

Lambeth Tribunals – Index to MBL/30/2

Book 2 19 May 1916 – 3 August 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 Occupation	n.a.t. not assented to	d.t.g. deferred to
Group		

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.

Thanks are due to the staff at Lambeth Archives, in particular Len Reilly for his patience, help and advice.

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. Amongst entries of a more general interest are JA SHARWOOD pickle manufacturer claiming for his employees; EC DUFAUR age 30 Purveyor of Horse Flesh - his claim was not allowed; the firm of David GREIG had a large claim for deferment. There were many claims from men connected with theatres in Lambeth, for instance Fred KARNØ claimed for the deferment of FH SANDY a General Manager. Other examples may be found under "Statistics" {see below} and also as under:

Page 12

A Communication date 16 May 1916 was received from the Clerk to the Bethnal Green Tribunal enclosing the following Resolutions which had been unanimously adopted by that Tribunal at the Meeting on 15 May 1916

Page 13

(1)

That the Bethnal Green Tribunal views with deep concern the fact that while our own men are fighting for their King and Country male allied and enemy aliens of military age are allowed materially to strengthen their industrial position without any sacrifice.

(2)

That it is the deliberate opinion of this Tribunal that this is now, and will be after the war, a serious menace to the commercial interests of the British subjects within this Borough, who, having answered their Country's call, return the {sic} find the alien firmly established in all branches of the trades which were theirs.

(3)

That this Tribunal is of opinion, on the grounds of justice, that it should be equal sacrifice for all, who, domiciled in this country, enjoy its liberties and protection.

(4)

This this {sic} Tribunal hopes, in view of these facts that the Government will immediately take the necessary steps compulsorily to remedy this obvious injustice.

(5)

That a copy of the foregoing resolutions is transmitted to the Prime Minister, Lord Kitchener, Mr Bonar Law MP, the President of the Local Government Board, Mr Arthur Henderson MP, the Members of Parliament for the Borough, the London Local Tribunals, and the Bethnal Green Borough Council.

The hope is expressed that these Resolutions will commend themselves to the Local Tribunal and that it will take such steps as it may deem expedient to secure that effect shall be given to the representations contained therein.

It was resolved that a communication be addressed to the Clerk of the Bethnal Green Local Tribunal intimating that the Lambeth Local Tribunal concurs in the suggestions contained in the above resolutions.

Page 14 Case 1905 AP SA(XXX)E 1916 22 May

At meeting Friday last applicant stated that the Directors of Messrs PAGE & OVERTON's Brewery, Croydon, would not consent to his house "The Perseverance" Robsart Street, being left in his wife's charge if he were taken for Military Service.

The Hon. Clerk has now to report that a representative of the Brewery called upon him this (Monday) morning and stated that this matter has been considered by the Directors of the Brewery and that, having regard to the extent {sic} and character of the business done at this house, to the fact that the wife is only 22 years of age and did not enjoy good health, and to the many orders to which the trade are now subject, this was a case in which their practice of permitting the wife of a lessee to carry on the business, must be departed from.

Page 28 Case 1947TE PRICE 1916 May 26

"This Case was heard by the Tribunal at its Meeting on 17 May, when the Tribunal decided not to assent to the Claim. It was afterwards found, however, that through a clerical oversight the applicants had not been given the usual official notice of hearing, consequently they were not prepared with certain particulars which might possibly lead to the Tribunal coming to a different decision. In these circumstances, the Clerk to the Tribunal has arranged for the case to be re-heard."

Page 64 1916 Jun 7

A letter date 27 May 1916 was received from the Hon. Secretary of the British Undertakers' Association (London Centre) with regard to the exemption of Undertakers from Military Service.

The Clerk to the Lambeth Tribunal reported that he had received from the Labour Exchange a list of the trades in which the demand for really skilled men to take up munitions work is urgent.

Page 68 Case C2/254 CF CLEMENTS 1916 Jun 9

Reported in the Lambeth Minutes for June 9th at the meeting of the Lambeth Tribunal (held at the Town Hall, Brixton Hill) it was stated that the Appeal Tribunal of County of London "The man be exempted from Combatant Service only, subject to the proviso that if he undertakes work which in the opinion of the Tribunal is of national importance, and under conditions approved by the Tribunal, he shall be exempted from non-Combatant Service so long as he continues to carry out such work under such conditions.

"The Tribunal were of opinion that the present occupation of the respondent as a general farm hand, employed at Stoke Park Farm, Slough, Bucks, fulfilled that condition, and was approved of."

Page 68 Case C11/285 CF EVANS 1916 Jun 9

Reported in the Lambeth Minutes for June 9th at the meeting of the Lambeth Tribunal (held at the Town Hall, Brixton Hill) it was stated that the Appeal Tribunal of County of London "The man be exempted from Combatant Service only, subject to the proviso that if he undertakes work which in the opinion of the Tribunal is of national importance, and under conditions approved by the Tribunal, he shall be exempted from non-Combatant Service so long as he continues to carry out such work under such conditions.

"The Tribunal were of opinion that the present occupation of the respondent as Inspector of Material in the manufacture of aeroplanes at Messrs. Hanley Page Ltd, 110 Cricklewood Lane, NW., fulfilled the condition and was approved of."

Page 73 Stepney Local Tribunal letter of 6 Jun 1916 Jun 9

They are adopting the following resolution with regard to Aliens of Military Age serving in the Forces: "In the opinion of this Tribunal, if the Government is not prepared to say that aliens domiciled in this country for years who have shared its privileges and liberties in days of prosperity, should equally, with its own citizens, be called upon to defend it in its hour of danger, it should at least give

those of them who desire, of their own free will to serve it, an opportunity of doing so, by the formation of a foreign legion or some properly safeguarded permission to enlist in certain British regiments.” It was resolved that the Lambeth Tribunal concur in this resolution.

Page 103 O'DWYER FW 1916 Jun 19 Appeal Tribunal of Co of London

This man exempted from the provisions of the Military Service Act 1916 on the ground that serious hardship would ensue if he were called up for army service owing to his exceptional domestic position, but such exemption is conditional upon his undertaking work of national importance. The Tribunal is satisfied that his present employment as Clerk in the Central Office, Royal Ordnance Factories, Woolwich Arsenal, fulfils this conditional.

Page 106 PITTS FAG 1916 Jun 19

The Tribunal will recall that this case was adjourned in order that it might be ascertained whether the Bentinck Motor Supply Co., of whom Mr PITTS bought his cab, would make any arrangements as to the taking over and running of the cab on his behalf should he have to join the Forces. A letter dated 13th Jun 1916 has now been received from the Company regretting that it is unable to do this as it has no facilities in London for such class of work. In other instances where Cab Hirers have been called up the Hirer has either made an arrangement with a friend (with the Company's consent) to take over the Agreement – it presumes for a consideration – or, with the consent of the Hirer, the Company has taken back the Cab and cancelled the Agreement.

Page 123 CORBET W 1916 Jun 23

The Appeal Tribunal of County of London “The man be exempted from Combatant Service only, subject to the proviso that if he undertakes work which in the opinion of the Tribunal is of national importance, and under conditions approved by the Tribunal, he shall be exempted from non-Combatant Service so long as he continues to carry out such work under such conditions. “The Tribunal were of opinion that the present occupation of farm work under Mr WW BERRY, Gushmere Court, near Faversham as being work entitling him to exemption from non-combatant service.”

Page 138 COLE GM 1916 Jun 26

Letter dated 24 June that not being a Mechanic or Engineer in the recognised sense, he can only obtain labourer's work in Munitions. He has, however, been offered, and accepted, Government work at HARRISONS (Government Printers), 95% of which firm's work, he states, being carried out for the Government. He asks, therefore, that he may be allowed to continue in the

printing trade with Messrs HARRISONS, rather than take up Munitions work as a labourer. It was resolved that the request be not acceded to.

Pages 156/7 & 165 Special Proviso re: application for variation of Certificate already granted on conscientious grounds.
Exemption from Combatant Service only, subject to the proviso that if, within 21 days the applicant undertakes work which, not being under Military control is nevertheless useful for the prosecution of the war under the direction of the Committee on work of National Importance, and under conditions approved by the Tribunal, he shall be exempted from non-combatant service so long as he continues to carry out such work under such conditions, the work proposed to be reported to the Tribunal for approval. Power is reserved to the Tribunal to extend the period of 21 days, or to vary this order if the Claimant establishes to their satisfaction that he has done his best but has failed to comply with the condition.

N.B. THE ABOVE DECISION NOT TO BE OPEN TO VARIATION

Page 168 COLE GM 1916 Jul 3

Letter from Messrs Jas TRUSCOTT & Son Ltd, Printers of the Parliamentary Debates in the House of Commons, enclosing a letter from the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, suggesting that the printing of these debates is of national importance and that it is essential that Messrs TRUSCOTT should endeavour to secure the service of another man in place of one of their men who is leaving to take up munition work, and recommending that Mr COLE, who has been conditionally exempted from Military Service by the local Tribunal, should be granted total exemption on the condition that he accepts for the duration of the War the post of Linotype Engineer in connection with the work. Granted – in connection with the Official Reports of the Parliamentary Debates.

Page 289 GRUTZMACHER R R 1916 Aug 1

It might be noted that this man, Robert Richard, a 26 year old hair dresser and wig maker, is the son of a German hairdresser and might be considered as falling in the class of alien as outlined in the letter from the Stepney Local Authority Tribunal referred to on **Page 73** (as above).

Page 301 Re: Comprehensive Claim by Peter MUMFORD and Sons for their employees

Mr FW HEADLEY, Foreman, in a letter to the Lambeth Tribunal, stated that not only are the men obliged to work overtime almost every day in order to fulfil Army orders, but owing to the number of men employed being reduced because of the call of the Army, those remaining have to work more strenuously than at ordinary times. None of the men are averse to doing whatever they can in the interests of the country but they feel that the effect of joining either of the Forces mentioned would make it impossible for them to carry out their ordinary duties. A request is therefore made to the Tribunal that the condition of exemption shall not apply in the case of the following men: FW HEADLEY, FG ELMER, T

LAWRENCE, J POULTNEY, H PAGE-CHESTNEY, J RUSSELL, C WILDER & J BRESNETT. It was resolved that four of the eight above mentioned men be allowed to be excused from joining the V.T.C.

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Statistics of Comprehensive Claims

Page 113 1916 Jun 21

Smith Meters Ltd Number of men August 1914: 90; today 91; direct enlistments 18. Men between 18 & 41: 48; rejected 6; attested 17; unattested 5. Claim in respect of 32 men: 24 allowed

Post Office Approved Society Number of men August 1914: 20; today 13; women 4; enlisted direct 7. Men between 18 & 41: 10; rejected 2; attested 3; unattested 5. Claim in respect of 4: 3 allowed

Page 146 1916 June 29

Telephone Manufacturing Co Ltd

Number of men employed: 8 over 41; 17 under 41; Number of women employed: 50

Claim in respect of 27 men - 18 allowed

Page 147 H B Barnard & Sons

Number of men August 1914: 56; today 49; direct enlistments 24; Men between 18 & 41: 34 rejected 8; attested 20; unattested 6. Claim in respect of 6 men - 5 allowed

Page 148 Lion Brewery Co Ltd

Number of men August 1914: 266; today 162; direct enlistments 71; Men between 18 & 41: 35 rejected 5; attested 19; unattested 7. Claim in respect of 27 men – 19 allowed

Page 149

Hammerton & Co Ltd

Number of men Aug 1914: 285 today 255; direct enlistments 142; Men between 18 & 41: 119; rejected 44; attested 100; unattested 19. Claim in respect of 25 men; 19 allowed

Page 161 James HAYES & Sons Ltd

Number of men Aug 1914 91; today 64; direct enlistments 25; men between 18 & 41: 21

rejected 3; attested 7 unattested 11. Claim in respect of 18; 8 allowed

Page 183 Hibberd Bros

Number of men Aug 1914 108 today ?105? direct enlistments 35; men between 18 & 41: 41

rejected 17; attested 17; unattested 7. Claim in respect of 7, 7 allowed

Page 184 H R English

Number of men Aug 1914 54; today 25; direct enlistments 15; men between 18 & 41: 16

Rejected 1; attested 5; unattested 11. Claim in respect of 11, 9 allowed

Page 190 Anglo Scandinavian Box Co Ltd

Number of men Aug 1914 – Company incorporated Jun 1915; number of men today 31

Number of men between 18 & 41: 23 rejected 9 attested 5 unattested 9. Claim in respect of 14.

Page 193 Sir Robert Burnett & Co Ltd

Number of men Aug 1914 144; today 121 number of men between 18 & 41: 39
Number rejected 16; Number attested 16 unattested 23. Claims in respect of
13, 8 allowed

Page 194 South London Electric Supply Corporation Ltd

Number of men Aug 1914 152 Today 96; number of men between 18 & 41: 46
rejected 10

attested 43 unattested 3. Claim in respect of 8 7 allowed

Hayward Bros Ltd

Number of men 1914 73 today 81 number of men between 18 & 41 30
rejected 9; attested 18

unattested 3. Claim in respect of 11, 9 allowed

Page 195 Peter MUMFORD & Sons

Number of men 1914 57 (Single shift today 48 (Double Shift)); Men between 18
& 41 22; rejected 3 attested 11 unattested 8. Claim in respect of 12, all
allowed

Higgs & Hill Ltd

(-)

Page 214 14 Jul 1916

Messrs Lipton Ltd (-)

Messrs Brand & Co Ltd

Counting House and Travelling Staff

Number of men 1914 34 today 30; Direct enlistments 6; between 18 & 41: 14
Rejected 5 & 1 Belgian; Attested 7 unattested 1. Claim in respect of 2 2
allowed

Factory Staff

Number of men 1914: 138 today 30 Direct enlistments 47; between 18 & 41 53;
Rejected 20 attested 23 unattested 10. Claims in respect of 26; 23 allowed

Page 215 Messrs J WALKER & Co Ltd

Number of men 1914: 144 today 74; direct enlistments 51 between 18 & 41:
46 (15 only eligible) rejected 12 attested 26 unattested (x). Claim in respect of
9 all allowed

Page 216 Cuisine (1909) Ltd

Number in Aug 1914: 49 today 55; between 18 & 41 17; rejected 6; attested
9 unattested 2 Claim in respect of 8 7 allowed

Page 223 17 Jul 1916

Messrs Martin & Sons Ltd

Number in Aug 1914 30 today 20; direct enlistments 15 Between 18 & 41 (-)
number rejected 4 attested 2; unattested 3. Claims in respect of 3 : 2

Page 249 24 Jul 1916

Samuel Allsopp & Sons Ltd

Number of men in Aug 1914 23; today 18; number between 18 & 41 7; rejected 2 attested 2 unattested 3. Claim in respect of 3 3 allowed

Bymustpratt Brothers

Number of men in Aug 1914 44 today 28 between 18 & 41: 19 rejected 7 attested 12 unattested 7. Claim in respect of 19 11 allowed

Page 250 Kings College Hospital

Number of men in Aug 52* today 64 number between 18 & 41 31; rejected 9 attested 19 unattested 3. Claims in respect of 15 All allowed

*The full staff had not been engaged on 1 Aug, the hospital not having been completed at that date

Horatio Myer & Co Ltd

Number of men in Aug 1914 196 today 76 between 18 & 41: (x) rejected 13 attested 15 unattested 12. Claim in respect of 20 18 allowed

Page 252 H Clarkson & Son

Number of men in Aug 1914 :148 today 96; between 18 & 41 27; rejected 15 attested 21 unattested 6. Claim in respect of 25 20 allowed

Page 259 London & Provincial Motor Motor Carriers Ltd

Number of men in Aug 1914: 103 today 66 number between 18 & 41: 43 direct enlistments 59 attested 16 unattested 18. Claims in respect of 12 5 allowed

Page 271 J A Sharwood & Co Ltd

Number of men in Aug 1914 98 today 46 and 8 boys; between 18 & 41: 19 rejected 6 attested 12 unattested 1 Claims in respect of 19 12 allowed

Page 276 W Clowes & Sons Ltd

No statistics given

Page 278 Wilts United Dairies Ltd

Number of men in Aug 1914 72 today 76 Between 18 & 41: 36 rejected 11 attested 20 unattested 5

Page 286 Fremelin Bros

Number Aug 1914 76 today 59 direct enlistments 50; between 18 & 41 30 rejected 8 attested 23; unattested 1. Claim in respect of 17 15 allowed

Page 291 Quin & Axtens Ltd

No statistics given