

Lambeth Tribunals – Index to MBL/30/1

Book 1 December 1915 – 17 May 1916

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Introduction

The Groups assigned to each man refer to their ages as allocated in Lord DERBY's Scheme. Those who attested their willingness to serve were given a grey coloured arm band upon which there was a red crown.

The Group numbers given to the men may be explained simply.

Having been appointed Director General of Recruiting Lord Derby brought forward a Scheme whereby men aged 18 to 40 could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to join if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would cease and that the last day of registration would be 15 December 1915.

The men who attested under the Derby Scheme were classified into married and single status and into 23 groups according to their age. The single men would be called up before those who were married.

Single men were placed in Groups 1 to 23 by year of birth as follows:

Born	1897 – G1	1896 – G2	1895 – G3	1894 – G4	1893 – G5
	1892 – G6	1891 – G7	1890 – G8	1889 – G9	1888 – G10
	1887 – G11	1886 – G12	1885 – G13	1884 – G14	1883 – G15
	1882 – G16	1881 – G17	1880 – G18	1879 – G19	1878 – G20
	1877 – G21	1876 – G22	1875 – G23		

Married men were placed in Groups 24 to 45 by year of birth as follows:

Born	1897 – G24	1896 – G25	1895 – G26	1894 – G27	1893 – G28
	1892 – G29	1891 – G30	1890 – G31	1889 – G32	1888 – G33
	1887 – G34	1886 – G35	1885 – G36	1884 – G37	1883 – G38
	1882 – G39	1881 – G40	1880 – G41	1879 – G42	1878 – G43
	1877 – G44	1876 – G45	1875 – G46		

Men attested under the Derby Scheme, who were accepted and chosen deferral, had mobilisation dates as follows (note G1 would have been too young):

G1 – 28 Mar 1916	G2 to G5 – 20 Jan 1916	G6 to G9 – 8 Feb 1916
G10 to G13 – 29 Feb 1916	G14 to G23 – 18 Mar 1916	G24 – 13 Jun 1916
G25 to G32 – 7 Apr 1916	G33 to G41 – 29 May 1916	G42 to G46 – 13 Jun 1916

A fuller description is available "on line" explaining the Group System (the Derby Scheme).

In the index, certain abbreviations may appear:

C.O. Certified Occupationn.a.t. not assented to Group	d.t.g. deferred to
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In using this index it is strongly recommended that referral should be made to the original record so that the full significance of the entry can be judged and

also as a check against mistakes made by the indexer. Although the records are typewritten, the faintness of some characters renders the differentiation between some (H & N for instance) as uncertain. Occasionally there is a handwritten addition and one such example was for the Rev. RUDOLF whose letter supported the deferment of TE PRICE (see P.323) who was assistant accountant at the Church of England Society for providing Homes for Waifs and Strays. The correct reading was given to the indexer when Lambeth Archives pointed out that it was the Rev. Edward de Mountjoie RUDOLF who set up the organisation now known as The Children's Society. He had been born 1852 in Lambeth and in 1915 he is listed as Canon Prebendary at St Paul's but resident of Streatham.

Thanks are due to the staff at Lambeth Archives, in particular Len Reilly for his patience, help and advice (as with the Rev RUDOLF) during work on this present index.

Foreword

Military Tribunals were set up by local councils for men wishing to appeal for exemption against military service consequent upon conscription. In 1914 at the start of war, enlistment had been voluntary but as numbers dwindled the Derby Scheme was introduced in Autumn 1915 by which men who registered would be called for service when required. Numbers dwindled again and the scheme was abandoned. Liability for compulsory service came with the Military Service Act from 2nd March 1916, extending liability in May 1916 and further with an upper age limit of 51 years in 1918.

It will be seen that exemption was claimed on domestic or business grounds and conscientious objectors were given non-combatant roles.

The first meeting of the Local Tribunal for the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth was held at the Town Hall, Brixton Hill, on Thursday 30 December 1915 at five o'clock in the evening. Those present were:

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman C.H. GIBBS J.P.), Councillor F BRIANT J.P., Councillor George BRITTAIN J.P., Alderman F BUDGE, Alderman W.J. DAVEY, J.C. HATCH Esq., J.P., Alderman G. HINDS, N.W. HUBBARD Esq., J.P., T Owen JACOBSON Esq., J.P., C.F. PARTINGTON Esq., J.P., Alderman J.F. TOWNSEND. The War Office Representative was also present. Captain W Burgh TURNER had been appointed by the War Office.

As the names of those members of the Tribunal changed through the course of the meetings, they have not been recorded for the purpose of this index.

The first case recorded in the first volume of these records was for Charles H.A. KEMPTON in the employ of Charles Henry KEMPTON of 45 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, S.W., Manager for the Public Lamp Contractors. He was alleged to be in a "reserved occupation" but not actually "starred" (employed in war related work) - the observation of the Recruiting Officer was that his claim be not assented to. The man was not present and the Tribunal concurred with the R.O.'s observation.

There were claims for deferment by employers and attested men. Meetings were held often in three sessions in each of the days that the Tribunal met.

A reader finding a reference in which they are interested must refer to the appropriate volume in order to gain a full perspective of the record. Examples of fuller descriptions that appear in the Tribunal records are as follows:

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A claim under Lord Derby's Recruiting Scheme 1916 March 6

Case Number 552

HAILE W H

A Provision Assistant G11

Under the classification in use he would have been born in 1887 The Tribunal will recall that the Applicant in this case stated that he contributed 18/- per week to the support of his widowed mother, who has no income, other than one payment in respect of a son in the Army, of 8/2d per week, and another payment of 5/- per week in respect of a son in the Navy. The Applicant has breakfast and weekend meals at home. The rent is 7/- per week; his mother is 61 years old and cannot do anything as she is suffering from rheumatism. The case was adjourned in order that inquiries might be made as to what further allowance the Applicant's mother might expect to receive from the Government, should the Applicant join the Forces, and as a result a communication dated 3rd March from the Assistant Financial Secretary of the War Office has been received, stating that the maximum separation allowance admissible for one person living in the London Postal Area who was depending upon one or more soldiers of lower rank than sergeant, is 16/- per week, this sum including the necessary allotment of 3/6d per week from the soldiers' pay, but any allotment in excess of that sum, is added to the separation allowance. The allowance received on account of the man in the Navy, will not be considered in awarding Army Separation allowance.

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Case 851

HARDING R. Rotary Printer's Assistant G17

The Tribunal will recall that this man's case was adjourned in order that certain information might be obtained from his employers who, by letter dated 4th March 1916, state that in the event of the man joining the Forces his place will be kept open for him. They further mention that the man is a rotary machine oiler and his services are engaged upon the production of such papers as The War Illustrated, etc.. He was granted 2 month exemption.

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Case 876

BATES C.R. Electrical Engineer G14

Adjourned for evidence to be produced as to whether Applicant's Employers will make any allowance in the event of his joining the Forces, and also for evidence to be produced as to his domestic responsibilities. A communication dated 11th March 1916 has now been received from Mr BATES's Employers, The Electrical Installations Ltd., stating that the Directors of the Company would not feel justified in making him an allowance, more especially as since the commencement of the War they had been paying out a considerable sum each

week to those members of the firm (representing some 40% of their original staff) who have already joined the Forces.

The Company state that they are informed that their Appeal to the City Tribunal on behalf of Mr BATES will probably not be heard for another month or six weeks.

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An Adjourned Case: a Claim under the Military Service Act

Case Number C.12/52

BONNET E.C. Actor

This Case was adjourned in order that information might be obtained:-

From Mr Matheson LANG, the Proprietor of The Strand Theatre, where Mr BONNET was engaged, as to whether, if BONNET were granted temporary exemption, he would be further employed by Mr LANG, and a communication dated 9th March, 1916, has been received from that gentleman, stating that Mr BONNET will be engaged by him until about the middle or end of June next, subject to his obtaining the necessary exemption, and that it would be extremely difficult to replace him under the present conditions.

From Mr J Irwin CARTER, of 358 Brixton Road, who has written stating that Mr BONNET is his wife's nephew, and that last year, when in an engagement, he allowed his mother 15/- per week; further that Mr BONNET has two brothers in the Royal Marines, and both make their mother an allowance.

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Claim under Lord DERBY's Recruiting Scheme

Case Number 802 BEALE W. Labourer G18

This Case was adjourned in order that the Military Representative might ascertain whether the applicant's statement that he was rejected by the Army Medical Authorities on 20 November 1915 and upon presenting himself for his Armlet on 5 February 1916 he was re-attested, was correct. A communication dated 8 March 1916 has now been received from the Recruiting Officer stating that the man's statement is correct but that he consented to undergo the second medical examination on the later date.

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Case Number 76A WESTCOTT S.T. Surveyor's Clerk G14

Second Application

This case was adjourned in order that the applicant might produce evidence as to his statement that he has two brothers already serving at the Front, that his widowed mother and one sister are dependant upon him and that he is the only remaining son now living at home. The applicant's mother is in receipt of 13/-

per week from her two sons serving; the applicant pays 22/6d per week towards the upkeep of the home, and the sister, partially dependant, earns 5/- per week only. The family occupy half a house at a rent of 10/- per week.

The applicant now submits letters from
Rev. N.P. TOWER, Curate-in-charge of St Peter's Church, Clapham
Rev. Cyril A. WALTON, Naval Chaplain, Devonport Barracks
His employers: Messrs HARRIS & GILLOW, 21 North Audley St., W
Bearing out his statements

The Tribunal decided that he should be granted temporary exemption for two months in which to make the necessary domestic arrangements.

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An Adjourned Case: a Claim under the Military Service Act 17 April 1916

Case Number C.15/616 LEE C.W. Managing Director Boot & Shoe Business in Brazil

The Tribunal will recall that at its Meeting on Wednesday last this man was granted one month's exemption (which in his case is equivalent to three months) as from the evidence before the Tribunal it was thought that he was only in this country for a temporary purpose. Further information bearing on the case has, however, now been obtained, and same is therefore brought before the Tribunal for its further consideration. The claim was not allowed

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Under Lord DERBY's Recruiting Scheme - Adjourned Cases

Case Number 1568 HARRINGTON WJ Press Artist etc. G31

As the Tribunal will recall, the cases of both these men were adjourned at the meeting on 17 April in order to enable the Military Representative to ascertain whether their respective Employers would make them any allowances if the men were to join the Colours. Major EVANS has ascertained that allowances would be made by both firms, and that each case is carefully investigated by them. Both firms have also supplied to the City Tribunal for the retention of the services of certain of their employees, but not for those of the men in question, and in all the circumstances of the case, the Major is not adverse to a period of temporary exemption being granted to each of the two men.

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Case Number 1637 WESTLAKE F Fruiterer & Greengrocer G32 1916 May 1

The Tribunal will recall that at its Meeting on Friday last this man's case was adjourned in order that particulars might be submitted as to the Tribunal's action in the case of a man named NARR who, it is stated, is in the same line of

business as WESTLAKE, ie Greengrocer, and who had been granted exemption by the Tribunal.

This statement is correct, the Tribunal at its Meeting on 15 March, having granted NARR temporary exemption for 1 week, which, as he comes in the provisions of the Military Service Act, is equivalent to 9 weeks, expiring on 17 May.

Case Number C7/600 HEALY L Labourer

This case was adjourned by the Tribunal at its Meeting on 17 inst. {? April surely!} in order to enable the applicant to be present, but a communication dated 28 April 1916 has been received from the Chief Engineer of the London & South Western Railway, stating that HEALY's service as a plate-layer are indispensable to the Company, and that the arrangement between the Railway Companies and the War Office is that no Railway Employee on whose behalf a Certificate of indispensability is given by a Company, is to be called up for Military Service.

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Comprehensive Claim by Mr David GREIG, Provision Merchant, Ferndale Road, Brixton

The Mayor reported that the sub-committee at the meeting of a Tribunal held 9 March 1916 had considered the comprehensive claim made by Mr David GREIG regarding his establishments. It appeared that he had 112 branches, at which there were at the moment 304 men and 178 youths; of the 304 men rejection certificates by the Army Medical Authorities were held by no less than 40, leaving according 264 men who were either attested, or actually liable, or who might possibly become liable to Military Service. Of the 264 it will be appreciated that it was found that some men were over Military age, and many of them had, of course, been taken on since the war commenced, in order to replace individuals who had already enlisted from Mr GREIG's service. Of these 264 the Tribunal, after lengthy consideration of the case, and having regard to the extent of the business carried on by Mr GREIG, had taken 94 for the Army, leaving in Mr GREIG's employ 170. The sub-committee pointed out that the 94 represented to most instances the younger men in Mr GREIG's employ. The 170 men left with Mr GREIG had been granted exemption for varying periods up to six months, according to the schedules which were before the sub-committee, now produced, and marked A and B.

The sub-committee pointed out that the 170 men now left in Mr GREIG's employ will be responsible for the conduct of the business in the 112 branches, and of the supervision of the before mentioned number of youths, and 533 women in those branches.

Army Form W. 3218.

Reference notification sent you on Army Form _____
dated _____, respecting _____,
the Local Tribunal has decided:—

1. To grant { *a temporary
a conditional } certificate of exemption. A note should be
an absolute }
made against his name in Army Book 414 accordingly.

2. That the Notice Paper calling him up for service should be issued.

Signature _____

Date _____ Rectg. Office.

*Strike out words as may be necessary. If the exemption granted is not absolute, the
period should be stated.

(Rule out paragraph not applicable.)

Granted temporary exemption for two months to enable applicant to make the necessary arrangements as to his business. Adjourned until Thursday, the 4th day at 8.30.

Granted temporary exemption for one month to enable applicant to make necessary arrangements as to his business, and submit to his tenancy being submitted the Town Clerk.

Adjourned until Friday the 1st May, 2.30. to enable applicant to produce evidence.

Admitted without limit of time on the grounds of ill health is not allowed.

Granted temporary exemption until the 1st September, 1916.

28 April 1916 264

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Tribunal, held on Monday, the 17th day of April, 1916, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record thereof.

CLAIMS MADE BY EMPLOYERS AND MEN UNDER LORD DERRY'S RECRUITING SCHEME AND THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

The Tribunal had under consideration the following claims, the Tribunal's decision in each case being set out against the particulars of each claim.

ADJOURNED CASE.

Case No.	Man in respect of whom claim is made & his occupation.	By whom the claim is made	Observation of Military Representative.	Decision of Tribunal
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LORD DERRY'S RECRUITING SCHEME.

1651.	EDWARDS H.A. Wholesale & Retail Fish Merchant G.53	Attested Man	Produce Lease of shops.	Granted temporary exemption for three months on business grounds.
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Adjourned in order to enable applicant to produce lease of shops.

-----600-----
CLAIMS UNDER LORD DERRY'S RECRUITING SCHEME TO WHICH THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOT ASSISTED.
-----600-----

1652.	FAGAN H.J. Ship's Steward G.12.	Attested Man.	N.A.T.	Claim not allowed.
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Attested Man N.A.T. Referred to City Tribunal, the applicant's case.

Top. Post Card found in Book 1 of Tribunals used to notify appellants of Tribunal result.

Below. Example of page from Book 1 of Lambeth Tribunals.