

Lambeth Tribunals – Index to MBL/30/3

Book 3 August 1916 – 20 October 1916

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Foreword

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) to be uncertain. Occasionally there is a handwritten addition.

In this index, certain abbreviations may appear:

C.O. Certified Occupation

n.a.t. not assented to

d.t.g. deferred to Group,

M.R. or Mil' Rep' Military Representative

S.C. Special Constabulary

V.T.C. Voluntary Training Corps

Co County LND London

+++ indicates that there is more detail in the original volume.

It is hoped that any other abbreviations are self evident.

Because of the restrictions of space, words may be abbreviated, such as Temp'Ex' for Temporary Exemption, indisp' for indispensable, Dom' & Bus' for Domestic and Business.

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

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).

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.

There follow some examples of fuller entries for men seeking exemption from duty.

Page 10 8 August 1916 CN HATCHMAN

A letter dated 2 August 1916 from the Commercial Manager of the London Electric Railway Company as to the necessity of retaining Mr HATCHMAN in their service: "This department consists of 92 people. 5 are over age, 8 are under age, 19 are women all of whom have been employed since the outbreak of War. Of the 50 people of Military Age, 13 are unfit for service and one has already been in the army and been discharged, so that only 36 are available for enlistment, of these 28 have been permitted to enlist.

As a result you will see that we have only reserved for the service of these railways and the London General Omnibus Co., 8 people of Military Age."

Mr PICK states further that having regard to the special character and importance of the Company's work, he thinks they are entitled to ask the assistance of the Tribunal in keeping together such members of their skilled staff as are not definitely required for War work, especially in view of the fact that they have released more people than permits them to carry on efficiently the work of the Office.

In these circumstances he asks the Local Tribunal to reconsider the decision previously arrived at in regard to Mr HATCHMAN.

A further letter (7 August) points out he is more usefully employed in the job for which he is trained (Railway work) than on a farm. The Tribunal abided by its original decision.

Page 44 16 August 1916 Mr FT HAYWARD

He submits a Medical Certificate from Dr Edward J PRITCHARD of 33 West Side, Wandsworth Common, certifying that he (of 10 Westover Road, Wandsworth Common) is suffering from Spinal Neurasthenis. For some years he has had to lead a careful life, avoiding all physical exertion, or even standing for any considerable time. He is in consequence unfit to take the duties of the V.T.C. or those of a Special Constable and accordingly requests that the Tribunal will be good enough to waive the condition in his case.

Page 44 16 August 1916 Mr SW THURSTON
Medical Certificate from Dr CJ BERRY of 322 South Lambeth Road, Clapham SW, finds him suffering from incipient weakness of both lungs, loss of flesh and occasional attacks of Cardiac Dyspnoea. He is not fit to continue drill exercises or any Military Training.

Page 44 War Office Instruction: in some districts it is supposed that married men in the later groups and classes are not to be called up for service. This is entirely inaccurate. Those men who are fit for General Service are required.

Page 53 Re: WS CROSSKEY & F GREENACRE 1916 Aug 17
Touching the decision of the Tribunal of 8 August 1916, insisting that these men should undertake which, while being of national importance should involve some sacrifice on their part, communications this morning have been received from the Committee on Work of National Importance, stating that the cases have been given careful consideration but it regrets, however, that in view of the attitude of the Local Tribunal, that they are unable to make any other recommendations than those already put forward regarding these men. The Town Clerk has, therefore, communicated with the men, calling upon them to comply with the Tribunal's requirements.

Note:- CROSSKEY had undertaken work at His Majesty's Factory as a Fitter's Labourer and GREENACRE as a Clerk in the employ of Messrs Handley Page Ltd.

Page 81 MARTIN E & Sons Ltd 1916 Aug 24
No. Of Men Aug 1914 30; Today 20; Men between 18 & 41 10; Men rejected 4; Attested 2; unattested 4; Claims in respect of 3 – 2 allowed

Page 88 STEWART Wm D 1916 Aug 29
Letter from solicitor requesting re-hearing quotes note from May 19th hearing: "My mother is a total invalid and cannot work. When away from home I allow her 25/- per week. The allotment I should be able to make is not much to get special foods with. Her rent is 6/- per week. I have one brother 11 years of age, sister 9 years and another sister 19 years of age, an invalid."

The applicant was told he could only apply for a form under the Civil Liabilities regulations.

Page 129 WOOD C 1916 Sep 6

Having appeared previously, {earlier volumes} he is "granted exemption from Combatant Service only, subject to the proviso that if, within six months 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 to be reported to the Tribunal for approval. Power is reserved to the Tribunal to extend the period of six weeks or to vary this order if the Claimant establishes to its satisfaction that he has done his best but has failed to comply with the condition. NOT OPEN TO VARIATION".

Page 161 DAVIES PW 1916 Sep 14

He was an Electrical & Mechanical Engineer (G45). He was unable to attend being on War Work on Aircraft Sheds, Milton Camp, Steventon, Berks. Nevertheless, his claim was not allowed.

Page 225 THWAITES RH 1916 Sep 29

Case No. M1976 The Committee on Work of National Importance had informed the Tribunal that he had obtained employment in connection with work on Government Contracts for portable aeroplanes, hangers and wagon covers with Messrs P SMITH, Old Church Road, Stepney at a wage of 36/- per week. They recommended this work as satisfying the condition exempting THWAITES from Military Service. The tribunal did not agree as THWAITES was a Conscientious Objector. The Committee adhere to their original decision and are unable to recommend any other work.

The Tribunal consider the work is inconsistent with the man's views as a C.O. and that if the Government desire to have the man so employed the responsibility must rest with them.

Page 234 PARTRIDGE CW 1916 Oct 2

Mr HCJ EDWARDS, Borough Engineer, appeals on his behalf for a late-time application for exemption for CW PARTRIDGE, a Council Dust Collector who received his call up papers on 11th September on the following grounds: (1) the re-organisation of the outdoor staff which has recently become imperative owing to the depletion of that staff by men joining the forces (2) the death of the late Foreman JENKINS recently killed in action and (3) the many difficulties that have now to be encountered in the collection of house refuse in the inner districts of the Borough.

The request was not granted.

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1916 Oct 9

A circular letter date 6 October from the Local Government Board contained one heading "Conditions attached to exemptions that men should join the V.T.C. or S.C. etc