

# Arthur Percy Colman Tribunal Reports

## Military Service Tribunals- Transcriptions of Newspaper Reports

From the Bexhill Chronicle 11-03-1916 – page 9

### A Conscientious Objector

A. P. Coleman (32), assistant master at Ebor School, applied through Mr Brown, headmaster, for exemption on the ground of that he was the only assistant left in the school (one having gone), and that he had conscientious scruples. He stated that he did not think war was wrong, but that it would be wrong for him with his opinions to take part in it. Mr Brown added during the hearing of the case that Mr Colman had five brothers engaged in the services.

Alderman Paton: Then they do not share his scruples.

The Mayor regretted that the Tribunal could not exempt Mr Colman, but they would grant him one day's exemption, which would mean two months and one day.

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From the Bexhill Chronicle 15-04-1916 – page 11

### Schoolmaster has to serve

Mr A. J. H. Brown, of Ebor School, Bexhill, applied on behalf of Mr A. P. Colman (32), single, for an extension of the exemption, the exemption already granted having expired in May 19th.

The Town Clerk explained that Mr Colman had asked for exemption on the grounds of ill-health, but the Military Authorities at Chichester had not granted it and the grounds of health were now withdrawn. He also had stated that he had conscientious objections, but he (Mr Colman) now said that he had no sympathy with a great deal of what had come out in connection with conscientious objections, and that he did not press this now. He withdrew his claim for exemption on that ground.

Mr Brown suggested that if the exemption were extended to August, it would meet his case.

The tribunal said that in view of the medical certificate they did not feel they could grant any further exemption.

The sitting lasted nearly 2 hours.

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**From the Bexhill Observer 11-03-1916 – page 8**

## REMARKABLE “CONSCIENCE” CASE

Mr Brown, Principle of Ebor School, Bexhill, applied for the exemption of Mr A. P. Colman, an assistant-master on the ground of indispensability. Mr Colman also appealed on the ground of conscientious objection.

The curious variant of the usual “conscientious” claim was made by Mr Colman, who wrote: “I am a Christian who desires to follow the teaching of the Lord, and the Scriptures personally call me to be apart from military service and fighting. If I did not feel this, I should have attested long ago, and I consider that if a man does not share these feelings, and does not attest, he is morally wrong. I do not feel that war is wrong in itself, but I feel it is wrong in me to take up arms and fight.”

One day’s exemption – plus the two months grace – was granted in order to give Mr Brown an opportunity to get to the end of the term and get other assistance.

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**From the Bexhill Observer 15-04-1916 – page 2**

## COMMENT CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Scholastic duties impelled an application by Mr A. J. H. Brown, of Ebor School, for the temporary exemption of Mr A. P. Colman.

It appeared that Mr Colman had been medically examined, and the military authorities were not prepared to say he was unfit for general service.

Mr Brown said that Mr. Colman was not like an ordinary master. He knew the whole circle, and he (Mr Brown) was single-handed. Mr Coleman had asked him, with regard to conscientious objections, that although he might have conscientious objections with regard to killing, he had so little sympathy with a great deal that had come out with regard to conscientious objections that he would not press that point.

The Tribunal regretted that they could not grant any further exemption.

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