



Marston Tribunal Exemption Appeals 1916

On 27th January 1916, Prime Minister Herbert Asquith's government passed the 1916 Military Service Act and introduced conscription to the British Isles. It came into force on 2nd March, 1916. Previously the British Government had relied on voluntary enlistment, and latterly a kind of moral conscription called the Derby Scheme.

Alfred Stanley Earley

of Marston, previously suspended ten groups, appealed again. The application was opposed. - Applicant pleaded domestic responsibilities, and said the firm for which he worked was doing work for the Government. His father and mother were dependent upon him. He had three married sisters in the parish, and one brother was a soldier. His father was blind; he has the old age pension. - The Court held that the applicant must go and expressed the opinion that the sisters could look after the father and mother. If he allotted them part of his military pay his parents would be better off with the War Office allowance.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 11 March 1916.

Henry Solomon Bodman

27, Cuckoo's Farm, cowman to Mr. F.P. Maggs, of Marston. - Ordered to serve.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 18 March 1916.

Herbert John Earley

Mr. Holloway appealed for two men, one living in Marston and one in Seend. The former was Herbert John Earley, 31, a bricklayer and general jobbing hand, who, Mr. Nicholson said passed for general service. The Chairman told Mr. Holloway they had not to consider what was in his interests, but what was in the national interest' – Mr. Holloway replied that his business was almost entirely connected with agriculture. The Court eventually decreed that Earley, who was passed for general service, should go on the 15th June. [see 17 June]

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 20 May 1916.

Albert Phillips

32, milker and general farm labourer, in employ of Mr. Aaron Few, of Marston. - Ordered to serve.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 3 June 1916.

Henry Charles Hughes

33, cowman, in the employ of Mr. Ernest C. Wiltshire, of Smithwick Farm, Rowde Common. - Conditional exemption.

Herbert John Earley

of Marston, bricklayer, in the employ of Mr. J.G. Holloway.- Conditional exemption.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 17 June 1916.

Arthur James Dunford

of Marston, was again appealed for by Mr. O. Maggs, of End Farm, and the Court granted exemption up to September 30th. - Mr Maggs said not a single woman volunteered to milk, except it was a farmer's daughter on their own farm.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 15 July 1916.

OPC Note: Not everyone in Britain supported the war, however, and not everyone welcomed conscription. The Military Service Acts put in place a national system of local tribunals to which conscripts could appeal for exemption from service. Among the grounds for exemption, along with hardship, illness, education and the essential nature of their work, men could also claim on grounds of a conscientious objection to military service.