

# TO KILL REFUSING

## BRISTOL'S WORLD WAR 1 CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

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**Title:** Prison letter from Frank Merrick 2/3

**Description:** A hand written letter

**Details:** First page of prison letter from Frank Merrick to his first wife Hope Squire, 24 Dec 1918.

**Source:** University of Bristol Special Collections DM2103/F/5 Reference SC006069

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

**File name:** RTK\_Primary\_DOC\_SC006069.pdf

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

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

Number

874

Name

J. Merrick

WANDSWORTH

Prison

Tuesday, December 24th, 1918.

My own darling Hope,

It seems grimly appropriate that people of our persuasion should still be persecuted by the direst of all penalties—separation from each other—at this Christmas season. For it is we who hold the most uncompromisingly to the <sup>the extension of</sup> idea that in Universal Goodwill lies the only practical hope of making a happier world, and this idea certainly seems fatally opposed to the swaggering bragadois of the sentiment "God who made thee mighty, Make the mightier yet." I thought till recently that I had shed my last illusions about British dignity, but the extraordinary nausea that overcomes me whenever I think of Haig's order that German civilians should salute British officers reminds me how acute is my longing to retain a tiny remnant of respect for England. The transcendent pettiness of ~~it~~ <sup>it is</sup> the odious thing. Great villainies like the crushing out of local self-determination in Russia, Germany, &c., are so tragically used to that one expects them, and one also expects the assured ignorance of such statements as "Russia is not ready for any form of communistic management" from journalists who have yet to learn what a vast deal of communistic management has been systematically practised by those "incapable" Russian peasants in times past. Thinking of all these things, and also of the different vested interests which will seek to stimulate rivalry in naval armaments

No. 24.

(8252-2074-00)