

Alfred Horace Bignell Tribunal Reports

Military Service Tribunals- Transcriptions of Newspaper Reports

AHB-001

From Bexhill Chronicle 11th March 1916 – Local Tribunal

Loving Our Enemies

A luggage porter named Bignell, residing at 19, Wickham Avenue, asked for exemption on the grounds of ill-health and also made conscientious objection. He claimed that the Scriptures told them to love their enemies. He would sooner let a man kill him than take life himself.

The Mayor: If you were a settler and savages swooped down on you, would you shoot?—No. Similar questions were put to those in previous cases, with which the public are now familiar. Exemption was not granted.

AHB-002

From Bexhill Observer 11th March 1916 – Local Tribunal

WHAT TO DO WITH CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

A luggage Porter named Bignell, residing at 19, Wickham-Avenue, asked for exemption on the ground of ill-health and conscientious objection. He said the Scriptures told us to love our enemies, and that he would sooner let a man kill him and take life himself.

The Mayor – If you were a settler, and savages swooped down, would you shoot? – No.

Are you sorry there is an Army and Navy? – No.

You don't object to their doing so? – No, Sir.

You except their protection without doing so yourself? – No answer.

Do you think it wrong for the Army to fight? – No; they are there for that purpose.

The Clerk – If you object to taking life, would you be prepared to go out in front of the trenches and place wiring to save the lives of other men. – I should be prepared to do it.

Applicant produced a certificate by Dr McCulloch stated that Bignell's physical condition would make him unfit for military service.

Exemption was refused, and the question of applicant state of health referred to the Medical Board.