

Frederick Trueluck Tribunal Reports

Military Service Tribunals- Transcriptions of Newspaper Reports

From Bexhill Observer 4th March 1916 – Local Tribunal

MORE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Frederick Trueluck, 20, an ironmonger's porter, employed by Mr P Hodgkinson, Western-road, applied for exemption on the ground of conscientious objection to military service. Applicant lives at The Cottage, Eastwood-road.

He stated that he was a follower of Jesus Christ, and did not believe in the taking of human life, holding that it was wholly contrary to the Scriptures.

.The Clerk - When did you first declare yourself as a conscientious objector to war?

Applicant - When I was converted to God.

When was that? - About five years ago.

Do you consider it impossible for a Christian to be a soldier? – I am a Christian and my conscience is bound by the Word of God, which does not teach us to kill.

The Mayor – does it tell you that you should not protect yourself?

Applicant – it does not tell us to kill.

The Clerk – Do you raise any objection to defending yourself, if attacked? – In such case, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has saved me, would give me guidance.

Have you considered what would become of the country if the country were full of people like you? – It is only a supposition.

Do you recognise that at this moment the liberties and the privileges of Englishmen are at stake? – No answer.

Are they or are they not? – I cannot answer that question.

Can you answer this question, "What would happen to this country and this town if the Germans got here"? – As I said, that is supposition.

The Clerk – Not so much supposition.

Applicant – God is able to keep them out of it.

Has He kept them out of Belgian? – That we cannot say. We do not know the reason why He did not stop them going there.

The Mayor – And you would sit with hands folded and wait for somebody else to protect you, would you? – I believe in the Word of One who saved me.

The Clerk – Do you recognise that you are being protected day by day by our Navy and soldiers? – I admit the bravery of them but I look to the Lord Jesus Christ to save me.

You think it would be all right without the Navy and Army? – I admit the bravery of the Army and Navy, but God is able to do things.

The Mayor – And you think God would do everything for you? Would you like to see England without an Army and Navy to protect us? Would you vote for no Army or Navy on the supposition that Christ will protect you? – I don't say about having the Army and the Navy, but, as I have said, God is able to look after us.

You would do away with the Army and the Navy and trust to God to protect the country? – I would myself.

You would? If that were allowed, there would not be much Bexhill would there? – No answer

The Clerk – How with the country go on if everyone thought like you? – If they were all like me, there would be no wars.

Do you object to ambulance work? – I cannot say I am willing to do it, but I don't object to it

What form of religion are you attached to? – I gather with those known as Plymouth Brethren.

Where do you meet? – At the Gospel H, Wickham-avenue.

Do you realise at all that you could not be meeting there but for what our soldiers and sailors are doing? – I realise this, but God has kept the enemy away from us

Councillor Wells – When you say grace, do you ever say, "Thank God and the British Navy for this? You have to thank the British Navy as well as God. – No answer.

Frederick Truluck Tribunal Reports

The Mayor – do you object to taking life of any kind? – Yes

Are you a vegetarian? – No

Then you do not object to taking life? – It is not the same as human life.

You take the lives of animals – They were meant for food.

The Mayor – The Local Tribunal cannot grant you an exemption, but they will recommend you for non-combatant service.