

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Objection and Exemption



BUNDLE 2



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Bundle 2

ALL YOUNG MEN'S EXEMPTIONS TO BE CANCELLED.

THE B2 AND C2 MEN.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:—

In accordance with the decision of the War Cabinet, and following upon the instructions of the Director-General of National Service that Government Departments are to cancel forthwith all exemptions granted to young men of from 18 to 22 years of age passed for general service, the War Office has ordered the immediate call of those men to the colours. Instructions have been issued to recruiting officers that men of 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 passed for general service, and employed in Government establishments or by controlled ad badged firms, are to be called up for service at once. The Order affects Government servants of all kinds, including policemen, firemen, teachers, men in the employment of local authorities, Post Office servants, Customs and Excise employees, and the Civil Service generally. It does not apply to men engaged in agriculture, steel production, mines, quarries, railway shops, transport work, or shipyards, or to men in the occupations covered by the trade card scheme. In the cases of men of the ages mentioned above who held Tribunal exemptions, with the exception of those in certified occupations, reviews are to be applied for immediately. All War Office exemptions and recruiting officer's exemptions for the men mentioned have been cancelled, with the exception of a few relating to students serving in Officers' Training Corps who are undergoing training for commissions in the force, and others under instruction in schools of wireless tele-

Stonehaven Journal 1
March 1917

SCOTTISH TEACHERS.

A and B1 MEN CALLED UP.

The following circular has been issued from the Scottish Office to local Tribunals and appeal Tribunals with regard to teachers, students, and educational officials in Scotland. Except for slight differences in date and age limit, it is identical with that issued by the English Board of Education. The following is the notice:—

By agreement with the Army Council, the Scotch Education Department have hitherto arranged for the exemption of certain teachers, students, and officials of educational establishments coming under their supervision, whom they considered should not for the time be taken from their civil employment. On and after the 21st inst. all exemptions of this kind granted to men in medical Category A, or to men under 31 years of age in medical Category B1, will be withdrawn. Men not examined by a Medical Board must be regarded as in Category A.

If an application for exemption is made by or in respect of a man whose exemption is withdrawn under the above arrangement, it is desired that it shall be dealt with as speedily as possible, on its merits, in the same way as an ordinary application under regulations or instructions as the case may be, provided that the application is made within 2 weeks after the 21st inst., if the man is unattested, or if he is attested, within seven days of the date on which the notice calling him up for service is issued.

As previously pointed out, exemption to men classed as A or B1 is justified only if there are exceptionally strong grounds, and in this connection attention may be specially drawn to the statement R 114 issued on the 20th ultimo.

Stonehaven Journal 22
February 1917

IS CONSCRIPTION COMING?

Is Conscription coming? that is the question that is agitating the minds of most people at present. But though we cannot answer this it would be well to consider a moment the advantages of conscription if it should come. In the first place, is our army big enough? Are the authorities getting all the volunteers they need to fill up the blanks at the front and to form the bigger army that is ultimately to drive the Germans across the Rhine? Apparently not, for a few weeks ago Lord Kitchener asked for further army of 300,000 men and the age limit for recruits was extended and the physical standard lowered. If the Government knows, and only the Government can know, that the present system of voluntary service is not bringing in sufficient recruits, it is clearly their duty to find some other more satisfactory method. There is no doubt, too, that the voluntary system is essentially unfair. The willing horse gets all the work. Those whose sense of duty and feeling of patriotism are keen, join His Majesty's Forces, often at great monetary disadvantage while others, whose sense of duty is less keen, remain at home in peace and comfort. There is no doubt that in this gigantic common enterprise every family with male members of military age ought to risk one to guarantee the safety of our country. But every one of us can call to mind families where out of two or three males of military age not one has answered his Country's call. Of such it can only be said, as I heard it said by a woman who has two sons at the front with the 7th Gordons to-day, that they are "mean thieves, spongers on their neighbours." The "Times" suggests that all through the country every man within the prescribed military ages should be called upon to report himself at the Town Hall or other public office in his neighbourhood, and register his name, address, occupation and information of other members of the family serving etc. This step, says the "Times," would be an indispensable preliminary to compulsory national service. It would in itself commit the Government to nothing, but it would at once have a sobering effect on the men by convincing them that the Government were in earnest." In various districts in the north of Scotland, a war census of this description has already been taken by the local authorities. As the demand for recruits for the 7th Gordons becomes more urgent, this step will have to be taken in Kincardine-shire.

Stonehaven Journal 3 June 1915

Bundle 2

BOYS OF 18 CALLED UP.

TO BE EMPLOYED FOR ONE YEAR ON HOME DEFENCE.

The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:—

The War Cabinet has instructed the Secretary for War to call up for military service all lads as and when they attain the age of 18 years, instead of as, at present 18 years and seven months. The necessary proclamation will be issued immediately.

It is not to be understood that this implies any departure from the present arrangements, whereby no man is sent overseas until he has attained the age of 19 years. There is no present intention to depart from the existing arrangements or to modify the existing orders on the point. The decision is to call up all lads as and when they attain the age of 18 years, to train them and to employ them in home defence, until they reach the age of 19. By doing this it will be possible to reduce the requirements for men of more mature years, who are fit only for one or other of the lower medical categories. All lads born in 1898, and in January, 1899, who are still in civil life, may report at once to the recruiting office in which they are registered. In any case they will be required to report in accordance with the proclamation which is about to be issued, subject always to the regulations under the Military Service Acts, 1916, or the instructions relating to attested men, as the case may be. The only lads as a class who should not in the meantime report are those who have passed through an apprenticeship in one or other of the skilled engineering trades, and who are fully engaged on war work in the shipyards or munition factories. Such lads should remain at their work. Others, who have passed through an apprenticeship as above, but who are not fully engaged on war work in the shipyards or munition factories, may report to their recruiting office, and request to be trade tested for posting as artificers. There are vacancies for such lads in the following corps:—Royal Regiment of Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Flying Corps, Machine Gun Corps, heavy section (tanks), Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps.

Stonehaven Journal 25 January 1917

COUNTY OF KINCARDINE. RECRUITING LOCAL TRIBUNAL.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KINCARDINE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that they have appointed a LOCAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE WHOLE COUNTY, exclusive of the Burghs therein, and that the Name and Address of the Clerk to the Tribunal are JOHN FALCONER, COUNTY CLERK, STONEHAVEN.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that any person who wishes to bring a case before the said Tribunal must send a Notice of the Claim to the said Clerk, which notice may either be delivered at or sent by post to his Office.

Forms of Notice of Claim, etc., may be obtained on application to the said Clerk.

JOHN FALCONER,
County Clerk and Clerk to Tribunal.
Stonehaven, 26th November, 1915.

Mearns Leader 10 December 1915

Mackie Academy, Stonehaven

TEACHERS REFUSED PERMISSION TO ENLIST

A meeting of the Governors of the Mackie Academy was held at Stonehaven last week, when Rev. D. G. Barron presided.

The Governors had under consideration an application by Mr Alexander C. Knox and Mr John C. Thomson, the principal teachers of English and Classics, for leave of absence in order to enlist in the Army. The Chairman explained that the teachers had expressed a strong desire to enlist more than a year before, but had agreed to remain at their posts on being urged to do so on account of the already serious reduction in the staff of the school. The clerk read a letter, received from Mr J. M. Wattie, H.M.C.I.S., in which he stated that the principal teachers in the school, including Mr Knox and Mr Thomson, were indispensable, and could not be replaced at that time.

The Clerk also reported that Mr Wattie had informed him that a teacher in another secondary school for boys had insisted on enlisting without the sanction of the managers, and that the Scotch Education Department had thereupon applied to the War Office, who had discharged him from the Army in order that he might return to his work. The Governors, while sympathising with the repeatedly expressed desire of the teachers to serve in the Army at this time, decided that in view of the attitude of the Department, who in this matter represented the Government, they could not give leave of absence, and the clerk was instructed to write to the teachers to this effect.

Stonehaven Journal 17th February 1916

MILITARY SERVICE ACT MEN.

In the case of a man to whom the Military Service Act applies, application for renewal must be made before or within two months after the date on which the certificate ceases to be in force. In the case of voluntarily attested men the application for renewal may be made before the date on which the certificate ceases to be in force, or not later than seven days after individual notice has been sent to the man by the military authorities calling him up from the reserve for service with the colours.

It is open to a voluntarily attested man covered by the list of certified occupations (or someone on his behalf) to go or to write to the recruiting officer and to claim exemption on the ground that his principal and usual occupation is a "certified occupation." If the recruiting officer is satisfied he can issue forthwith to the man a card corresponding to a certificate of exemption and mark him as exempted in the army register without any formal proceedings before the local Tribunal. As a rule, therefore, such men need not make application to the Local Tribunal except in cases in which their claim for exemption has been disputed by the recruiting officer.

In connection with the above lists, it is stated in certain "Notes on Administration" that where a limitation of age is imposed it applies as upon April 4, 1916, the date of the new certificate of occupations, as respects which the limitations did not come into force until May 1, 1916, in England and Wales, and May 31 in Scotland.

Stonehaven Journal
4th May 1916

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2

William Marison, Esq.,
County Clerk,
Aberdeen.

JOHN FALCONER,
COUNTY CLERK.

14th July, 1916

County Clerks Office
15 JUL 1916
ABERDEEN
COUNTY OF KINCARDINE

Dear Sir,

About the beginning of April you were good enough to write me a letter with regard to the necessity for the services of my cashier in carrying on the work of the County Council and the other public appointments held by me. The temporary certificate of exemption from military service granted by the cashier has now expired and the County Council and I have made a joint application for its renewal. I lodged your letter along with the appeal in the previous application and I shall be much obliged if you will send me a signed duplicate to be produced along with the present application. I may say that my cashier has been medically examined and has been passed for sedentary work only so that in any case he can never be a real soldier. Thanking you in anticipation,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
John Falconer

Letter from Kincardine County Clerk to the Aberdeen County Clerk concerning the appeal of his cashier against military service, 14 July 1916

Wester Mains
Auchinbrow
Lumphannans
10.1.16.

County Clerks Office
11 JAN 1916
ABERDEEN

Dear Sir

I have been advised to write you & your advice. And that you could assist me in this, I have two sons in the Territorial force. I am left no one to assist me in the working of my farm which ~~needs~~ *needs*. It's impossible for me to get my crops put in season without help. So I wish to get one of my sons who is at Ripon to come home & assist me to get my work in. I understand there is a form to be filled sent in before a Board to be considered, & you may have the forms. I would be ever so much obliged if you would give this your earliest attention and know what can be done in the matter.

I am
Yours sincerely
John Stuart

Letter from John Stuart to the Aberdeen County Clerk requesting his son to be returned from military service to his farm for work, 10 January 1916.

Ward 11 Surrey County Ins^{ts}

20 OCT 1916
ABERDEEN

Dear Sir

I received your very kind letter about my brother & so glad you in favour with me & good George & to try & give us my brother back was so sorry? I am for my father. Adren (Armand) Armand & Brockley Brockley

He applied for a exemption but Old Macdonald was refused at that time & to my idea was because he was an alterate but I am sure you & some thing for us now as my father at a hand able with the work & I think if we had come to you at the time & got your advice he might have been exempt but I don't think by what I heard my father he did not explain matters proper for you but I am so glad you are to do something now & hope by your kind you will succeed

I am Sir yours truly
Robert Armand

Letter from Robert Armand to the Aberdeen County Clerk regarding William Armand's appeal against military service, October 1916

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2

The County Clerk,
County Buildings,
Aberdeen.

County of Aberdeen.

Deer District Committee.

G. MARTIN GRAY, LL.B.
SOLICITOR,
DISTRICT CLERK.
TELEGRAMS "GRAY, PETERHEAD"
TELEPHONE NO. 6.

17 OCT 1917

2, Rose Street, Peterhead.

ABERDEEN

16th October 1917

Dear Sir,

Deer District Local Recruiting Tribunal.

Your letter of 16th July last with accompanying correspondence was laid before meetings of the Tribunal held on 21st July and 13th inst.

While deprecating that any countenance should have been given to communications of such a character emanating from an apparently irresponsible source, the chairman and other members of the Tribunal have to bring the following facts before the special Committee, viz.,

1. The number of the cases dealt with as quoted in the War Office Letter are entirely misleading and erroneous in this respect, that repeated applications for the same man, but perhaps by different employers, are included in the figures.
2. The work of the Tribunal has been carried out in accordance with the Instructions to Tribunals issued at different times, and the members of the Tribunals have all recognised that it was appointed to hold the balance fairly between the needs of the Army on the one hand, and the needs of the country, so far as increased food production was necessary, on the other hand.
3. With regard to the decisions of the Tribunal it may be stated that no appeals were taken against any decision by the Military Representative until on the occasion of a visit made to the Tribunal by two officers, on which occasion ten cases were appealed, in nine of

County of Aberdeen.

Deer District Committee.

G. MARTIN GRAY, LL.B.
SOLICITOR,
DISTRICT CLERK.
TELEGRAMS "GRAY, PETERHEAD"
TELEPHONE NO. 6.

2, Rose Street, Peterhead.

16th October 1917

which the decisions of the Tribunal were upheld or a longer period of exemption granted.

4. The Tribunal are of opinion that the District as a whole has given a large number of men to both the Army and Navy, and for a proper understanding as to how matters stand in the District, would suggest that the Military Authorities should get information on this point.

5. The Tribunal have all along advocated the need for working crops, which were not sufficient to employ one man whole time, along with larger farms, but the Military Authorities apparently do not appreciate the difficulty there is even in getting this done,

Further in regard to the constitution and general actings of the Tribunal, I have been instructed to say that with all due respect the Tribunal declines to enter into a discussion in connection therewith.

The Tribunal would direct the attention of the Special Committee to the recent Instructions to Tribunals regarding the retention of men on the land, which in the opinion of the Tribunal, supports the views held by them in dealing with the various cases submitted to them.

Yours faithfully,

M. H. Angus
Clerk to Tribunal

It might have been expected that the members of the Tribunal would have given a lead on the subject of agricultural co-operation.

The farms in Deer District are mostly of small acreage, the average farm being from 30 to 50 acres in extent. While the Census Returns may show an excess in about 20% of the holdings in the District, in many cases, it will be discovered that the particular holding cannot be worked if the man in question be taken away. In view of the fact that there are a great number of small holdings of under 50 acres, it is most practicable that these small farmers should co-operate in assisting the cultivation of neighbouring farms. The Tribunal appear to have failed to encourage or indicate this line of action.

With regard to the three members of military age I am to remark that while it appears undesirable on general principles that such members should adjudicate on the cases of other men of military age, it has not been forbidden and no objection has been pressed on solitary instances. It is considered however extremely undesirable that no less than three members of one Tribunal should be of this age. I am to submit this point and also that of the uniform interest of members and the unwieldy size of the Tribunal to you for your consideration.

I am, &c.,

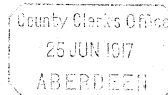
(Sgd.) J. Barwick Thompson,
Captain.

for Director of Recruiting.

Any further communication should be addressed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND,
and the following Number should be quoted:—
25478S/1652.

SCOTTISH OFFICE, WHITEHALL, S.W.1.



22nd June, 1917.

Enclosure 1.

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence regarding the Deer District Local Tribunal, I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to inform you that he communicated a copy of your letter of 16th March to the War Office, and has received the accompanying reply upon which he would be glad to be furnished with the observations of the Special Committee of the County Council.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Barwick Thompson

The County Clerk,
Aberdeen.

Deer District Tribunal Dispute March - October 1917

Objection and Exemption

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2

Sir,

254783/1652.

I have received your letter of 12th instant regarding the representation received by the Secretary for Scotland from the War Office in which exception is taken to the constitution of the Deer District Tribunal on various grounds.

Your letter will be submitted to the Special Committee appointed by the County Council to deal with such matters, but in the meantime I think it right to state (1) that this is the first occasion that any complaint has been made to the Council regarding the constitution of the Tribunal; (2) that the Deer District is a large one and, therefore, the Tribunal is large so as to admit of a fair representation of all parts of the area and to secure a quorum for the meetings; (3) that it is an agricultural district and, therefore, it is inevitable that the agricultural interest should be strongly represented; (4) that although the Chairman is 91 years of age no one is more regular in his attendance or takes a more intelligent interest in the business of the Tribunal, although it is the case that quite recently he was laid aside by illness for a short time; and (5) that it is the case that some of the members of the Tribunal are of military age.

So far as I am aware the business of the Tribunal has been conducted in a satisfactory manner, and I have not seen any sign of dissatisfaction expressed by the military representative. I am quite certain, therefore, that the first point upon which the Special Committee will desire to obtain information will be as to the source of the complaint upon which the War Office representation is founded. I have had an opportunity of consulting the Convener and Vice-Convener of the County who desire me to say that they think it only reasonable that, if the constitution or action of a Tribunal is objected to, the Council, before proceeding to consider the complaint, should be put in possession of the fullest information as to the party or parties making the complaint and the grounds thereof, so that the Committee may be able to determine the weight which ought to be given to the complaint.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

County Clerk.

The Under-Secretary for Scotland,
Scottish Office,
Whitehall,
S.W. 1,
LONDON.

Deer District Tribunal Dispute March - October 1917

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2

ENZIE & WILSON,
ADVOCATES.
120, MACKENZIE
1, A. WILSON.
TELEPHONE No. 1158.

14 CROWN STREET,
ABERDEEN.

9th Febr., 1916.

Wm. Murison, Esq.,
County Clerk.

County Clerks Office
10 FEB 1916
ABERDEEN

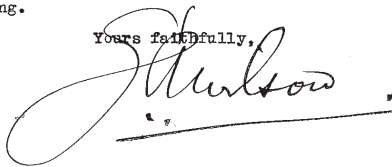
Dear Sir,

West Aberdeenshire Recruiting. - Huntly District

In view of the Meeting of the County Council convened for Friday for the purpose of appointing Tribunals for the disposal of cases under the Military Service Act, I am sending you herewith -

- (1) Copy of a letter from Captain Medhurst, Local Military Representative, and Mr. H. E. Spence, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, to the Recruiting Officer.
- (2) Copy of Letter to Lord Derby, and
- (3) Particulars of 2 cases referred to in their communications.

Apparently there is a strong feeling in Huntly that the present Tribunal is somewhat prejudiced in favour of the Agricultural interests, and that the Military interest is as a consequence suffering.

Yours faithfully,


Letter from G. A. Wilson, Advocate,
concerning the alleged prejudice of the
Huntly District Military Service Tribunal in
favour of agricultural interests, 9 February
1916

Case 1

A. Fitchie,
Farmer, Pittens - Cairney, By Huntly.

Asked exemption for a son where another son of 19 and a hired man of 19 are employed, both unattested, in addition to himself who is quite capable of working.
The farm is 140 acres arable, with no special feature.

The Advisory Committee considered that the farm could be worked with one man less and in any case that three young men of military age should not be engaged there. They decided that one of them should enlist and suggested that a man or boy should be employed instead, if necessary.

The son, being the only one attested, was therefore refused the application that he should be treated as a starred man.

Decision.

The Local Tribunal recommend that the applicant be dealt with as though he had been starred on the ground that in their opinion he is indispensable to his employer - because first he attends to the working of an oil engine and machinery and second that he is his employer's chief ploughman.

Comment.

The oil engine was not mentioned to the Advisory Committee but they do not consider this makes the claim for exemption any stronger.

Particulars of 2 claims for exemption from military service in Huntly District, with the decision of the Tribunal and comments of the Military Advisors relating to these, January 1916

Case 2.

A. Grant,
Farmer, Rivestone, Cairney, By Huntly.

Asked exemption for a son, chiefly occupied in milking cows.

The Advisory Committee considered that the farm was over-staffed and that a woman should be engaged to milk cows, so as to set this farmer's son at liberty to join the Army.
The acreage of the farm is 173 acres arable - 76/40 cows kept.
The farmer is able to work and he has on the farm also two sons and two hired men, all except one being of military age, besides a daughter, daughter-in-law, domestic servant and the wife of a hired man, all living on the farm.

Decision.

The Local Tribunal decided that they unanimously recommended that the applicant should be dealt with as though he had been starred on the ground that he is indispensable to the carrying on of the dairy as a business of essential domestic importance.
It was admitted by applicant that no attempt had been made to replace the son.

Objection and Exemption

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2

HUNTLY,
28th. January, 1916.

Capt. Elsmie,
Recruiting Officer,
ABERDEEN.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Huntly Advisory sub-committee of which we are respectively the Military representative and Chairman, we beg to lay before you the following facts and ask you to forward this communication to the proper quarter so that we may receive at the earliest possible moment a ruling in connection with the following matter.

We have recently had before us several claims for exemption by workers connected with the farming industry and after giving these claims our careful consideration we unanimously decided in some cases that the evidence adduced did not justify the exemption of these men from military service.

In the two cases submitted, the local tribunal has reversed our decision, entirely disregarding arguments of the military representative.

We wish to impute bias to no man but we desire to call attention to the fact that the Local Tribunal is composed exclusively of men interested in or connected with the farming industry - against this the advisory committee has as its members a manufacturer, a solicitor, two farmers and a veterinary surgeon thoroughly acquainted with/

Huntly,
28th. January, 1916.

Capt. Elsmie (contd)

with the district, thus designedly forming an unprejudiced a committee as could be arranged.

Our instructions urge upon us to bear in mind in every case the necessity of securing men for the Forces except where the men in question are engaged in work of National importance.

We have endeavoured to do this in every case devoting much time to careful investigation of circumstances and personally interviewing the men and we beg to submit that unless we can be assured of the same impartiality and care on the part of the Local Tribunal in their consideration of our decisions, our work is nullified.

We therefore ask the favour of an early ruling with regard to the cases in question as the members of our committee are agreed on the uselessness of devoting so much time and attention to this work in connection with agricultural cases, so long as there is such an apparent divergence of opinion between the Advisory Committee and the Local Tribunal as to the point where a man ceases to be indispensable in his civil employment.

We are calling attention to these points at once in accordance with (procedure) paragraph 7.

*H. Medhurst, Capt
6th Gordon H. Coys
Henry B. Spence,
Chairman*

Letter from the Military Advisors for Huntly District to the Aberdeenshire Area Recruiting Officer regarding an alleged bias of the Huntly District Military Service Tribunal, 28 January 1916

Copy of letter to Lord Derby.

My Lord,

RECRUITING.

We herewith enclose for Your Lordship's consideration

- (1) Copy of letter forwarded to Captain Elsmie.
- (2) Particulars of two claims by Agricultural Labourers to be treated as "starved" men, upon which the ruling of the Military Representative has not been upheld by the Local District Tribunal.

The decision in these cases will have considerable weight not only in this district but in similar agricultural constituencies and an early judgment is respectfully requested to enable us to proceed with our duties, otherwise Recruiting will be greatly hampered thereby.

We are,

Your Lordship's obedient servants,
*H. Medhurst
H. B. Spence*

Letter from the Military Advisors for the Huntly District to Lord Derby requesting judgement from him on the situation regarding the alleged bias of the Huntly District Military Service Tribunal, January 1916

Objection and Exemption

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

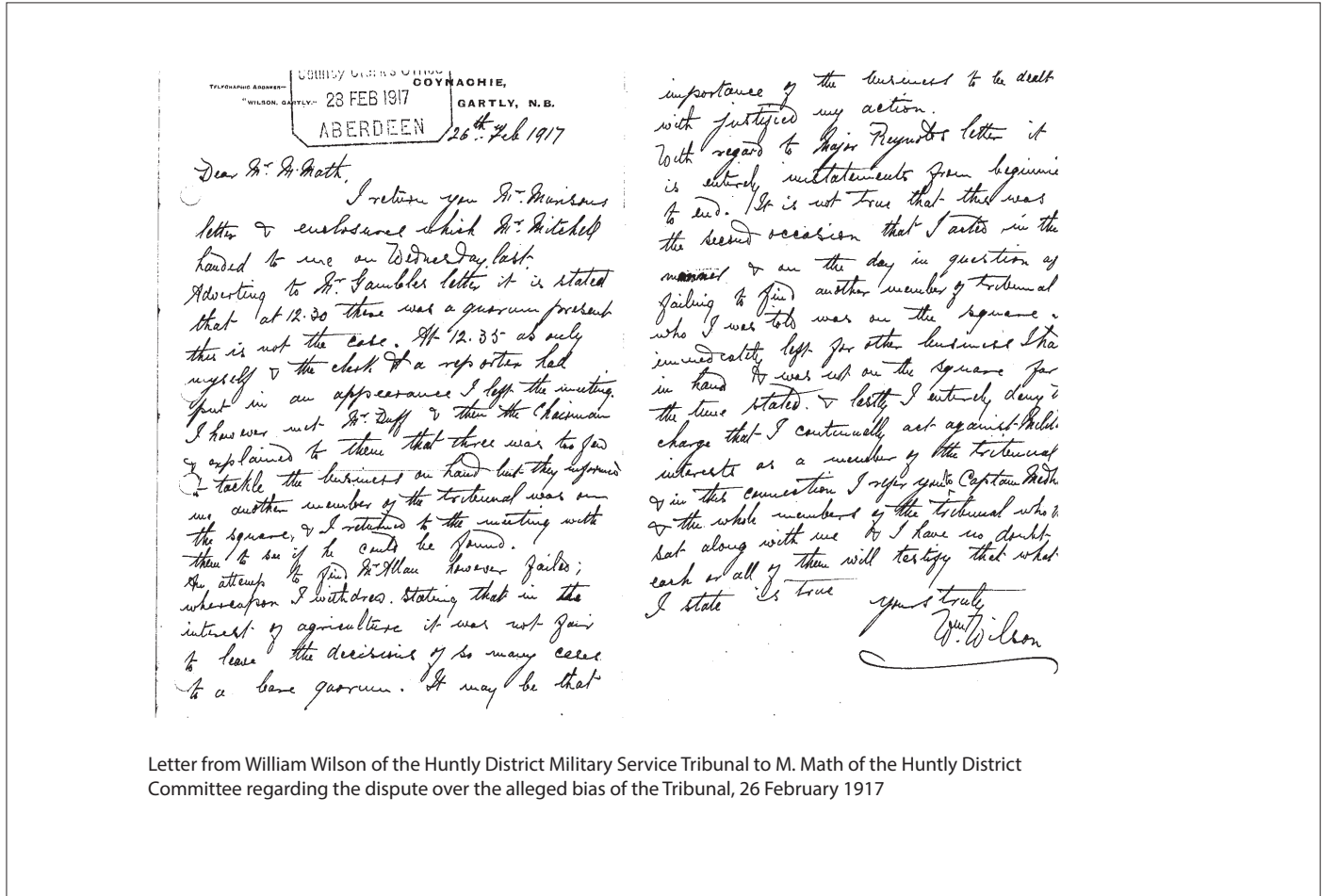
Bundle 2

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>William Murison, Esq., County Clerk, County Buildings, A B E R D E E N.</p> <p><i>Huntly</i> 27th. February 1917.</p> <p>County Clerk's Office 23 FEB 1917 ABERDEEN</p> <p>HUNTLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE.</p> <p>Dear Sir,</p> <p><u>Local Tribunal.</u></p> <p>I refer to your letter to me of 19th. inst: with relative enclosures, all of which I communicated to Mr. Wilson. Enclosed is his reply.</p> <p>My assistant has all along attended to the work of the Local Tribunal, and it was he who was present at the meeting referred to. He states that certainly at 12.30 p.m. a quorum had not assembled, Mr. Wilson being actually the only member present. He (Mr. Wilson) waited for a few minutes and, as still no other member put in an appearance, he proceeded to leave the Council Chamber where the meetings are held. He met Mr. Duff, another member, just in the door of the room and returned with him, stating that as Mr. Sellar, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Davidson, all members of the Local Tribunal, were in the South, he thought, unless more than a bare quorum could be got, no meeting should be held, as he was of opinion that three was not a sufficient number to adjudicate on the cases down for decision; and gave utterance to the expression "that he would not sit as one of three." The Military Representative had arrived in the interval and/</p> <p><i>M.M.</i></p> <p>(page 1)</p> | <p>-2-</p> <p><i>Huntly</i> 27th. February 1917.</p> <p>HUNTLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE.</p> <p>and almost immediately (say 12.37) Mr. Milne, the chairman, turned up. Mr. Wilson repeated his previously expressed view that he would not sit with three only. Mr. Milne and Mr. Duff both reminded Mr. Wilson that three was a quorum, and pointed out to him the loss of time and inconvenience to which applicants would be put if they were asked to attend another meeting. He, however, adhered to his opinion, and it was then suggested that an effort might be made to secure the services of Mr. Robert Allan, the only other member of the Tribunal in Huntly that day. Mr. Wilson stated that if he (Mr. Allan) could be found, he was quite willing to proceed with the business. The Military Representative accordingly went in search of Mr. Allan, but returned in about ten minutes and reported that he had failed to find him. Mr. Wilson then left the building, and the applicants, of whom there were over twenty present, were informed by Mr. Milne that as Mr. Wilson had refused to act, the meeting would have to be adjourned. The cases, it may be stated, were entirely agricultural. So far, for what actually happened regarding the failure to constitute the Tribunal on the date in question. As the matter is evidently of importance/</p> <p><i>M.M.</i></p> <p>(page 2)</p> |
| <p><i>Huntly</i> 27th. February 1917.</p> <p>HUNTLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE.</p> <p>importance, I have thought it right to go into the incident in detail.</p> <p>With regard to Major Reynold's letter of date 23rd. ulto: I am afraid he must have been misinformed regarding his first point. Mr. Wilson never acted in this way on any previous occasion. As to the statement that Mr. Wilson spent "from an hour to an hour and a half on the Square" after having declined to act, I cannot, of course, speak, as I have no knowledge. I can affirm, however, that Mr. Wilson is not the type of man to spend anything like that time on the Square of Huntly without cause.</p> <p>And lastly, I do not think it can seriously be said that Mr. Wilson has "continually acted against military interests". No doubt, he has, from time to time, strongly protested in a general way against depleting agricultural labour in view of the Government's recommendation as to increased food production, but in this he was not alone, and his views in this respect did not prevent him from judging each individual case on its merits. To assert that he has "continually/</p> <p><i>M.M.</i></p> <p>(page 3)</p> | <p>-4-</p> <p><i>Huntly</i> 27th. February 1917.</p> <p>HUNTLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE.</p> <p>"continually acted against military interests" is, to say the least of it, an exaggeration.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, <i>R.M. Math</i> Clerk.</p> <p>P.S. I may say that I have submitted this letter to Mr. Milne, Mr. Duff and my assistant, and they all approve of its terms.</p> <p><i>M.M.</i></p> <p>(page 4)</p> |
| <p>Letter from Huntly District Committee to the Aberdeen County Clerk regarding the dispute over the alleged bias of the Huntly District Military Service Tribunal, 27 February 1917</p> | |

Objection and Exemption

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Bundle 2



Letter from William Wilson of the Huntly District Military Service Tribunal to M. Math of the Huntly District Committee regarding the dispute over the alleged bias of the Tribunal, 26 February 1917