

TO KILL REFUSING

BRISTOL'S WORLD WAR 1 CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

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Title: What Every Bristol Man Should Know

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WHAT EVERY BRISTOL MAN SHOULD KNOW.

There are hundreds of men in prison at this moment for their religious and political opinions. Thirty of these are your FELLOW-CITIZENS.

Their offence is that they have a conscientious conviction that war is an evil against which they must protest by every means in their power, and in which they cannot voluntarily take any part.

They have appeared before Tribunals which have not given them the exemption provided for in the Military Service Acts.

They have passed through the hands of the military, been court-martialled, sent to prison, served their sentences, and been returned to the military. Then the whole business has begun again.

They have again refused to obey military orders and have been returned to prison; many of them are now serving third or fourth sentences. Thus the genuineness of their conscientious objection has been severely tested and fully established. If a man offends against the law in any other matter, he serves his sentence and is discharged. But these men suffer a continuous series of punishments for the same offence, punishments which increase in severity each time, and which now in many cases take the severe form of TWO YEARS' HARD LABOUR.

Is it your wish that these dangerous and reactionary methods should be adopted in your country? If not, then will you not say so with all your heart and strength, till England can once more be truthfully called "The land of liberty"?

Bristol Men Imprisoned for their Opinions.

AYLES, W. H.—A Town Councillor and active member of important committees. The Appeal Tribunal ordered him to undertake work of national importance, and as he would not abandon his former work for the city, for labour and for peace, he was arrested. He served a first sentence of 112 days' hard labour at Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth Civil Prisons, was returned to his military unit, court-martialled again, and sent for a year's hard labour to Dorchester Prison.

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BRAIN, W. H.—Was refused all exemption by the Tribunals. Arrested and sentenced to 84 days' imprisonment, and has now been given a term of nine months in Maidstone Gaol.

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BREWER, CLAUDE.—Served a period of imprisonment, and accepted work under the Home Office Scheme, expecting to work for the State. When sent to assist a private employer he gave up the scheme, and has been re-arrested.

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BEARD, FREDERICK.—Had no exemption. Was arrested last May and served two sentences, the first in military detention barracks. He was released on condition of his taking up work under the Home Office. After giving this a fair trial he found the conditions wholly unjust, and refused to continue the work. He has been sent to Horfield Gaol.

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BRITTON ISAAC.—A bootmaker. He was kept in handcuffs for three weeks after his arrest. He is serving his second sentence—one year at Maidstone.

BARBER, A. B.—Has served one sentence of six months, and has now received a second sentence of two years' hard labour, to be served at Northallerton.

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BERRIMAN, F.—A printer engaged on medical and surgical work. His conscientious objection was recognised at first, and he was given conditional exemption. Later on it was withdrawn, and he was told to get work of national importance **other than that on which he was engaged**. He believed that he could best serve the nation by protesting against the penalisation. He has received his first sentence of 112 days' hard labour.

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CHAPPELL, A.—Was refused all exemption, and arrested on military warrant without being taken to the police court. He was serving his second sentence in Exeter Gaol, but was suddenly recalled to his unit at Fort Tregantle, Devonport, where no civilian may enter to see him.

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COKER, HENRY.—Was sent first to a military, and then to a civil prison, then released to do Home Office work at Dyce. He found the conditions unjust, and declined to continue. Is now awaiting a court-martial at Horfield Barracks.

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DEMMERY, A. V., AND DEMMERY, W. G.—Bootmakers. Both have served one period of imprisonment. The first is now in Northallerton Prison on a sentence of one year without hard labour, being an exceptionally delicate man. The second has **two years with hard labour**.

ELLIOTT, W.—Has served one sentence, and is now in Exeter Gaol for a year's hard labour.

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GILPIN, ERNEST.—Was arrested on June 5. Has been in prison ever since, with two brief intervals in the detention room of his unit. He has now begun a third sentence of **two years' hard labour** in Portsmouth Prison.

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GOODWIN, LESLIE.—Shipping clerk dealing with food supplies, but ordered to take up work of national importance. He believed he could serve his country best by passively resisting this form of penalisation for his opinions. He was arrested in August, and is now serving his second sentence—nine months' hard labour at Portsmouth.

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HUXSTEP, D.—A Salvationist. Engaged in market gardening. He was refused all exemption. Arrested April, 1916, and served one sentence in a military, and another in a civil prison. Was released to do navy's work, but after a fair trial of it he reverted to the absolutist position, and is now in Horfield Gaol.

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KNOWLAND, JOSEPH.—A docker. Through a misunderstanding he did not claim exemption as a conscientious objector till too late. Is now serving a second sentence in Maidstone Prison.

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JAMES, ERNEST.—Was refused exemption. Is serving his second sentence at Gloucester.

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LEWIS, REGINALD.—Arrested April, 1916, and then medically rejected. Arrested again in November, and is now serving a second sentence at Maidstone.

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LYES, HERBERT.—This lad was offered exemption from combatant service, but he could not conscientiously take any military work. He is serving a second sentence of six months at Dorchester.

MERRICK, THOMAS.—A school teacher who believed his work to be of national importance. Arrested in July, 1916, and now serving a third sentence of one year's hard labour at Dorchester.

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MILLER, ARTHUR.—An engineer. He gave up his work because it was connected with munitions. Is serving his third sentence at Portsmouth—**two years' hard labour**.

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NEWMAN, ARTHUR.—A school teacher. He refused to abandon his vocation for work for which he had not been trained, and is now serving his second sentence of one year at Dorchester.

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RADLEY, PHILIP.—A Quaker and student teacher. Was arrested in July. Has served two sentences, and has begun a third of **two years' hard labour** at Shepton Mallet.

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REINGE, R.G. AND S. J.—Two brothers, whose conscientious objection was recognised in April, 1916, but against whom the military appealed "in view of the urgent need for men." They have just received a second sentence of one year at Winchester.

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RENDELL, E. C.—Market gardener. Was refused all exemption. Is now in Wormwood Scrubs.

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RUDMAN, ERNEST.—Was offered exemption from combatant service only, but he claimed the absolute exemption allowed by the law. Was serving a second sentence in Exeter Prison, but has been returned to his unit with A. Chappell.

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WILLMOTT, GILBERT.—Was given a temporary exemption, and afterwards called up. Is now serving a second sentence—a year without hard labour in Northallerton Prison.

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WRIDE, GILBERT.—Was refused all exemption. Is serving his first sentence in Wormwood Scrubs.

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WATKINS, JOHN.—A labourer on G.W.R. Is awaiting his first court-martial.

COMMANDER WEDGWOOD, speaking in the House of Commons on April 4th, said :

“ I want to urge upon the House one other great lesson we may learn from the Russian Revolution. . . . I allude to the question of an amnesty for political and military offences. We know that there has been such an amnesty in Russia. We know that a great number of our prisoners at the present time are either conscientious objectors or Irish prisoners. . . . The Government might well take in hand these questions of the opening up of peace negotiations and a general amnesty for political and military offenders. They would redound to the credit of the Government and the advantage of the country.”

**The RUSSIAN PEOPLE have
gained their Freedom**

**Shall not ENGLISHMEN have
Freedom also ?**

On behalf of the Bristol Joint Advisory Committee for Conscientious Objectors,
M. C. TOTHILL, Hon. Sec.