

# TO KILL REFUSING

## BRISTOL'S WORLD WAR 1 CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

**This image is to be reproduced and used  
for educational purposes only**

**Title:** Prison letter from Frank Merrick 1/3

**Description:** A hand written letter

**Details:** First page of prison letter from Frank Merrick to his first wife Hope Squire, 20 Nov 1918 - he refers to the Armistice a few days earlier.

**Source:** University of Bristol Special Collections DM2103/F/5 Reference SC006068

**Credit:** With permission of Frank Merrick's family - Celia Bloor, Phoebe Merrick and Paul Merrick

**File name:** RTK\_Primary\_DOC\_SC006068.pdf

**From:** <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/articles/refusing-to-kill/>

22

Flow.

In replying to this letter, please write on the envelope:—

Number 874 Name J. Merrick

WANDSWORTH. Prison

Wednesday, November 20th, 1918.

My own darling Hope, It seems as difficult to get anywhere near the realisation that <sup>now</sup> all the slaughter is over as that it had begun some four odd years ago and that it was going on between those two points of time, consequently I do not get feel all the obviously appropriate sentiments of gratitude for the present, bitterness over the past, etc. that I have long expected to do when the psychological moment should arrive. My mind is involuntarily much more concerned with some hopes and many fears for humanity's immediate future (to omit personal matters for the moment!). We heard guns booming on the morning of Monday week, so were not unprepared for the Chief Warden's announcement to us <sup>during</sup> the afternoon exercise that the Governor wished him to tell us that the armistice had been signed that morning at 6. Need I add that the announcement was received with great cordiality? I cannot persuade my cooler judgment that we shall be soon re-united, though the possibility of such a thing increases so <sup>rapidly</sup> my desire for verbal exchange of every passing thought with you <sup>that</sup> written words seem even duller than usual. If there is any likelihood that the government

No. 24. (8252-204-00)