

Private Paul Alexander Tribunal Reports

Military Service Tribunals- Transcriptions of Newspaper Reports

From Bexhill Chronicle 22nd July 1916 (DSCF2138) – Local Tribunal

“Paul Alexander (35), married, florist, fruiterer and greengrocer, of Station Road, asked for exemption. To leave his business at the present time would be absolute ruin, and in it he had invested all his capital. He had been passed only for Garrison duty abroad. – In reply to questions, he said his wife would endeavour to carry on the business in his absence, but it would probably be only for a time, as her health was not good, and she could not bear the strain. – Mr Moysey said that he might get help from a friend, and suggest a name of one. – The Tribunal granted two months exemption on condition that Mr Alexander joined the V. T. C.– To this Mr Alexander objected, as he had in connection with his trade to be a very early in the morning, and the drills were in the evening. – The V. T. C. condition was withdrawn.

From Bexhill Chronicle 30th September 1916 (DSCF2141) – Local Tribunal

In the case of P. Alexander of Alexander’s Fruit Stores, the Town Clerk stated that the applicant had since the exemption was granted sold his business, and was now ready to go, but asked on conscientious grounds that he should be exempted from combatant service. The Town Clerk added that Mr Alexander had answered the written questions put to conscientious objectors, and had stated his case very fairly. It was to the effect that being a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and owning His authority, which forbade the taking of life, he desired to avail himself of the conscientious clause under the Military Service Act, having in no wise a desire to augment the suffering that was taking place by participating in the war, or to take another man’s life. He willingly sacrificed any personal loss he had suffered or might suffer, and if he had to undertake Garrison duty abroad, for which he had been passed, he would do so if it did not entail taking another man’s life. He was otherwise perfectly free, and would obey any orders given him. – The Mayor suggested ambulance work as suitable. Could he not join the R. A. M. C.? – Mr Alexander said he had not made the application with a view of gaining more time or of saving himself from suffering; what he required to know was that when called upon to obey orders it would not involve taking another man’s life. – Mr Moysey said that the man was evidently a conscientious objector, and it should be put in a non-combatant branch of the service. – The Mayor: What non-combatant service would be available? – Mr Moysey: He is passed for “Garrison duty abroad”, and it depends upon what branch he will be put in. If exemption is granted on the ground that he cannot take life, they cannot put him on sentry duty, for instance. The Mayor: They can put him on ambulance duty. – Mr Moysey: That is what Mr Alexander wants. – The Mayor (after consultation with his colleagues): The Tribunal will grant your application, and place you on non-combatant service. – Mr Alexander: Thank you..

The next sitting of the Tribunal will be held on Wednesday week.