance was not enough. Besides this, his mother would get nothing.

The Military Representative was obdurate. He wanted him. He is to have him in *two months' time*.

The local Tribunal, touched by the story of Mr. B. Thompson, 23, a colour matcher, had given him permission to eat his Christmas dinner at home, but the Military Representative intervened, and now he only has *one month final*.

An appeal by a representative of Messrs. Norman, Smee and Co. for their varnish maker, Mr. W. T. Brannon, would have failed, but the recital of his ills won the day. He had varicose veins, rupture and appendicitis.

"And what have you else?" Mr. Brannon was asked. Mr. Brannon completed the list, and got *till December*.

The next case was "a question of national importance." What would become of the babies of this and other lands if Mr. W. B. Faraday went for a soldier? Wouldn't it be very improvident to stop the supply of "Lacticol," so important to nursing mothers? Already by reduction of staff and overwork Mr. Faraday's senior in the work had been nearly killed, and this would be like the last straw.

Then there began a learned argument into which only experts like the Tribunal could enter. Was he a process clerk? Did the taking of raw cotton seed and turning it into a preparation so valuable give a right to exemption?

"Is it a food or a drug?" asked the Military Representative, and for a moment the issue hung in the balance. "But," pleaded the employer, think of the babies." The plea was irresistible. *Conditional exemption*.

Mr. Leonard Pinder, 29, worked for Robinson and Co., making gas mantles, and also had a little picture framing business. In both positions he was indispensable, but he *has to go*.

There was a sitting at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday, at which Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. On Saturday afternoon the following cases were from Mitcham:

Mr. J. Taylor, 36, is already a Volunteer and a builder, and only son and a father. He wanted four months' further exemption. A Volunteer officer said that although Mr. Taylor had been passed for garrison duty abroad, he could not do a three miles march without dropping. What was the use to the Army of an unfit man? He felt so strongly about it that he was willing to pay the costs himself of another and special medical examination.

*Adjourned* for this.

Messrs. Mizen Bros. got *exemption* for Messrs. A. Clark, W. Shepherd, J. Benham Watson, and A. E. Pinegar, till December.

Mr. J. H. Johnson's medical certificates were puzzling, so he is passed on to the *Central Medical Board*.

Mr. C. T. Lipshytz, Gorringe Park, appealed to be allowed to keep Mr. W. C. Andrews, gardener. He had attested and been rejected, and is now *exempted* on the ground of ill-health.

Mr. W. Monk, a foreman cutter, working for Mrs. Vollam and to her indispensable, is, on account of his age, leaving for the Army in *a month*.

Mr. T. W. S. Cavey (40) is suffering from nervous instability and a neurotic heart, and in the opinion of his legal advocate will never be any use to the Army, at home or abroad. Today he is keeping up the spirits of soldiers with his living marionettes. In this business all his money is invested. Mr. Edwardes-Jones, Military Representative, said that he and the marionettes must part unless he could take them with him to the Army.

Finally he was granted *till January 15th*.





Mr. J. Latham appealed for Mr. Orange (38). He was engaged at colour grinding, and they were only half through a contract. They also did work for the Indian Government. A little investigation showed that Mr. Orange was a really good "oddman", and the firm had not another oddman like him. Mr. Orange also was quite sure it was impossible for himself to be replaced. It had been tried with old men of 65 and even with feminine material, but the thing could not be done.

*December 31st. Final.*

Mr. H. Rogers (39), married, with delicate wife and child suffering from fits, thought he could do better for the country by looking after things at home and keeping on with his munition work, which was of importance to the country. The Chairman pointed out that all indispensable munition workers had badges, and when the Government thought a man was of more importance on the field it did not give him one.

Mr. Rogers is *to go*.

Mr. F. A. Moore, Mitcham, is 40. Has just finished paying for his cottage, but has a mortgage. For him to go meant a great financial hardship. He had had an accident and was laid up in Croydon Hospital for months through falling off a trapeze in a Croydon circus. It was true that was two years ago, but he felt quite sure he should be of no use in the Army. He should have revelled in the Volunteers, but then he could not lift anything. If a tyre came off his cab he had to get someone to put it on again. Still if they thought he must go he would take his cab and go over to the Volunteers.

*December 15th. Final.*

Mr. J. Jeffries, for Mr. J. M. Olley, pleaded that he managed a butcher's shop for him, while the wife acted as cashier. Mr. Jeffries had already had to close one branch, and if Mr. Olley went another would have to go. Substitutes were impossible. The Chairman said it was hard; so was everything. He was sorry, but afraid Mr. Jeffries could not expect to save all his branches. Still they would like to see him over the Christmas trade.

*December 15th. Final.*

Mr. A. Dendy said his father having died last week, he now appealed as the employer of Mr. A. Hookins (41), a blacksmith. He was indispensable, as he only could lift the heavy tyres.

Given to *December 15th. Final.*

Mr. F. Edwards is a greengrocer and has, among other cases, a wife, three children, and a lease. The local Tribunal looked upon the wife as vice-agent in the greengrocery, but applicant assured the court that she could neither lift sacks of potatoes or clear vans, nor do the marketing. The Military Representative thought the brother, who was in the same line, might buy for both shops. Applicant said: Impossible.

He has *till January 15th.*

Mr. A. J. Husband was anxious to get Mr. H. E. Gent (39) exempted because the firm was in possession of a German business and making varnish.

*Three months—not final.*

Mr. W. C. Pauling (39), engineer's machinist, has not a very high opinion of the military authorities. As he is already engaged in munitions he considers it was simply wasting time to call him up. His appeal being *dismissed* he smiled. He "hadn't the slightest doubt he should be sent back to munitions."

Messrs. Palmer & Co. appealed for Mr. W. Coney, who makes shell boxes. He was really no use to the Army, or he would have been in it before. Nerves troubled his youthful days and now threatening epilepsy. He was a carpenter and joiner, and if left alone all was well, but if he was called up the country would have trouble and expense.

Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. F. King applied for Mr. R. Cox (35), a coal carter, who claimed to be in an exempted occupation.

Appeal *allowed*.

Mr. R. A. Jones (40), single, munition worker and journalist, had his appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. A. Clifton (36), retailer of fried fish, who bought his business before the war, also had his appeal *dismissed*.

[M]



The following Mitcham cases were heard at the Appeal Tribunal on Saturday:

Mr. A. J. Hilliard, fruiterer and fishmonger, passed for B2. He has *14 days to register* at the Labour Exchange and get some national work.

Mr. M. Clayton, 34, a salesman, with a wife and five children, has *the like privilege*.

Mr. A. E. Birch appealed for Mr. E. Bouchard, 40, a journeyman butcher, and the only man left, has *three months*.

Mr. A. E. Thick, 36, married, had a domestic grievance.  
*Fourteen days* for medical report.

Mr. A. S. Begg, a shipping clerk, and doing work for Government construction, *three months*.

Mr. F. J. Mitchell, 36, boot and shoe repairer, single handed, showed what would happen if he had to go. Fifty or sixty people would have to suffer daily from leaking soles and other ills. He was single handed and worked 12 hours daily.  
*Exempted*. Certified trade.

Mr. H. Hambleton, 19, single, passed for C2.  
*Exempted for three months*.

Mr. Vere Lundy, salesman and window dresser, passed for general service, although his own doctor says he is no good for the Army. He is to see *Colonel Dean*.

Mr. D. Munday, 32. Appeal *dismissed*.

Messrs. Palmer and Co. appealed for several of their employees. Mr. W. J. Roberts, 23 and single, and whom the firm said had been badged, *has to go*. Mr. W. J. Dewar, 25, married, is to *register*, and if the Military Representative is satisfied that he is at present doing work of national importance, he may stop. Mr. W. W. Marden, 22, invoice clerk and a single man, and has *14 days' exemption*. Mr. T. J. Key, 40, foreman carpenter, has *14 days*, and Mr. A. Everett, 38, fireman in a saw mill, *the same*. They are to *register*. Mr. H. G. Merritt, 30, blacksmith, is a man the Army wants. It is not to be deprived of him. Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. W. L. Laurie, 31, married, also had his appeal *dismissed*. The same lot befell Mr. J. Seale, 37, a collector of pots and pans.

Mrs. Stopher's appeal for Mr. F. Stopher was unavailing, he being only 19 and single. *Dismissed*, but to be allowed to have his Christmas pudding first.

Mr. A. L. C. Inder, compositor, has *one month*.

Mr. J. J. Bath, a salesman, 25, married.

Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. G. Slater for Mr. W. R. Slater, 30, market gardener, and in the V.T.C.

*To go middle of January.*



[A]



C16.12.22

22 December 1916

At the sitting on Saturday Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. The following Mitcham cases were heard:

Mr. Vere Lundy was given *another 14 days* for medical examination.

Mr. Boulter, who did not appear, had his appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. A. J. Hilliard, who had to get national work, was *granted exemption* on remaining in such employment.

Messrs. T. W. Palmer & Co. appealed for Mr. W. J. Dewar: the firm was engaged in carrying out Government contracts. Dewar was a store mill machinist. The firm also asked for the release of Mr. T. J. Key and Mr. A. Everitt. These applications were *adjourned* for a month.

In the case of Mr. W. W. Marden (22), single, and employed as a clerk, they were more fortunate. As he had only passed for C3 and was of great service he was *conditionally exempted*.

Mr. Morris Claxton, a furniture salesman, had *14 days* given to try and get substitutionary work.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. W. F. Brooks, aged 39. The appeal was *allowed, but respite given for three months*.

The Military Representative had like appeals against Mr. E. G. Hicks and Mr. J. Miller (39); both cases were *adjourned* for report of medical examination.

Mr. A. E. Tick (38), was married and had many domestic hardships, besides being passed C2. *Adjourned for one month*.

The Lyxhayr Manufacturers Ltd., Mitcham, appealed for John Smith, who was indispensable and worked at a patent.

*Three months*.

The Military Representative objected to Mr. W. J. Lunt (32), market gardener. His father, for whom he worked, cultivated some 40 acres. *Adjourned one month* for report of Agricultural Committee.

The Mitcham Margarine Co. appealed for Mr. J. A. Findlay (29), manager, passed for general service. Appeal *dismissed* and refused permission to appeal further. Mr. H. Turner understood packing and worked for the same company. Appeal *dismissed*. In both cases 14 days to be given.

The Military Representative also appealed against Mr. S. H. Coleman (38), working for the same company as manufacturing foreman.

*Three months' exemption*.

The same authority also appealed against Mr. R. T. Grace (31), employed by Mr. A. Mizen as carter. The Local Tribunal's decision of six months was *altered to three months*.

Mr. A. Peters, a ploughman, also employed by Mr. A. Mizen, was given *three months*.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. J. Thorgood, passed B2. He was single, and aged 25.

Granted *three months*.

The Chairman, addressing Mr. Mizen, asked if it was true that besides being an applicant, he was a Military Representative, and also a member of the Local Tribunal. Mr. Mizen said it was, but he had told the clerk to mention that he had taken no part in the decisions as to his own applications. The Chairman: I should think so; but it's a most extraordinary strange thing that you should be a member.

Mr. Alfred Miller (36), plumber and fitter, Colliers Wood, Merton, had a business, worked up by himself, a wife and four children. Passed for general service, but applicant knew he was not fit. Appeal *dismissed*.

A firm asked for the exemption of two servants, who were described in the most effusive terms as possessing great and boundless qualifications, and a smile went round the court when it was said that one had the magnificent salary of £3, and the other had £2 5s. They were advised if they advertised for substitutes to mention the sum they would pay. Certainly much in excess of this.

[M]



1917

C17.01.05

05 January 1917

Sir Lewis Dibdin presided over a sitting of the Croydon and Surrey Appeal Tribunal at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday.

M. Claxton, of Mitcham, had been told by the Tribunal to go to the Labour Exchange in order to be given work of national importance. He had gone there, but they refused to have anything to do with him unless he had a card from the Tribunal. He was referred to the Recruiting Officer at Wimbledon, and from there to the Substitution Officer at Kingston Barracks. What he was anxious about was to know where he was.

The Chairman said Mr. Claxton ought to have a card, and the case *stood over for 14 days*, the Chairman telling Mr. Claxton not to leave the building until he got his card.

S. G. Baker, a nurseryman, of Mitcham, passed for labour at home, was told that unless the military authorities found more suitable work for him he would he *left where he was*.



[M]



Messrs. W. I. Dewar, T. J. Key and A. Everitt, all employed by Messrs. Palmer and Co., Merton Iron works, were granted *conditional exemption* while doing work to the satisfaction of the Military Representative.

Mr. J. Gibbs was in the employ of Messrs. Hall and Co. at Mitcham, and acted as engine driver at their gravel pits. His work was important because he helped to keep up a supply of ballast to the line. He had been to Woolwich Arsenal, and they sent him back, and the Labour Exchange told him to return to Messrs. Hall's and the gravel.

There he is to continue for *three months*.

Mr. W. T. Brannon (28) works at Mitcham at a varnish factory. He is passed B1, but if he goes no one will be left to pack oils and colours properly, as his knowledge of customers is unapproachable. What is more he controls two dangerous and complex machines.

Appeal *dismissed*. He leaves Feb. 15th.

Mr. R. Taylor, of Mitcham, is 35, a cartage contractor with 27 horses, and his business is already crippled through so many men joining up.

His case *adjourned* for 14 days for medical report.

Mr. A. Mizen, Mitcham, appealed for Mr. H. Hutt (33). He had been passed for general service, and hitherto had been selling agricultural produce. Applicant asked for exemption pending substitution.

*One month*.

Mr. A. Clifton, Mitcham, (36), passed C2, wanted a re-hearing. He was told to *go to a Labour Exchange*, and if they wanted him they would take him.

Mr. E. E. Clark, Mitcham (36) a carpenter at Messrs. Humphreys, Ltd., had joined up.

Mr. H. J. Scarlett (32), Mitcham, had had his case *adjourned* on the ground that he was employed to shave the soldiers. The Military Representative said he had made inquiries and it was found that he was employed by a firm which had a contract.

Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. J. Seale, Mitcham, had 120 pigs belonging to his brother, but was interested in their welfare.

*Two months*, on condition he doesn't forget the pigs.

Mr. M. Clayton (34), Mitcham, is a furniture salesman, and had taken the place of an "A" man.

*Conditional exemption*.



There was a sitting at the Town Hall on Saturday, over which Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. The following are Mitcham cases:

The Military Representative appealed against the exemption of Mr. W. J. White, 29. Messrs. Harland and Sons, his employers, said he was a foreman packer, and had the charge of 17 others. The Tribunal considered he was only head packer and gave *one month*.

The firm's application for Mr. E. Webb, a varnish runner, and also indispensable, *was not more fortunate*.

The Military Representative got the time of Mr. J. Blunt, 40, greengrocer, wife and six children, *reduced from six months to three months*, and Mr. P. Heaton, 32, a greengrocer, with two children, had his three months' exemption *reduced to two months*.

The Military Representative also wanted Mr. B. W. Stopher, 38, passed C3. He said that only slaughterers for the wholesale trade were exempt. The Tribunal thought that a man slaughtering for over 20 pig breeders was doing the thing fairly wholesale, so gave him *three months*, and he can come again.

Mr. J. A. J. Mackenzie, 37, had a very strong case, and, as a patriot, put national considerations first. He was a lithographic expert, a silver medallist reporter on colour pigments, settled any difficulty that might arise in regard to lithography, and held a position, in fact, that now German importation had stopped had become of immense importance. In fact the firm would be put in a perilous position. There was only one weak point, his salary—about what a respectable dock labourer might expect. His patriotism made up for it, because he employed all his spare time neither in pleasure or poetry but in making munitions at Woolwich. As to his present troubles, his family needed him, both his mother and mother-in-law, and he suffered so much from facial neuralgia that it was always necessary to have his working room warmed. He feared the Army would not provide that as he had been passed C1. The Tribunal spoke very sympathetically, and then gave him—*a month*.

Mr. G. A. Mathiae, 23, master baker, has three children and works eighteen hours daily. There was a little misunderstanding in this case. Applicant was sure the business had been his for four years, and yet his form was filled up describing himself as working for his mother. He did not remember making that statement.

Application *dismissed*.

Mr. H. R. Evans, 40, motor car salesman and demonstrator, has a wife and seven children. He is now principally engaged in making munitions for the French Government. His medical certificate cast much doubt on the value of the medical report.

He is to *go before the Central Board*.

Mr. R. G. Havers, 36, had a delicate wife with varicose veins, and a fruiterer and cabbage contractor's business that without him must be ruined.

Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. J. Bartlett, 32, was a green fodder and potato merchant, with two brothers in the Army, and two horses and two vans at home. Sent *to the Labour Exchange*.

Mr. A. E. Jesson, 40, newsagent and tobacconist, with wife and two children, has since August, 1915, been working as a clerk at the Record Office, Woolwich Dockyard, and, as he came home at night, was thus able to give a little supervision to his own business. He was educating his boy at the City of London school.

The Tribunal felt that he was doing useful work and gave him *conditional exemption*.

Mr. D. J. Manning, 30, a grocer, and single, was often laid up with many ills, and had had St. Vitus's Dance and all other complaints in his family.

He is to *join in a month*.

Mr. J. Elliott, 39, a bottle, bone and grease collector, is engaged on a most important mission. He is supplying the Army with glycerine in grease, and also collecting metal which is now "extremely necessary".

*Three months, not final*.

Mr. H. E. Eld, 39, C1, an iron and metal dealer, with five children.

*Three months, not final*.

Mr. A. E. Smith makes all the noted camel hair brushes of Messrs. Rowney and Co., and declared that it was a certified trade.

*Three months, not final*.

Mr. F. J. Shiers, 40, married, hairdresser, had served 12 years in the 15th Hussars and six in India, and had his discharge. If left his business would be ruined.

Given *one month*.

Mr. N. Tucker appealed for Mr. J. Hall who was a slaughterman with a family of nine children. He was given *three months, not final*.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. Lunt and Mr. N. L. Cavello. They were granted conditional exemption. He also appealed against Mr. T. P. Woolfe, the manager of a large business. He was given *three months, not final*.

Mr. T. S. Markwick, 40, a builder, was suffering from chronic rheumatism and doing a considerable amount of war work. A coachbuilders' firm in St. James's-street, W.C., said he was assisting them

in aeroplane making. The Military Representative was quite willing he should keep on with the work if he satisfied the substitutional authorities. Subject to this he has *conditional exemption*.

Mr. A. J. Tucker, adverting agent, aged 36, with wife and five children—*one month*.

Mr. T. C. Griffin, 39, was willing to do any work at home at munitions, but did not want to have his home broken up, nor did he want to go before the Commissioners about his financial difficulties because he knew he should be unlucky. Long had he suffered already through chronic dyspepsia. *Three months, final.*

Mr. W. Cornish, 39, market gardener, passed C2, was given *three months, not final*.

Mr. H. Ward, 39, dairyman, had his exemption objected to by the Military Representative, he being a general service man. He said his was a one-man business, involving the risk of his whole life savings. His chief grief was his creditors, who might lose their little bills. The Local Tribunal gave him six months. Reduced to *three months, final*.

Mr. S. Price, 39, furniture salesman traveller to Messrs. Payne & Co.; four children; doing war work. *Conditional exemption*.

Mr. R. A. Hopkins, 39, Merton, a stationer, with a delicate wife, was *sent to the Central Medical Board*.

[A]

Mr. A. G. Mizen, 30, market gardener, said his firm also had farms in Hertfordshire. The incidental point came out as to the value of salad. He said their greatest customer was the Army. Large quantities of cress seed was being sent to Mesopotamia to prevent scurvy.

*Three months given.*

Mr. C. Howcroft, 29, is the owner of a taxicab, and a patriot. At the same time he was desirous the Tribunal should have a full knowledge of his diseases before putting him into any responsible position. He then, in a beautiful spirit of resignation, read out some nine diseases but being a taxi-driver was ordered to *register at the Labour Exchange*.

[M]

The following appeals are from the Mitcham Local Tribunal:

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. E. Patland, 30, clerk in the export trade. He has to go in *six weeks*.

Mr. B. Rampley, passed for B1, a shipping manager, had his appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. A. Hookins, 24, was a packer, employed by Mr. G. Hadfield, and only passed C2. As a skilled man and indispensable he was given *conditional exemption*.

Mr. A. Clifton was granted *the same*.

Mr. R. Taylor had been given 14 days for the Military Representative to report on his business position.

*Adjourned* for a further week.

Mr. F. Rosier, a dealer in green fodder and potatoes, had *three months, not final*.

The appeal of the Military Representative against Mr. W. T. Spokes was allowed. He was married and 39 years old. Had a coffee shop in a very low neighbourhood where gipsies abounded, and a man was necessary to do the trade. No other caterer within 25 minutes' walk, and several factories around him.

*Three months, final*.

Mr. R. J. J. C. Pratt, 40, has an oil shop, and also claimed as an electrician to be in a skilled trade.

*Three months, final*.

Mr. T. H. Lewis, 31, passed B1, manufacturer of leather goods, pleaded business hardship.

*Three months, not final*.

Mr. F. J. Holman, stereotyper's assistant, married, 33, wife and seven children.

*Appeal dismissed*.

Mr. S. Hadland, 39, cowkeeper, had 26 acres, six cows and as many pigs. The Military Representative contended that to come under the definition of farmer a man must have arable land. Precedents were against him, so applicant, on promising to get more cows, has *six months* given him.

Mr. W. G. Powell works for a transport supply at Fulham, and does things that help the "Tanks". He is B2, and has *conditional exemption*.

Mr. T. Lawford is 36 and has three children, and keeps The Bull besides working at munitions all day; but he is B1 and has to *go on March 1st*.

Mr. A. J. Filmore, 37, works for Waring and Gillow, and his employers plead that he is highly skilled, and therefore they wish to retain him. He says he is physically unfit, has varicose veins and supports a widowed mother. He is quite willing to join the Red Cross in France, and, in fact, has already been accepted by them if he passes the medical examination all right. The Chairman said he had four brothers who could look after the mother.

*Appeal dismissed.*

Mr. T. H. Scrutton, manager to a licensed victualler, is to be *called on March 1st*.

Mr. C. Clarkson appealed for Mr. J. Jackson, 35, passed B2. He is a slaughterman and the only man left in the firm.

*Conditional exemption.*

Mr. F. Richardson, 32, is married, and passed for C1. Does work of national importance because he supplies peat fuel so as to save coal.

*End of March.*

Mr. E. T. Adams, 36, a builder of houses for munition workers, had been rejected under the Derby Scheme; now passed C2. He has eight brothers serving. He wrote explaining that he was not well enough to come.

Messrs. T. W. Palmer and Co. appealed for fitters and others engaged mostly on Government contracts. The results were: Mr. C. E. Sears, Mr. E. Kinnett and Mr. J. E. Habditch have *conditional exemption*; Mr. H. J. Gough, *appeal dismissed*; Mr. W. Blofield, *14 days*.

[A]



Mr. C. Howercroft had *joined up*.

The Military Representative said he had found the employer a good substitute for Mr. J. Miller (29), general service. The employer wasn't going to have a man thrust upon him who was of no use. He was told he was quite free, but—Miller *must go*.

Mr. J. Bartlett has a job now *at munition works*.

Mr. R. Taylor, with a business at Merton, was *given till March 15th*.

Mr. F. J. Bowditch (34), delicate wife, newsagent and tobacconist. Delivers all his own papers. *March 15th*.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. W. Blofield, employed by Messrs. Palmer and Co. The man was 32, general service, fitter and toolmaker, and it was claimed that he was in a certified trade.

*Adjourned 14 days*.

Mr. H. Marchant's father was a farmer, and wanted to see the sowing through before his son was called.

*March 15th*.

Mr. C. Stopher had seven children and 114 pigs.

*Two months, final*.

Mr. W. A. Stopher, master butcher (33), and supplied poor people with sausages.

*March 31st*.

Mr. T. W. S. Cavey (41), B1, nervous complaint.

*Central Medical Board*

Mr. A. Reed, employed at Vauxhall Gas Works, domestic trouble.

*Conditional exemption*.

Mr. C. Garner, filterer at varnish works, doing expert work.

*Three months*.

At the sitting on Saturday at the Town Hall, Sir Sir Lewis Dibdin presided.

Mr. W. E. Philp, 35, manager of a large laundry business with 50 hands at Carshalton and passed "A", was given *three months, not final*.

Mr. B. R. Pearce, manufacturer of electric batteries for torches, appealed for Mr. R. Anderson. It was stated that the best were formerly made by Germany, whose secret had defied the skill of 12 analytical English chemists. Then Mr. Pearce took up the matter, and long and careful experiment was rewarded, and the British utility battery was now being made at Mitcham and Croydon.

The Military Representative questioned whether these batteries were of national importance. The Chairman advised him to try walking two or three miles at night in the country, where ditches were and then to give his opinion.

*Adjourned for 14 days, and if satisfactory two months.*

Mr. A. C. Nash, 27, market gardener, cultivates ten acres and supports father and mother. *Three months.*

Mr. T. B. Pennington, 41, a carpenter, had lost a finger and, since, six weeks' illness. *Two months.*

Mr. H. J. Gough, 39, a colour mixer, employed by Palmer and Co., and passed "A", has a wife and seven children and mends all their boots. If he had to go he is afraid it will break his wife's heart. His appeal was *dismissed*.

The Mitcham Rubber Co. appealed for Mr. B. [R?] Watts, 27, chemist, whose work was said to be essential to the making of surgical rubber for the Army. A substitute was unfindable. *Three months.*

[M]

Mr. G. [S?] Saxby, a 'bus conductor whose trade is a window blind maker, stated that his wife had left him with four children, whom he had to look after. His father, who was nearly blind, was also dependent upon him. In June, 1915, he had tried to enlist, but was totally rejected, but had now been passed for C2. He was 39 years of age, and asked that he might be allowed to find work of national importance, so that he could stay at home and look after his children. He admitted having only three children with him—the fourth, a girl, being enticed away by her mother. His aged father also made an appeal, and said he had three grandsons at the front. He had buried their father and mother just recently. Appellant stated that his only brother had served two years in the Army, but was invalided out, and died in November. He (appellant) had registered at the Employment Exchange.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. P. [H?] Mayhew, a newsagent and stationer, 39, passed for general service, appealed. He said he carried on business at two shops with the help of his wife. She, however, could not carry on alone, as she was not experienced in buying. His appeal was dismissed by the Local Tribunal, but the Military Representative agreed not to call him until March 7th. He said had the Medical Board known his medical history he would not have been passed for general service. The appeal was *adjourned for a week* in order that appellant might produce a doctor's certificate.

Robin, Ltd., appealed for A. W. Snare, 25, single, passed for B1. He could not, they said, be replaced and their business, that of incandescent mantle makers, was of national importance. They claimed he was in a certified occupation, but the Tribunal ruled against this.

Mr. Robin said had he come under carters and draymen he would be exempt, and it was not fair.

The Chairman: I did not make out the certified list; it is no use blaming me.

The appeal was *dismissed*.

The Military Representative pleaded against the conditional exemption granted to a fitter named Blofield, in the employ of Palmer and Co. He was 33 years of age and passed A and had served eight years in the Army.

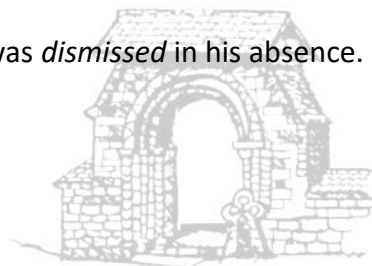
Mr. Edwardes-Jones (Military Representative) said he had called at Messrs. Palmer's that morning and found shoals of fitters, and there was no necessity for the firm to keep the man. The representative of Palmer and Co. said Blofield was a trade unionist with a card and asked whether there was not an agreement between the War Office and the trade unions that no more men should be conscripted?

The Chairman said he know nothing of that. They must hear the case on its merits, although there appeared to be some bargain.

Palmer and Co.'s representative said that the Ministry of Munitions inspected the works, and it was intimated that six of their 23 fitters would be taken in a few weeks' time, and that they must dilute with unskilled labour. They had more work for fitters than they could manage. There were only two or three fitters that could do the accurate work Blofield did.

The appeal was *adjourned* for a week, so that another general service man might go in place of Blofield, such a bargain being agreed to by the Military Representative.

The appeal of E. T. Adams, 36, married, and passed B2, was *dismissed* in his absence.





P. Mayhew, aged 39, passed for general service, was given *until April 15th*.

W. Blofield (33), a fitter employed by Palmer and Co., passed for general service, was said to be a valuable man both to the Army and to his employers. He had served eight years in the Army. Mr. Palmer was offered an old employee now in the Army but passed for sedentary work at home in exchange for Blofield, but pointed out that the other man was a carpenter and could not do fitter's work. He gave the Tribunal some information regarding the valuable nature of the work they were doing.

The Chairman thought Blofield's services were especially valuable, and the Tribunal agreed that he had better remain where he was for the present, and allowed a *further two months*.

[A]



The appeals following are from Mitcham Tribunal:

Mr. B. R. Peace asked as the employer of Mr. S. Anderson (34) that he should be spared. The man is engaged in making "Ideal" batteries for electric torches.

*Three months allowed.*

Messrs. Palmer and Co. appealed for Mr. W. J. Dewar (25), a saw mill machinist. The shops were full of Government work, such as huts for prisoners and purveyors, and this man, while capable where he was, was suffering from varicocele and useless for military duties. They had to dilute the work in the shop already with the result that there had been more accidents there in a few months than formerly in years. This made it bad for the lads, because you could not make them careful enough about their fingers.

*Two months.*

Messrs. Robin and Co. appealed for Mr. W. J. Hares [Harris?] (35), who was employed making boxes for their gas mantles. He was their deputy manager, and was needed more urgently than three months ago. This was really a good case if the Tribunal looked into it. They also pleaded that this was a certified trade. The Chairman decided that that claim failed and that if the present instructions had been issued three months ago there would not have been a reprieve.

*Fourteen days (final).*

Mr. G. Cole (37) widower and three children. Passed "A".

*Claim disallowed.*

Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd., appealed for their man, Mr. J. W. Garrett. They had taken over a German varnish factory, and out of 69 men sent 40 to the army.

*Three months' extension.*

Mr. E. Bigsby appealed for Mr. W. H. Ikin, a colour grinder, B1.

*To join in 14 days.*

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. [T.?] H. Sansum (29), a clerk. He had only passed C3, so the appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. F. H. Nicholls, single and passed "A", was a compositor, and very dissatisfied with his medical examination.

*Appeal dismissed (14 days).*

Mr. W. Lavender, potato salesman (39) and passed C2, also has to go.

*Fourteen days.*

Mr. L. Wisbey (27), married, passed "A", is now engaged on munition work.  
Given *14 days*.

Mr. W. F. Brooks (40), manager of a stock jobbers' firm, was at present doing important work for the Government without pay one day each week and all his spare time. He thought it therefore desirable to continue this good work  
*Fourteen days*.

Mr. H. Hamberton [Hambleton?] (19), single and passed C2, was also a munition worker. He had six brothers serving in the Army, and the mother said she had lost five children.  
*Three months*.

Mr. J.K. Campbell (41), was acting as clerk at the Army Clothing Department, White City.  
*Appeal dismissed*.

Mr. A. J. Hilliard (21), was a fruiterer, passed B2. He was engaged in important aircraft work seven days a week.  
His exemption was *withdrawn*, and he leaves in *14 days*.

[M]

E. J. Wallis (35), a cartage contractor, passed B1, had his appeal *dismissed*, but is not to be called up for a month.

[H]

Sir Lewis Dibdin presided at the sitting held at the Croydon Town Hall on Saturday. The following are appeals from Mitcham:

Mr. Clarkson (27), a contractor, scavenger and pig farmer, employing 80 men, is doing national service, but as he has passed for general service the Military Representative thinks he can do more good in the Army. The *two months* he now has from the local Tribunal is made *final*.

The Mitcham Margarine Co. appealed on behalf of their manufacturing foreman, Mr. Coleman (29) passed A. The food department spoke of the importance of this manufacture. An interesting fact brought out by Mr. F. O. Robinson, barrister, who represented the company was that the firm had applied to the Labour Exchange for a substitute and been told by them that it was not their business to do that. The proper people were the National Service Committee. They applied to them, and they said it was in their line and referred the firm back to the Labour Exchange.

*Conditional exemption.*

Mr Fryer (31) Class A, is working at a star shell factory and also looking after the business of his brother who has been killed at the war.

*Appeal dismissed: one month.*

Mr. Holder appealed for Mr Goodman (41) married, and formerly Master of the Holborn Workhouse. When it was taken over as a military hospital he remained as Quartermaster, and was the only responsible officer the Guardians had on the premises.

The Chairman said he couldn't see what the Guardians had to do with the building.

Mr. Holder showed that there was a very close connection. All the food was bought and paid for by them, and all the internal arrangements carried out by them through Mr. Goodman.

The Chairman: Their officer must remain. He has *conditional exemption* while in his present employment.

The Military objected to Mr. W. Latham, a varnish maker, passed C2, having six months' exemption. His father said his son was his manager and absolutely needed. Further that he was in a certified trade.

*Exempted accordingly.*

Messrs. Palmer and Co. wanted to keep Mr. F. Laming (33), because he was so valuable as an expert and constantly in war work. The military pleaded that it was just his excellent qualities which made the man a being much to be desired by the Army. Alarmed at the covetous spirit he had aroused by extolling his craftsman, Mr. Palmer, with touching frankness, showed how anxious he was the Army should not take this man without its eyes being fully open. There was another side. Mr. Laming had undergone 12 bronchial operations and was likely to have more. He had bad eyes and also a chronic neuralgia, so that he never knew one day whether he would be at work the next. Of course the firm, understanding the man and knowing that he did his best, put up with

him, but would be very sorry for the Army to have such a responsibility. As they knew, the Army had cares enough.

The Chairman: Will you keep him and send us another man?

Mr. Palmer would be only too delighted, but he had sent away three A men since his last visit, so he thought he had some right to claim a C2 man.

He has *three months' further exemption*.

Mr. Harris (34), according to his employer, Mr. Paterson, has five children, and in his work as a fish curer supplies many of the poor around with sustenance.

*Two months final; the military appeal allowed.*

Rev. C. T. Lipschitz, superintendent of a home for destitute children, wanted to keep his gardener, Mr. Andrews (34), C2. The military objected, and the man is to *go before the special Medical Board*.

Mr. A. G. Mizen said that Mr. Currell (24), Class A, is not only a carman, but the only man he has left able to drill a farm of 215 acres.

*Exempted, certified occupation.*

Mr. Smith (41), is employed as foreman by the Lyxhayr Manufactures. He has *three months more* superintending the making of mattresses for ambulances and hospitals.

Messrs. Lancaster, Ltd., said Mr. Siviour was not a replaceable man. He was secretary to the company and manager at the coal wharf.

*One month, final.*

[M]

The Military Representative appealed in respect of E. G. Leekes, who was 41 last September and passed C2. He has a delicate wife and is a farm labourer, employed on 100 acres of land on which nothing else but vegetables are grown. The appeal was *dismissed*.

The appeal of the Military Representative against E. G. Gardiner, a farm labourer employed by Messrs. F. and G. Mizen resulted in the exemption allowed by the Local Tribunal being *reduced to two months, but not made final*.

The appeal of the Military Representative was *dismissed* in the case of J. Hoskins, 39, passed A, who is a blacksmith at a wheelwright's.

Messrs. A. and E. Mizen had *three months* granted to their head carter, Grace, passed A, and aged 31. The *like period* was given to Peters, a carter and ploughman of 35, passed for general service, but Thurgood, single, 25, was *ordered to join up*.

[H]

C17.04.20

20 April 1917

Sir Lewis T. Dibdin presided over a sitting of the Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal at Croydon Town Hall on Saturday.

W. Willer, 40, married, C1, newsagent and tobacconist, had his case *adjourned* for 14 days for a second medical examination.

A. S. Begg, 19, single, C2, was reported to be in hospital, and the case was *adjourned* for six weeks.

R. P. Dodwell, 31, single, varnish and paint manufacturer, works manager and chemist, whose case had been adjourned for medical examination, had been classified B1. It was claimed that it would be impossible to carry out orders, which were chiefly for war purposes, without his special knowledge. Twelve months ago he was given total exemption, and the Military Representative now appealed.

*A further two months' exemption was granted, and not final.*

E. Hobgen, 33, married, having found work of national importance at Woolwich Arsenal, was given *conditional exemption*.

The case of F. J. Latham, 26, married, A, cartage contractor, came up for review, his conditional certificate having been cancelled. Latham was said to be the only man able to do the carting for Messrs. Hancock and Corfield, as he had experience of docks, wharves and warehouses. He did the carting with four boys under military age.

*Exempted for six weeks, final.*

[M]



There was a sitting at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday, at which Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. The following cases were from Mitcham:

Mr. J. W. Tyrell, 24, and passed B2, is a pig dealer and breeder and therefore thinks he is engaged on national work. During the last three months he has turned out 240, besides which his parents are dependent, and all his money invested in the business.

*Two months, not final.*

Mr. C. Stopher (36), B1, is also a pig-breeder. He has 122 pigs, a brother, who is a butcher at Merton, and seven children.

*Two months.*

T. P. Woolfe (32), B8, was appealed against by the Military Representative. He managed a large photographer's business, and many people were dependent upon him.

*Two months, not final.*

Mr. G. Gibbs (39), B2, was an engine driver employed at Messrs. Hall & Co.'s gravel pits. He was given till *May 15th, final.*

Mr. R. G. Freestone (39) a licensed victualler at Merton, represented the difficulty of his position and the hardship involved in his being called up. His capital was invested in the business.

*Appeal dismissed.*

Mr. J. Wilson (33), C2 appealed for Mr. A. Simmonds. He was a builder's foreman and the employer had a large number of houses and flats which had to be kept in repair. Simmonds was the only man of military age left. Originally there was a staff of 70, now reduced to seven. There were more empty houses than ever out of repair, although no repairs were done except those ordered by the sanitary authority.

*Given till June 1st.*

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. E. G. Swan (34), B1, with wife and five children. He is a carman and contractor.

*Three months, final.*

On Saturday there was a sitting at the Croydon Town Hall, at which Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. The following cases are from Mitcham:

Mr. H. Ward, 38, a dairyman, was granted a re-hearing, as the last time he had not been medically examined. He was now passed B2. He was not only doing important work but also looking after his brother's business and his wife and five children, while he was away at the war. If he must go he must sell his business.

*Allowed two months.*

Mr. D. W. Stopher, 38, C3, looked so well and hearty that the Chairman looked at him and wondered, afterwards saying, "I suppose there is no doubt about the classification; Mr. Stopher looks a very comfortable C3."

He has *three months'* respite.

Mr. H. E. Eld, 39, dealer in metals, was doing a national work, collecting about 60 tons a week. He admitted that although given exemption before, he had done nothing to arrange about his business. The Chairman pointed out the evil of the practice. Nothing was done unless the Tribunal actually said "Final".

*June 1st, final.*

Messrs. Mizen Bros. appealed for Mr. A. G. Clark 40, C2, who was the only market salesman in the firm's employ. The Military Representative reminded the Tribunal of the arrangements to be made at Covent Garden so as to secure more thorough economy and co-operation of labour, and therefore suggested only a temporary adjournment until these were complete.

*Two months given.*

[M]





Messrs. Warren and Co. appealed for Mr. W. S. Selby, 32, coal carman. He supplied the poor with sacks of coal, a work which the Local Government Board and Coal Control were most anxious should be continued. Besides the claims of his work there were three children, and yet the local Tribunal had disallowed the appeal. There was also the case of Mr. F. H. Hewett, 36, and four children engaged in the same good work.

The Chairman suggested that all-important as the distribution of coal might have been in the winter probably the temperature to be expected might moderate the demand for coal.

The manager submitted respectfully that that could only be the opinion of the inexperienced. Today was needed to prepare for a long morrow of a coming autumn and winter. All they had now was a staff of ten carmen.

Military Representative: And better off than anyone I know.

*Both men are to go.*

Messrs Palmer and Co. appealed for Mr. H. A. Tolhurst, 39. He was a blacksmith, always employed on Government work and principally in connection with hangars for aeroplanes. He was on a certified list, and all attempts to find a substitute through the Labour Exchange had failed.

The firm said that while the Government were now withdrawing badges, they were proposing to set up a new authority to deal with men who were indispensable, and it was suggested that his case should be adjourned. There was no doubt as the new authority would be thoroughly conversant with needs of the Government and the supply of the district it would work very satisfactorily.

*Adjourned for a week.*

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. A. M. Jennings 37, a brush manufacturer, passed C1. He had put all his money into the business, and claimed it was a certified trade. At present he only employed women, and in order to benefit them he had taken upon himself to teach girls. While learning they earned 4s. to 5s. a week. Afterwards 8s. to 12s. In fact, the girl that had been there longest with him and was most efficient earned 14s. The brushes had to be made cheap, and so girls could do the work he did.

The Chairman thought that considering the poor wages the women earned there would not be much harm done if the girls lost their work.

The appeal of the Military was *allowed*. The time given by the local Tribunal made *final*.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. W. H. Stephens a cab driver and owner passed C1. The Commissioner of Police had promised that in the event of any taxi licence being surrendered through the owner's enlistment and the cab not being used until his return, he would be prepared to re-issue the licence without asking for any further overall of the cab. The Central Tribunal had decided in view of this that the hardship to the licensee would be much lessened.

It was explained that his did not meet the deservings of the present case. If he did not keep up the instalments on his cab he would lose it; besides which his wife was ill and he was only classed C1. Harder still a golden season was before him if permitted to enjoy it.

Military appeal *allowed*. Local Tribunal's decision *made final*.

Mr. W. C. Carter (40), passed C1 a Special Constable with seven children, a sick wife, and himself suffering with valvular disease of the heart, asked to be exempted.

The Military Representative, who had appealed, said on inquiry he found this to be a very genuine case, and he was sorry.

The appeal was therefore *dismissed*.

Mr. W. G. Spokes (39), grocer, C1, was trading in a poor neighbourhood. This must be a work of national importance, because if he closed down their hardships would be increased.

Messrs. Bird and Co., who had a large munition works near, said the shop was very necessary for the comfort and sustenance of their workers, especially as the firm only allowed them half-an-hour for dinner.

*Two months.*

[M]



At Saturday's sitting at the Town Hall, Sir Lewis Dibdin presided.

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. H. Norton of Mitcham. He is a leather seller, classed B1. The local Tribunal gave three months. It was urged that they were mistaken. Their eyes had only seen the superficial meaning of the word leather seller. That counted for nothing. But when it meant selling new leather on old boots, being a boot repairer and sometimes finishing of 150 pairs of boots for workers in a very poor neighbourhood, one saw at once this must be a certified trade. So it was judged.

*Further exemption granted.*

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. H. W. Tingley (36), passed B2. He is at a fibre treating works, making bed stuffing for the repose of wounded soldiers, and has had such long experience that no substitute could be found. The Local Tribunal's judgment marked "*final*".

The Military Representative appealed against Mr. W. Tyler, who is 40 and a greengrocer. He is classed B1 and has a wife and five children, and does carting for a chemical works, while his wife looks after the shop. The local Tribunal gave him three months. This was *reduced to two*: July 15th (final).



[A]



The Recorder of Croydon (Mr. R. F. Colam, K.C.) presided at the sitting of the Surrey Appeal Tribunal held at the Town Hall Croydon on Saturday.

The Mitcham Rubber Co. appealed for Mr. R. H. P. Watts (29). As the firm claims to be a protected trade the Tribunal decided not to grant an exemption, because if that were done the Government would not grant its certificate. The firm assented to this, being sure they would be protected. The Chairman pointed out that this was the most satisfactory course, because in one way it saved any further application, and in the other if the Government did not grant a certificate it would show the man was not indispensable.

Mr. A. S. Begg (18), single, Mitcham, sent a medical certificate from the hospital where he is a patient. He said he was sorry he was not able to attend. The case was *adjourned* for a month.

Mr. A. C. Clarkson (38) Mitcham, was a horse slaughterer, passed B2. He said it was very important he should stay on, as there was only one other firm in London, and there were cases where owners of animals were threatened with prosecution by the R.S.P.C.A. because they could not get their animals slaughtered quick enough. In peace time he employed seven men, now he only had one.

*Three months.*

Mr. J. N. Bacon (40), of Mitcham, passed B1, was a process engraver with eight children, and as the only son of his mother was also her sole supporter. One son who was not 17, had been so anxious to join that he enlisted under a false name. He was wounded at the Somme, and now returned suffering from shell- shock. Five children were still dependent, and if he were taken the family would be left without sufficient means to carry on. The local Tribunal said his business was not important and refused more time. Appeal *dismissed*. Applicant thought his being the father of eight children would have decided the case in his favour. The Chairman reckoned that was an extra reason why he should go.

Mr. F. W. Gale (34), was a fruiterer and greengrocer at Mitcham, with six children, and yet refused more time by the local Tribunal. He had had eleven months' exemption, and was now doing national work carting munitions.

Appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. W. J. Fisher (30), of Mitcham, "A", had his appeal *dismissed*, but retired smiling. He now had his certificate of exemption.

Mr. F. Ackerman (29), Mitcham, is a grocer's assistant, working for his father. The appeal was on medical grounds. He had been passed C2, but was badly ruptured, and had a doctor's certificate to show that he suffered from many ills.

The Chairman: But that doesn't show he is unfit for such work as would be given. A solicitor said there were some men who had been passed for general service and who had been sent to hospital soon after joining up. The food given to them in the Army did not agree with them. The appeal was *dismissed*.

[M]



There was a sitting at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday. Owing to a collapse of part of Oxted Tunnel Sir Lewis Dibdin was delayed. Until his arrival the Recorder (Mr. R. F. Colam) presided.

Mr. H. Hambleton (19), Mitcham, passed C1, is working on munitions and has six brothers serving in the Army. He had been granted exemption on a medical certificate stating that he suffered with tuberculosis of the left lung, and from a military point of view would in the Army be injuring himself and be a danger to others. Several members of his family had suffered from tuberculosis disease and some had died. Any excitement would hasten the progress of the disease. Three times he had been rejected, and was now *sent to the Special Medical Board*.

The Military Representative objected Mr. H. Woods, who was classed "A", lived at Mitcham, and had 6 children and 170 pigs. Under the Derby scheme he had been protected and passed "B". It was decided that his business was one of such national importance that he ought not to be interfered with.

Military appeal *dismissed*.

Mr. R. J. Palmer was said to appeal as employer for Mr. C. F. Chapman, but the real employer was Messrs. Hall and Co., Mitcham. He was a coal carman (32), passed "A". The local Tribunal said he was not indispensable and disallowed his claim. It was claimed now that he was in a certified employment. Hadn't the Controller issued an order that everybody must get their winter supplies of coal by an early date? How could that be done unless the carmen were spared? The manager asked for time to consult the Controller.

The Chairman said that request had already been put to them and refused. The appeal would be dismissed, and they would have the usual fortnight.

The manager said they hadn't heard the facts yet.

The Chairman: Thank you. We will have the facts.

A letter was read from Messrs. Atken and Co. stating that the deliveries of coal to them were falling short of their needs, and as more important work was coming in they must ask them to keep up the supply. The Mitcham Rubber Company also said they were engaged in very urgent Army work, and unless the supply of coal was kept up this important business would be much retarded.

The Chairman presumed that these letters had been written in response to an application that they should be so written.

The Manager: Yes.

*July 31st (final).*

There was a sitting at the Town Hall on Monday, at which Sir Lewis Dibdin presided.

Mr. C. E. Henderson, of Mitcham (40), passed B1, is a manager of one of the Northants Dairy Company's branches. Of these there are 21. The representative of the company spoke of its very evident patriotism. It had given up 200 men and only appealed at the Lambeth Tribunal for 17 to be spared. Nine were granted, but where were the nine if this man were taken away? He was a Volunteer and allotment holder, had 1,200 customers, dispensed daily 200 imperial gallons of milk a day, and had a staff of two and some women to help him.

Mr. T. W. S. Cavey (41), of Mitcham passed B1, has already been before the Special Medical Board. He was a showman with bad health but much ingenuity, and had at great expense of time and money built up a human marionette show utterly unlike any ordinary show, and if he left it the properties would be worthless.

The Military Representative had an idea that those who gave up amusements of this kind would not suffer, but really be better off after the war. Besides, already he had had four months.

Applicant explained that that had been no use because of the nervous strain it imposed and the uncertainty prevented his booking up.

*August 31st*, he has to go.

Of almost equal importance was Mr. T. Kemp, manager at Norbury. He was 37, passed C1. The Local Tribunal in their wisdom had given him till October, but the Military Representative intervened, said the company was quite able to carry on without him. In fact, it was suggested that one man might do the work of both. This the secretary of the company strongly resented. Concentration had already been carried out to the extreme limit. These two men started at 4.30 a.m. two miles apart, and many distributions depended on their presence.

Henderson's appeal was *dismissed* and Kemp's days of reprieve *shortened* to *September 1st, not final*.

[M]



Sir Lewis Dibdin presided over a sitting of Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal at the Town Hall, Croydon on Saturday.

The Military Representative asked for the three months additional exemption granted to Mr. Barber, married, aged, 38, B2, pig-keeper and breeder of Mitcham, to be made final but the application was *allowed to stand over* for two months for the whole pig-keeping question of the neighbourhood to be considered.

Mr. Baker, 40, married C1, labourer in the employment of the Metropolitan Water Board, whose exemption was appealed against by the Military Representative, was on domestic grounds allowed to retain the decision of the local Tribunal of two months from June 27th and told at the end of that time he could *go to the local Tribunal again*.

Mr. Winter, 41, married, C3, an insurance agent, who said he was doubly ruptured and suffered from varicose veins, was thought by the Military Representative to be a very useful man. The Chairman inquired if the Military Representative wanted the man for the hospital. The Military Representative said that clerks were wanted. Applicant said he was not a clerk. Before taking up his present work he was in some varnish works. He was granted *three months not final*.

Mr. Taylor, 38, "A", who had been twice rejected on account of a tumour in the groin and once told he would not be troubled again, produced a medical certificate, which, however, did not say that he was unfit. He said that when he was examined a doctor told him they would put him in hospital. The Chairman supposed they would do that. The appeal was *dismissed*.

Mr. Holden, single, "A", who had been discharged from the R.M.L.I. in April, 1916, claimed to be medically unfit, having had two operations two years ago for rupture which failed. The appeal was *dismissed*.

The Chairman had some strong remarks to make about the appeal of Mr. C. Clarkson for Mr. T. T. Clarkson, 27, single, "A". Mr. A. Clarkson attended and the Chairman said the Tribunal would themselves decide to hear the case in public. It appeared that a previous application had been made on behalf of Mr. T. T. Clarkson by Mrs. Clarkson on the ground of indispensability. The exemption was made final. Then a personal application was made, the extension was made final, and now Mr. C. Clarkson appealed as the employers, claiming that T. T. Clarkson was indispensable as a slaughterer of horses and other cattle. The employer claimed that he supplied thirteen shops with horse-flesh for consumption by Belgians, for which there was an increasing demand owing to the high price of meat. He now claimed that T. T. Clarkson had been engaged in horse-slaughtering all his working life, but a few questions from the Chairman showed that the man did many other



things as well. Mr. C. Clarkson also said that the owners of the business were his mother, his brother, and himself, and he had months' exemption.

The Chairman said that there was no case for exemption. They were all agreed on that, and the appeal would be *dismissed*.

Mr. Clarkson asked if the Tribunal would allow any time.

The Chairman: We won't let you have a day. I think you and your family have tried to mislead the Tribunal. We give no time at all. I think the sooner Mr. T. T. Clarkson is taken for the Army the better.



[M]



At the Surrey and Croydon Appeal Tribunal on Saturday the following local cases were dealt with:

Mr. Osborne, a married man of 39, passed C1, is in the employ of Mrs Broad, The American Laundry, and is in sole charge of the machinery, which he repairs. There are about 40 women employed. His employer said she could not replace him were he called to serve. The Local Tribunal disallowed the claim, but this Tribunal decided he was in a protected occupation and gave *conditional exemption*.

A printing machine minder, Mr. Arnold, single, aged 25, and classified C3, was given *three months' exemption*.

[illegible] ... January, but was not called until April. Then a medical certificate was put in stating that he was not well enough to go, and this went on until the end of May, the military deferring their claim. When he got better he made this personal application, and the question was whether, as it was out of time, it should be allowed. The Local Tribunal agreed to hear the application, but the military objected and hence the appeal.

The Military Representative submitted that after having been ordered to join up a man no longer had any right to appeal. The recruiting officer's kindness in putting off the date of his joining did not affect the real position, which was that from April 3rd he was in the Army. The Chairman said it was a curious fact that until the last moment nothing was said by appellant as to his conscientious objection. Appellant said his master applied for him on business grounds, and he understood from the regulation that nothing must be mixed up with that claim. Moreover, while the business claim must be brought before the Tribunal in whose area the work was carried on, any other claim must be made in the district in which appellant resided.

The Chairman said that was quite wrong. When the business application was made any other reasons for exemption should be mentioned.

Appellant considered he had a right to appeal again. Only ill-health prevented him putting in an application last month.

The Chairman said he had put in no claim during all the months since January and not until he was called up, and therefore in the Army.

Appellant was ruled to be technically wrong, but it was decided to hear the case on its merits.

The Chairman then asked when the conscientious objection began.

Appellant produced evidence that he belonged to the National Union of Clerks and that at a meeting held at Finsbury Park he moved a resolution regretting the entry of Great Britain into the war and strongly urging on the Government the duty of bringing it to a close. He had often expressed his aversion to conscription, and called on trade unionists to support him. He was a Socialist.

The Chairman said in all that there nothing on moral ground. They had nothing to do with his political views. Why did he not apply when his employer did?

Appellant said because he thought he could not raise it then.

The Chairman pointed out the long series of delays in which appellant could have put forward his conscientious objections.

Appellant said he was waiting for his calling-up notice and felt that if it did not come there would be no need to trouble.

The Chairman said it looked as if he meant to get off on other grounds if possible, and failing that to raise the plea of conscience.

Appellant denied that, but the Chairman said it was evident he did not mean to mention conscience until all other chances had failed, including his temporary exemption by the military authorities.

Appellant said if the decision was against him on technical grounds he should stand against it whatever the consequences.

The Chairman said there would be no technical decision, but one on the ground they had no proof of any moral objection.

The Military Representative: No ground at all. The Local Tribunal felt that.

Appellant thought he was entitled to absolute exemption. He could not undertake any national service connected with the war.

After the Tribunal had consulted in private, the Chairman said the appeal would be *dismissed*. They had most carefully considered the case and had heard appellant at great length, but he had failed altogether to show that at any date prior to the war he was a conscientious objector. That was coupled with the very long delay during which he might have raised the plea. The Local Tribunal was, therefore, justified in refusing to allow his claim. This Tribunal would go further and say that it felt his conduct was inconsistent with the plea of a conscientious objection.

Engaged in making batteries for electric lights at a factory where many girls were employed and dependent upon his skilled work, Mr. Anderson (35), C2, had his appeal *adjourned* in order that he might obtain a protection certificate.

*Conditional exemption* was granted Mr. Smith (39), C2, employed by Messrs. [illegible] and Co., who are brush makers, engaged chiefly in war work.

Garbed in khaki, Mr. Eld, C1, could not understand why he had been summoned to appear, and no one could enlighten him. He stated he had five children. He was now reduced to C2, and thought he would be C3. He thought there might be some wish to dispense with his service in the Army.

The Chairman: I assure you they are highly valued. There has evidently been some mistake in calling you here and for which we are all sorry.

[H]

At the sitting at the Town Hall, Croydon, Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. Cases following were all from Mitcham:

Mr. Osborne, 39, passed C1, was employed by Mrs. Board, American Laundry, Mitcham. He has a wife and three children, and is in sole charge of the machinery and responsible for its repair. The Local Tribunal had refused the claim, although the employer said he could not be replaced. In the opinion of this Tribunal he was in a protected occupation and therefore entitled to *conditional exemption*.

Mr. Fry, a solicitor's clerk, pleaded his conscience as a reason for exemption. The Chairman said the case was a complicated one. In September last year, his then employer, a solicitor, appealed for his exemption at Battersea, and the claim was disallowed. He was to join in January, but really was not called until April. Then a medical certificate was put in saying he was not well enough to go, and this went on until the end of May, the military deferring the claim. Then when he got better he made this personal application, and the question was, "As it was out of time, should it be allowed?" The Local Tribunal agreed to hear his application, but the military objected, and hence the appeal.

The Military Representative argued that after being ordered to join up, a man had no longer the right to appeal. The recruiting officer's kindness in putting off the date of his joining did not affect the real position, which was that from April 3rd he was in the Army.

The Chairman called attention to the curious fact that until the last moment nothing was said about conscience. Fry said his master appealed for him on business grounds, and he understood by the regulations that nothing else must be mixed up with that claim. Moreover, that while the business claim must be brought before the Tribunal in whose area of influence the business was, any other claim must be raised in the district applicant lived.

[M]



At a sitting of the Appeal Tribunal at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Saturday, Sir Lewis Dibdin presided. The following cases are from Mitcham:

Mr. Winter (41), C3, was a Prudential agent, and was unfortunate. His application was *dismissed*. He joins in one month.

Mr. Tyrrell (24), classed B2, about whose case there was nothing to say, got *three months*.

Mr. Downie (40), and passed C1, is a commercial traveller, whose wife has been very ill. He had applied for a re-hearing because his employer also had been very ill, so that the business entirely depended on him. His employer's wife now wrote to say that her husband was getting better, and that the doctors believed he would be able to return to business in five weeks, but must then be kept from worry.

*Exempted till 1st December (final).*

Mr. Spokes (39), C1, is a Special Constable, insured, and a grocer with a lease, while a large firm employing many hands in his neighbourhood said he was very necessary to them.

*Exemption conditional.*

Mr. Faraday (32) was a qualified chemist to Messrs. Pearson and Co., married, and with one child, had enjoyed conditional exemption by virtue of his profession being on the certified list. Now it was certified no more. He pleaded that he was still considered to be essential at his present work, so the case is *adjourned* for 14 days to give the Local Government Board an opportunity of bespeaking him. Meanwhile he will be medically examined.

The Lyxhayr Co., Ltd., applied for a gentleman named Smith (42), C1, who was the only man able to efficiently fill one of the most important posts in their work for the Government. He had no protection certificate although he has been applied for.

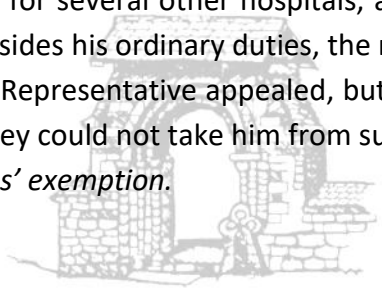


At the sitting on Saturday at Croydon Town Hall Sir Lewis Dibdin presided.

Captain Dr. Dickson applied for his pathological and laboratory assistant, Mr. Suffer, of Mitcham. He was the only man left and the doctor was the only bacteriologist for 1,400 beds at Fulham Hospital and for several other hospitals, and without this assistant it was impossible to carry out the work. Besides his ordinary duties, the man had done much valuable work without pay.

The Military Representative appealed, but the Chairman said although Mr. Suffer was only 27 and an A man, they could not take him from such valuable work.

*Three months' exemption.*



[M]



The Recorder of Croydon (Mr. R. F. Colam, K.C.) presided at Saturday's sitting at the Croydon Town Hall.

The Lyxhayr Co. of Mitcham, appealed for Mr. Tingley, who was in their employ, teaching others, and was indispensable. There were several directors of the company who gave advice, but of course they were not meant to be labourers. The Chairman did not quite agree with that class division just now. He was not a manual labourer, but he did manual labour two days a week, and the Tribunal could not keep men out of the Army to allow directors to walk about the streets. Today they had got to fill up the gaps when the eligible men were taken, and this we all had to understand. It was no use to say they could not get another man because it would cost double. They had got to pay.

*Three months (final).*

Mr. Jesson is a newsagent and tobacconist at Mitcham. He is 41 and C3. He has got exemption on account of his leaving his wife to carry on his business while he acted as clerk at Woolwich Arsenal. He had to give that up through ill-health, and hence had been again called up. The Ministry of Munitions asked that he should now be transferred to it. He has *three months*, not final, and the munition authorities are to say if his services are of enough value to continue.

Messrs. Pelton Bros., High-street, Croydon, appealed for Mr S. White, an employee. The local Tribunal had granted conditional exemption, but this had been altered to January 31st. The National Service Representative now asked that the date might be made final. This was a B1 man, and there was a daily increasing need for such men. The employers had eight others who could assist in doing carrier's work, so he thought this man should go. Mr. Pelton said his company had already parted with 40, and those left were under or over age. This was the only man to do a round and to carry heavy parcels.

The Chairman suggested that the parcels should be divided and made smaller. Mr. Pelton said there was also the cellar. Barrels weighing about 8-cwt. had to be moved. The Chairman asked why men of 45 could not do that. There must be plenty of these if they were paid wages enough.

Mr. Pelton said the last who answered an advertisement was 57 years old.

The Chairman: Well, isn't he any good? Why, that's my age.

Mr. Pelton said no. The men were not in existence who could do anything.

The Chairman: Isn't it rather a question of wages? He added that they, as a Tribunal, could not study businesses so as to agree that a man the nation wanted was indispensable to the employers because another man would cost more.

Mr. Pelton: This man is 42, and has five children and haemorrhoids.

The National Service appeal was *allowed*. Mr. White said he was now unwell, and Mr. Pelton said he could not really do his work as he should because of his infirmity, and, in fact, he was now on the sick list.

The Chairman: Does not that show he is not quite so necessary as you think?