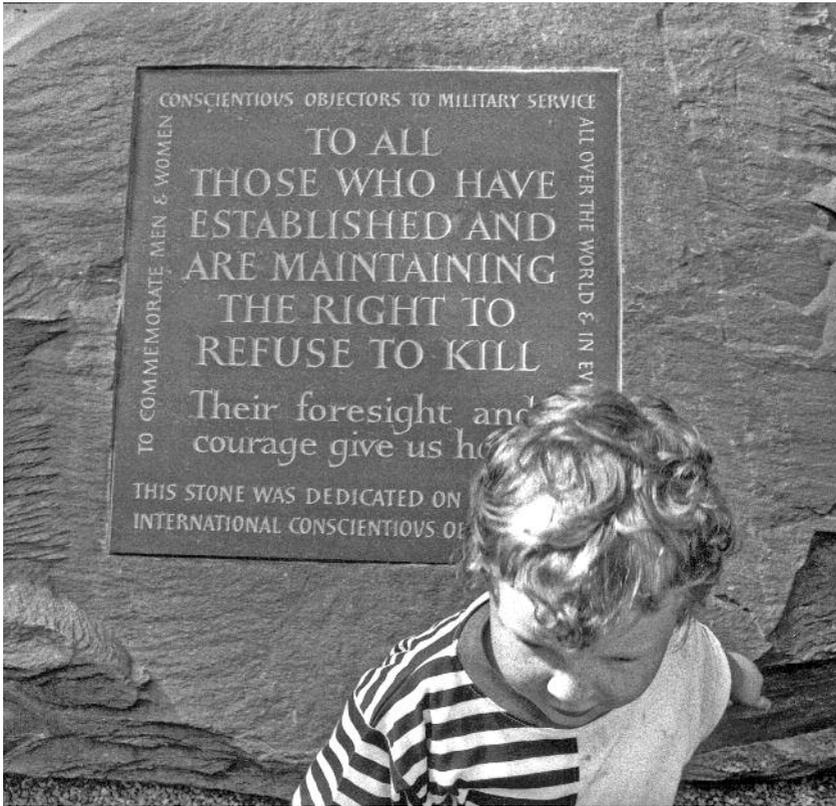


international  
conscientious objectors day  
**15 MAY 2014**



FIRST WORLD WAR **PEACE** FORUM

## First World War Peace Forum

Conscience [www.conscienceonline.org.uk](http://www.conscienceonline.org.uk)

Fellowship of Reconciliation [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)

Network for Peace [www.networkforpeace.org.uk](http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk)

Pax Christi [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

Peace News [www.peaceneews.info](http://www.peaceneews.info)

Peace Pledge Union [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk)

Quaker Peace and Social Witness [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

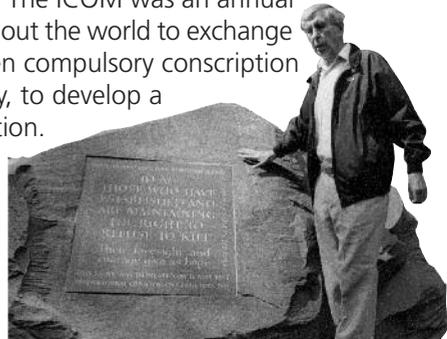
Right to Refuse to Kill group [www.rrk.freeuk.com](http://www.rrk.freeuk.com)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom [www.ukwilpf.org](http://www.ukwilpf.org)

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The International Conscientious Objectors' Day was initiated by the International Conscientious Objectors' Meeting (ICOM). The ICOM was an annual meeting of COs and their supporters held throughout the world to exchange ideas and offer solidarity. In 1985, at a time when compulsory conscription was still commonplace, it decided to use 15 May, to develop a sharper focus for action on conscientious objection.

The Conscientious Objectors Stone here in Tavistock Square, London was unveiled 20 years ago on May 15 1994 by Sir Michael Tippett, Peace Pledge Union President and a one time conscientious objector. Events have been held on May 15th for many years.



## **International Conscientious Objectors' Day Ceremony**

12 noon Thursday 15 May 2014

Tavistock Square, London

### **PROGRAMME**

#### **Speakers**

Sam Walton, Quaker Peace and Social Witness

Mary Dobbing, peace activist from Bristol, whose grandfather was a conscientious objector in the First World War

Christine Schweitzer, War Resisters' International and activist in the German peace movement.

Lord John Maxton, a conscientious objector whose father and uncle were conscientious objectors in the First World War

#### **Song**

The Ones who said No - led by members of the gospel choir of Maria Fidelis School, Camden. Please join in verses as indicated in the booklet.

#### **Naming of First World War Conscientious Objectors**

by someone from each CO's family, and laying of flowers at the CO memorial

#### **Flowers will then be laid in honour of:**

all the COs of the First World War

all COs of every time and place

individual COs whom those present wish to commemorate

#### **Silence**

#### **Final Song**

We Shall Overcome - sung by the choir from Maria Fidelis School

#### **Credits:**

The First World War Peace Forum wishes to thank

Karen Gibson and colleagues who direct the gospel choir of Maria Fidelis School, and the students for coming to lead the singing today.

Camden Council for making Tavistock Square available for this ceremony each year.

Extreme Sounds Event Production for providing the sound system, and to members of the NUT who made donations towards the cost of this.

Richenda Barbour and family for providing flowers.

## **The ones who said No**

Ask people what are their hopes for the future,  
likelihood is they will say they want peace,  
sadly deplore all the world's many conflicts,  
look for a time when they finally cease.  
Yet these same people will talk of past glories,  
praise our brave armies with pride all aglow,  
lovers of peace praising fighters of battles,  
never a word for the ones who said No,  
never a word for the ones who said No.

When the call comes from their king and their country,  
most will relinquish the power to choose;  
high-sounding words urge them on towards duty,  
few are the people who dare to refuse.  
Yes, it takes courage to march into battle,  
go where authority tells you to go,  
whether as butchers or lambs to the slaughter:  
courage no less had the ones who said No,  
courage no less had the ones who said No.

### **verse 3 choir only**

One hundred years since the Great War was started,  
we can look back at what history tells.  
Some called for peace, but their voice was unheeded;  
millions were killed by the bullets and shells.  
Leaders today need to meet with each other,  
search for new ways peace and justice can grow,  
learn how to trust, and to lower their weapons,  
listen at last to the ones who said No,  
listen at last to the ones who said No.

Ask people what are their hopes for the future,  
likelihood is they will say they want peace,  
yet pin their faith upon weapons and armies,  
even as damage and danger increase.  
Look back to those who have dared to be different,  
over the world let their clear courage flow.  
Army unarmed, let it swell into millions.  
Cry Yes to peace with the ones who said No,  
cry Yes to peace with the ones who said No.

*Words and music by Sue Gilmurray*

There are believed to have been about 20,000 Conscientious Objectors in the First World War. Information about their lives and their experiences of resisting coercion by the state is fragmentary. In their struggle lie the origins of today's non-violent movement. In this centenary anniversary especially we should make every effort to foreground their struggle against war while also remembering those who continue to resist military conscription around the world. While many states have given up compulsory conscription it can easily make a comeback as in Ukraine today.

We have invited families of First World War COs to join us today and are pleased to share the stories of those whose relatives have been in contact and are able to attend. Some are included in this programme. If you have stories to share and would like your relative to be remembered in a new CO commemorative project let us know. [mail@co-project.org.uk](mailto:mail@co-project.org.uk)

### WALTER ROBERTS

Walter Leslie Roberts (1895-1916), Bredbury, Cheshire, was an architectural student and socialist. Refused CO recognition, he was imprisoned at Wormwood Scrubs and Bedford, before accepting the Home Office Scheme at Dyce quarry, Aberdeenshire. In the heavy rain of late summer 1916 he developed a cold turning to pneumonia, so that he had to dictate his last letter to his parents and died in his leaky tent; too weak to be moved to hospital. His death led to the closure of the camp, and his is one of 70 names on the WW1 CO Plaque in the PPU office.



### A. HERBERT DOBBING



Alfred Herbert Dobbing (1893-1970), Sunderland, County Durham, was a schoolteacher. After refusal by his tribunal of recognition as a CO, he was forcibly enlisted in the army and court-martialled for disobedience, serving three sentences in Newcastle and Durham prisons, with a brief period on the Home Office Scheme at Wakefield Work Centre. He went on to teach at Friends' School, Great Ayton, Yorkshire, for many years, and then was Principal of Brummana High School, Lebanon.

## JOHN RODKER



John Rodker (1894-1955), Whitechapel, London, was a Post Office clerk and radical socialist, writer, poet, translator and publisher; of Jewish immigrant background, he was one of the 'Whitechapel Boys', who included Mark Gertler and Stephen Winsten, also COs. He consistently refused co-operation with the authorities, twice going "on the run", but was imprisoned at Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth, and was briefly on the Home Office Scheme at Princetown Work Centre, Dartmoor.

## JOHN RICKMAN

John was studying to become a doctor at the outbreak of war in 1914. As a Conscientious Objector, his principles would not allow him to take life - only to save it. His experience would lead the Dorking Tribunal to grant him exemption from combatant service conditional on his working for the Friends' Ambulance Unit or Friends' War Victims Relief Service.

John would work for the duration of the war in Russia, travelling through Siberia during the civil war. After the war he was determined to continue saving lives, and would work in both the Emergency Medical Service and later the Royal Army Medical Corps.



## HUBERT PEET 1886 - 1951



Hubert Peet was a journalist and an Absolutist Conscientious Objector. As Secretary of the Friends Service Committee set up to support COs, Peet visited France briefly in 1916 and interviewed 13 of the men sentenced to death. By 1917, Hubert had been sent to the Army, had faced court martial and was sentenced to hard labour in prison. By his release in January 1919 he had served three sentences and more than two years.

He wrote in The Tribunal 'I have disobeyed and must disobey all military orders because of my conviction that all warfare, not merely killing, is wrong.'

## HUGO JACKSON



Hugo Harrison Jackson was a science teacher, born in Cheshire. He served in the Friends Ambulance Unit in Belgium and then France from 1915-1918. For some time he organised stores but pressed to be allowed to go out with the ambulances. While moving the sick and injured in Picardy in May 1918, his ambulance became caught in a rapidly shifting battlefield and was hit by a shell. The driver, Norman Gripper, was killed outright and Hugo did not survive the journey to the dressings station. He died on 27th May 1918 and is buried in the British cemetery at Vailly-sur-Aisne.

## BERT BROCKLESBY

Bert Brocklesby wrote extensively about his varied experiences as a Conscientious Objector. A school teacher from Conisbrough, he applied for exemption early in 1916 on religious grounds. He was given Non-Combatant service in the Army, which Bert found unacceptable. For refusing to obey military orders, he was sent to France where, along with 34 other COs, he would be sentenced to death. These sentences were commuted to ten years penal servitude as a result of political pressure exerted by CO supporters in Britain - alerted by a letter hastily written by Bert. He would be released from prison in April 1919, and go on to work with the Friends War Victims Relief Service in Austria and Russia.



## HAROLD WILD



Harold Wild was a committed pacifist who worked with the No Conscription Fellowship and Independent Labour Party throughout the war. In 1916, after refusing to obey a Tribunal order to report for non-combatant military service he was arrested during a police raid on the NCF offices in Manchester, fined and handed over to the army. There, it was revealed that he was unfit for service due to hip displacement, but had been determined to make his stand for peace before the Tribunal. In 1974 he would write to his daughter, stating simply: 'Looking back over the years, I do not feel that I could have taken any other stand than I did.'

### **ELEAZOR "DIL" THOMAS 1885 - 1961**

Dil Thomas was a committed socialist and pacifist Conscientious Objector. His Grand-daughter writes: "his motives were never religious. They were driven by a view that war was waged on behalf of the upper classes to preserve the privileges of the rich, or defending empires which could be exploited". After refusing to obey military orders at Kinmel Camp, he faced Court Martial and was sentenced to prison, spending two months in Wormwood Scrubs before being sent to the Home Office Scheme camp on Dartmoor. After the war his family faced ostracism. Dil went on to serve his local community as a member of Neath Town Council for over twenty years.



### **FRANK SUNDERLAND**



Frank Thomas Sunderland lived in Letchworth, Herts. He was 36 when called up in 1916, but his initial application for exemption was unsuccessful and he was given exemption from Non-Combatant Service only. He was sent to prison where he would remain, serving three sentences and more than two years in total, being released in April 1919. He wrote many letters to his wife, Lucy.

His words resonate strongly today: 'Peace and love alone are enduring and will ultimately conquer for they are forces of construction and although today, in the mad turmoil of force, peace and love seem out of place yet they are quietly working and will emerge stronger than ever.'

### **CORDER CATCHPOOL**



in prison.

Corder Catchpool has an unusual CO story. A dedicated Quaker living in Wanstead, he volunteered to join the Friends Ambulance Unit almost immediately at the outbreak of war. When Conscription was introduced in 1916, however, Corder and a group of other FAU men were determined to show their opposition by returning to Britain as Conscientious Objectors. Corder famously wore his Mons medal at his Tribunal hearing - but to no avail. Refusing alternative service, by the beginning of 1919 he had gone through the cycle of release, re-arrest and imprisonment four times, serving over two years

## NORMAN MONK-JONES



Norman Monk Jones was a Quaker Conscientious Objector from the Croydon area. The Croydon Tribunal granted him exemption from Combatant service provided that he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit - a decision that Norman had suggested. He arrived in the overseas headquarters of the FAU in Dunkirk in December 1916 and was posted to the French sector, near Rheims. By mid 1918, Norman's FAU section was working virtually on the front lines, moving French and German wounded equally to field hospitals to receive treatment. After the war, in a punitive measure for being a CO, Dulwich College (his old school) withdrew his scholarship to Oxford – though Merton College would have had him back. He became a teacher.

## WILLIAM JOHNSON

William Edwards Johnson was a Conscientious Objector from Dunham Massey in Cheshire. In the lead up to the outbreak of war William considered officially joining the Society of Friends, but was concerned that it would seem he was "taking shelter" with a well known anti-war group - a situation that many COs found themselves in during the war. He argued strongly for his right to object to war at his Tribunal in mid 1916 and successfully obtained leave to work for the Friends' War Victims Relief Service, beginning in February 1917 with work in France. Two of his children, Ken and Brenda, would work in the FVRS in the Second World War.



## JAMES ASHWORTH



James Ashworth (1886-1963), Rawtenstall, Lancs, worked in the shoe industry, cutting out shoe uppers from leather, and was on the local executive of the Boot, Shoe & Slipper Operatives Union. His tribunal allowed him CO exemption from military service conditional on doing farm work at least 20 miles from home, and he found work at a farm near Clitheroe, Lancs. In January 1917 he acted as agent for imprisoned fellow CO, Albert Taylor, standing in a Parliamentary by-election as a 'Peace by Negotiation' candidate and receiving 1000 votes. After WW1 he set up a company making

packing cases for exporting locally produced goods.

### **NORMAN GAUDIE**

Norman Gaudie (1887-1954), East Bolton, County Durham, was a railway clerk and Congregationalist. Refused CO recognition, he was held by the army at Richmond Castle before being taken to France, where a court-martial formally sentenced him to death for disobedience, but immediately announced commutation to 10 years penal servitude, served at Winchester, Leeds, Maidstone and Wakefield, before early release in 1919. In happier times he was a noted footballer; his son Martyn was a WW2 CO.



### **ARNOLD WHIPP**



A 20 year old salesman in 1916, Whipp was living in Manchester and had joined the No-Conscription Fellowship. Refusing to join the Non Combatant Corps, he spent a period in Wormwood Scrubs before being sent under the Home Office Scheme to Warwick Work Centre, and then Dartmoor.

### **HAROLD GOUNDRY CLARK**

Harold Goundry Clark (b 1897), Darlington, County Durham, was a Quaker, educated at Friends' School, Bootham, York. He volunteered for work with the Friends' War Victims' Relief Service early in WW1, and in 1916 was allowed CO exemption from military service conditional on continuing with the work, although he transferred for a period to the Friends' Ambulance Unit, working on a hospital train in France.



## WILFRID LITTLEBOY



Wilfrid Ernest Littleboy (b 1885), Bournville, Birmingham, was an accountant and Quaker. Offered by his tribunal only non-combatant service within the army, he refused, and was imprisoned at Wormwood Scrubs and Dorchester. He reported in 1917, "good health and spirits, and much peace and joy in prison and growing confidence in the future triumph of righteousness ... Hugh Gibbins [fellow CO from Birmingham] is with me and it is good to be able to compare notes."

## WILLIAM SAUNDERS

William Saunders from Radcliffe was 28 when he was first arrested, tried and fined 40/- for being unwilling to put on a uniform. Still unwilling to participate in the military he spent the rest of the war in and out of prisons up and down the country serving terms of hard labour. Obviously an inspiration to his son Donald who also became a conscientious objector in the Second World War.



## PERCY JOHN MORRIS



Percy Morris was a Conscientious Objector from Hampstead, London. He applied for exemption in early 1916 and was turned down, instead being assigned to the Non-Combatant Corps; like many other COs, Percy felt this was unacceptable. When sent to the NCC, he disobeyed military orders and faced Court Martial. His principled stand would see him sentenced to prison four times, being finally released after nearly three years in April 1919.

Philip Morris writes: 'He was part of a prisoners' labour gang at Seaford, Sussex. Strange that he should have chosen to retire to Seaford in the 1960's.'

### WILLIAM WHELDON

William Marshall Wheeldon (1892-1937), Derby, was a school-teacher and socialist. He was dismissed by Derby Education Committee because of his CO stand, Refused recognition as a CO, he was imprisoned at Derby, Wormwood Scrubs, Durham and Wakefield. After WW1 he was refused reinstatement as a teacher and sought a new life in Russia, working for the Friends' War Victims' Relief Service in 1923; he took Soviet citizenship, entering government service as a translator in 1929, but in 1937 was arrested in Stalin's purge and summarily executed.



### HARRY DICKS WHITFIELD



Harry (aka Henry) Dicks Whitfield (1891-1970), Leicester, was a builder. Refused recognition as a CO, he was imprisoned at Wormwood Scrubs, but then allowed to join the Home Office Scheme. A lifelong peace-loving vegetarian, he ran a vegetarian hotel from the 1920s to the 1940s, and later worked in property development, renovating old houses for re-use.

### JOHN FLANAGAN

John William Flanagan (1891-1941), Bradford, Yorks, worked in the textile trade, being shop steward for the National Society of Dyers. Although his tribunal castigated him as a "coward" for applying for exemption as a socialist committed to international brotherhood, they allowed his employers' application for his exemption as a key worker. He went on to be a City councillor in Bradford for 20 years, where the minutes record that he "left his impress, his moral direction, his political guidance and general uplift in the hearts and bodies of the men and women of Bradford".



## TOM ATTLEE



An architect, lecturer, and member of the Independent Labour Party who was politically active in Poplar where Kathleen, his wife, was the first woman councillor. When war broke out it was his Christian beliefs that led him to refuse to take up arms. He was supported by the No Conscription Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation and refused non-combatant service. He was arrested and imprisoned, first in Wormwood Scrubs and later in Wandsworth Gaol, from January 1917 to April 1919. A younger brother, Clem, enlisted during the First World War and became Prime Minister after

the Second.

## CORNELIUS BARRITT

From a family of Quaker farmers near Colchester, Cornelius worked for Barclays Bank in London. As an absolutist he was imprisoned in Felixstowe and Harwich and shipped to France in May 1916. He described living with 12 men to a cell infested with rats, enduring the notorious 'crucifixion' field punishment, being kept in irons and on bread and water. He was sentenced to be shot, this commuted to ten years' penal servitude. Sent to Dyce Camp near Aberdeen without having agreed to do 'work of national importance', he deserted, was arrested on a walking tour of Yorkshire, and then imprisoned in Maidstone. He later emigrated to farm in Australia.



## JOE BRETT



Socialist, unskilled labourer, atheist, and pacifist for political reasons. Joe was imprisoned in 1916, in Dartmoor and Wakefield, and believed most strongly in Tom Paine's 'The world is my country, all men are my brothers, to do good is my religion'. Aged 22 when arrested, he lived in Deptford with his family, who then moved to Brompton to escape their neighbours' derision. Joe only found one job after the war and, when he ran out of unemployment insurance, was sent to a government Labour Camp. Married and with two children, poverty continued to blight their lives.

### **RODERIC KENDALL CLARK (1884–1937)**

His job as an export merchant allowed Roderic to take part in many voluntary activities as a Young Quaker. In 1914 he assisted in drafting the call for Christian Pacifism widely circulated to young men of military age. A member of FOR and of the No Conscription Council, he trained volunteers at Jordans for Quaker relief work in Britain and Europe. Called up in 1916, he was initially granted unconditional exemption, however this was rescinded on appeal. Five subsequent Court Martials resulted in imprisonment for 2½ years in total before his release in April 1919.



### **JAMES DARLING (1894 -1995)**



Although James Darling completed a 7-year apprenticeship with the Bacon Map company, he was never given his certificate because he registered as a CO. An absolutist, court martialled at Wormwood Scrubs, he served prison sentences there, at Wandsworth (18 months) and Dartmoor (over two years) where he was allowed to do his own work as an artist and designer to support his mother.

After living in Canada and working on the Cape Times in South Africa, he returned to the UK because of ill health, and settled with his family in Sussex. He lived to be 101.

### **ARTHUR GROVES**

Arthur was born in 1899, came from Derby and was called up in 1917. He was imprisoned in Derby, went to Wakefield under the Home Office Scheme, and then Dartmoor. He worked as a stoker in the prison foundry in 1918.



### **GEORGE GROVES**

The older brother of Arthur, George was a clerk aged 23 in 1916. He objected to fighting on religious grounds, refused to comply, and was imprisoned in Derby then transferred to Wakefield.

### **FREDERICK C. GILLMAN (1898-1987)**



Freddie was son of Frederick J. Gillman, private secretary to Quaker MP Arnold Rowntree, who helped set up the FAU and worked in Parliament to protect the interests of COs. Freddie was accepted as a CO in 1917 and served with the FAU. He kept a diary of his experiences in a motor ambulance convoy attached to the French Army (Section Sanitaire Anglaise 19). He was awarded the Croix de Guerre for bravery. After the war he worked in journalism. He was a press officer with the RAFVR in WW2 and then Chief Press and Information Officer with BOAC.

### **GEOFFREY EDWARD HICKS (1885-1962)**

Woodcarver and Communist. Conscripted in 1916 whilst living in Burgess Hill, refused to join up, arrested and attached to the Eastern Non-combatant Corps, Sent via Harwich to France, refused to obey orders, court martialled in June 1916, sentenced to death, commuted to ten years penal servitude, returned to England to Wormwood Scrubs, thence to Dyce work camp, (he features in the much reproduced group picture taken at Dyce, centre row, right hand side), Eventually released in 1920 from Warwick Gaol.



### **WILLIAM HODGE (1894-1992)**



Hodge came from the Gorbals district of Glasgow, son of a fishmonger. He valued his education and became a supporter of both Fenner Brockway and John MacLean, formative figures in the socialist and anti-war movement in Britain. Aged 20, by 1914 Hodge was already committed politically, and although not a total pacifist, regarded the war as a contest between imperialist nations over territory and power. As a CO he was imprisoned in Perth, Edinburgh and Wakefield, spending his last period of confinement working on the plantation of trees around Loch Awe in Scotland – an enduring

memorial to CO endeavours.

### **ALBERT GEORGE LAWRENCE (1897–1979)**

Albert was the youngest of six children from a second marriage and before the war he worked in his father's grocery business in Thaxted, Essex. From there he was called up and directed at his tribunal to agricultural work near Norwich. At this time he had some contact with Friends and later, with his wife and others, founded today's Bedford Quaker Meeting. During the Second World War he undertook fire watching, worked in a food shop as well as running his own newsagents.



### **BERNARD G. LAWSON (1894-1979)**



War interrupted Bernard Lawson's promising career as a young businessman. His brothers joined the navy and army but, supported by his minister at Palmers Green Congregational church, Bernard took his stand as a Christian pacifist. He was granted exemption as long as he joined Friends Ambulance Unit. In July 1916 he began work in France on Ambulance Train 11 which carried up to 500 injured soldiers per journey from casualty stations near the Front to the coast. Discharged in 1919, he did post-war relief work in Austria and then worked for 37 years in the British Quaker international service

organisations.

### **FRANCIS MEYNELL**

'On August 4, 1914, the War. To me it was the confrontation of two equally culpable imperialisms at the expense of the common man on both sides...' wrote the poet and publisher, Sir Francis Meredith Wilfrid Meynell. In 1916 with fellow Catholic, socialist and conscientious objector Stanley Morrison, Francis formed the 'Guild of the Pope's Peace' to publicise Pope Benedict XV's appeals to stop the fighting: 'dishonouring Europe and humanity'. Francis was eventually discharged from the army after collapsing from a hunger and thirst strike lasting nine days. He founded the Nonesuch Press in 1922, became an atheist and championed antifascist causes.



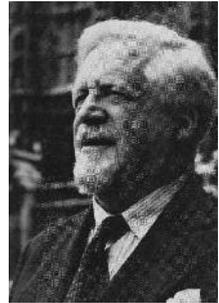
## EMMANUEL RIBEIRO



Emmanuel Ribeiro was a silver engraver living in Manchester and father of (eventually) eight children. Aged 35 in 1917, he was a Communist and absolutist CO who refused all co-operation with conscription to the point of going on hunger strike repeatedly in barracks and prison. He was force fed in Warrington and 155 times in Wormwood Scrubs during a hunger strike lasting nearly three months. Questions about his condition were asked in Parliament on several occasions and reported in the press. Eventually he was released on health grounds in June 1918 'still refusing to eat'.

## SYDNEY SILVERMAN

Sydney Silverman was the son of Jewish immigrants. He was a very bright and principled young man who objected to the war on political grounds (he was a socialist). He spent some years in jail for his stand. Subsequently he became a lawyer and then Labour MP for Nelson and Colne, a seat he held from 1935 until his death in 1968. He was instrumental in passing a Bill to abolish the death penalty. He wasn't a pacifist. As president of the World Jewish Congress he lobbied strongly for the Americans to bomb train lines running to concentration camps.



## MALCOLM SPARKES (1881-1933)



A maker of architectural woodwork from Rochdale, social reformer and CO sentenced to 23 months hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth prisons. On 30.4.1918 Lord Parmoor, quoted in Hansard, said: '...Mr Malcolm Sparkes, who is really the author of the much praised Whitley Report [on the Relations of Employers and Employees]...is a writer and investigator of great eminence, and even while in prison has been consulted by the Government in reference to this report... He has already suffered 16 months of solitary confinement in prison. We are not so rich in men of that

kind that we can afford to waste them in such a manner'.

### HAROLD STEELE

At Exeter University Steele was most annoyed at being offered his degree if he enlisted. 'My protest against the 1914 war... was based 1) on my wholehearted belief that ONLY in seeking to implement the teaching of Jesus... would men find the best way to live happy, worthwhile, good lives. 2) on my firm conviction that Socialism... was to be the economic, social form or expression, of living the religious life of a citizen of that kingdom of God... Christianity and Socialism forbade any resort to war.' Court martialled five times, sentenced to 7 years with Hard Labour, Steele served most of his time in Maidstone Prison, and was released from Preston in April 1919.



### ANDREW E.C. WHITE



In his Presbyterian youth White won trophies for marksmanship and joined the Boys Brigade. When his Glasgow firm transferred him to London he became involved with Quakers, joining in social activities such as rambling, and the Adult Schools movement. Married and living in Kilmarnock, he refused a job with Nobel's Explosive Works because of its military application. He started the local branch of the No-Conscription Fellowship and, though working in the essential building trade, claimed exemption as a CO. Under the 'cat and mouse' system he served four prison sentences lasting over two years,

and was released in 1919.

### GEORGE EDWARD ALBON

Albon was 20 in 1916, and lived in Edmonton. He worked for the Post Office and was a member of the Union of Post Office Workers and also of the No-Conscription Fellowship. After his appeal as a CO was dismissed he was sent to Wormwood Scrubs, then Dyce Camp, and Dartmoor. In the 1930s he became a councillor in Edmonton on the Library, Education, and Finance committees. He was Chairman of the Peace Pledge Union branch in Edmonton. When Edmonton became a borough he was the last Council Chairman, not being interested in mayoral robes.



## EUGENE CECIL BEMAN



Beman was born in January 1881 at Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, and died in 1958 in Devon. He spent the first decade of the 20th century in Islington, London, where he married and had a son, George. When he was called up in 1918 he was working as an electrical engineer. Refusing to comply with conscription, he was arrested, sentenced to 6 months hard labour and sent to Wormwood Scrubs. His convictions stood the test of time and even near the end of his life he tried to convince the younger members of his family to become pacifists.

## THOMAS BROWNUTT

Thomas Brownutt was living in Edmonton (like his future brother-in-law, George Albon, also a CO) when he was called up, aged 21, in 1916. He was a turner and fitter, trade unionist and member of the No-Conscription Fellowship. After adopting an absolutist position, he was imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth. By January 1919 he had served three sentences and spent more than two years in prison, and was finally released on medical grounds.



## ROLAND CAUDWELL



Born in 1880, Caudwell was in the army in South Africa during the Second Boer War (1899-1902) not fighting, but, because he was a farmer's son, assigned to look after the horses. By 1915 he had five children and had become a pacifist, based on Quaker beliefs. His conscientious objector status was accepted because farming was a reserved occupation. During the Depression he retrained as a carpenter and was for 30 years the Clerk of Abingdon Quaker meeting, and later an active member of the Baptist church. He lived to be over 100.

### JACK FOISTER

Recently graduated from Cambridge University, Jack Foister was working as a schoolteacher in Peterborough when conscription was introduced. He was one of the first batch of COs to be sentenced to death in France in May 1916. After the sentence was commuted he was sent to Dyce Camp in Aberdeenshire, and later Maidstone prison. After his release he went back to teaching maths at Caterham School until retirement.



### CHARLES LIGHTON



Lighton was an idealistic socialist involved in the ILP, and later an active Labour Party member. He grew up in Hackney, son of immigrant parents, studied science and became a research chemist. To avoid conscription he went camping and was found with friends, on the river in two well provisioned boats! He spent much of the war in Wakefield prison where the COs were able to produce plays. After a period of unemployment he became an organizing secretary for the Holiday Fellowship. Resuming his scientific career, he worked on the early development of colour photography and then for many

years at ICI paints division.

### ARTHUR EDGAR NEWBERY (1891-1966)

Newbery's father (also Arthur) was a prominent citizen in Reading and donated 'Arthur Newbery Park' to the town. When war came Arthur E. wanted to be involved in a capacity which didn't include killing people so, although not a Quaker himself, he worked in Friends Ambulance Unit from 1915 to 1919. Joining the family business (furniture shops) he eventually became a leading businessman running a company (Curwen and Newbery) making model railways, as well steam cars, such as the Doble. His daughter Olive was sent to a Quaker School where she met her future husband, Stephen Peet, son of another CO, Hubert Peet.



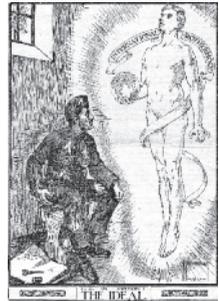
### ALFRED LLEWELYN ROBERTS



The Roberts brothers came from north Wales but the family moved to Bredbury near Stockport to enable their father to get work. Alfred had physical disabilities and would not have passed an army medical, however he chose to go before a tribunal as a CO. Though ordered to work on the land no farmer would employ him, so he came before the tribunal at least four times. After his brother Walter's death the authorities became nervous and, as Alfred put it, 'quietly forgot about me'. After the war he worked as a shop fitter and then an interior designer for a Manchester paint firm.

### FREDERICK KIMBER SALLAWAY

Born in London, but living in Blackburn at the time he was called up in 1917, aged 29, Sallaway was a devout Anglican and lay evangelist. His application for exemption was refused and he was sentenced to 2 years hard labour. After a period in Wormwood Scrubs in 1917 he was sent to Wakefield Work Centre, and only discharged in March 1920.



### LEONARD CRISP

Leaving school at 16, Crisp was attracted to journalism and became a youthful follower of Keir Hardie's socialism. He was a reporter in Reading when conscripted in 1916 and, believing that 'Thou shall not kill' was paramount, took the absolutist position. By 1919 he had served four sentences and more than two years in prison. Once this was known he lost a job on a Cardiff paper and, penniless, walked home to Reading. In 1920 he married and eventually found work in Newcastle. He won respect in Woolwich where he worked for many years editing the Kentish Independent and served on Woolwich Council of Social Service.



### **HUBERT EUGENE POLLARD (1893-1979)**

### **REGINALD SIDNEY POLLARD (1890-1982)**

The Pollard brothers were born in Scarborough, Yorkshire, and lived in Manchester. They were Quakers and both served with Friends Ambulance Unit between 1915 and 1919.

### **ARTHUR ROYLANCE (b.1899)**

Both brothers worked for their father in his painting and decorating business in Leeds. Arthur was a mechanical draughtsman when he followed William into the FAU in 1917.

### **WILLIAM ROYLANCE (b.1896)**

Served in FAU from 1915-1919 and was awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1918 for his work driving an ambulance repeatedly through heavy fire at the Somme.

### **EDWARD ARNOLD WALLIS (1880–1954)**

Arnold was working for his family firm of grocers, Wallis & Blakeley, in Scarborough, at the outbreak of the First World War. He chose to serve with Friends Ambulance Unit between 1915 and 1918, a natural consequence for him of having been born and brought up in a Quaker family and having a Quaker education. He married Gladys Gregson in 1918, having been engaged throughout the war years.



### **John and Frank Diamond**



John and Frank Diamond from Glasgow and members of the Independent Labour Party were both CO in the war. Picture shows John.

There was a vigorous women's peace movement during the First World War and a few representatives of it will be commemorated on International CO Day by their relatives.

**LUCY BIDDLE LEWIS** was one of the American delegates who travelled to the Women's Congress in The Hague in 1915 which founded the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Her daughter **LYDIA LEWIS RICKMAN**, a colleague of Jane Addams in Chicago, went as a social worker to Russia in 1917, where she met Dr John Rickman, the CO whom she married. Both women attended the 1919 conference of WILPF in Zurich.

**CATHERINE MARSHALL** was already an experienced political lobbyist for the suffrage movement when she became Honorary Secretary of the No-Conscription Fellowship. She ran the organisation when the male leaders were in prison and pressurised the government to reprieve the 35 COs sentenced to death in France.

William Wheeldon's mother **ALICE WHEELDON** and sisters **HETTIE** and **WINNIE** were socialist anti-war campaigners in Derby who joined the No Conscription Fellowship; for a time Hettie was the Secretary for the Derby branch. Alice provided a safe house for COs on the run. In 1917 the family was convicted on fabricated evidence of conspiring to poison the Prime Minister. Alice went on hunger strike in prison.

**The publications below are being re-issued on 15 May'**

Comrades in Conscience: The Story of an English Community's Opposition to the Great War . Cyril Pearce. Available at [www.francisboutle.co.uk](http://www.francisboutle.co.uk)

Objection overruled. David Boulton. Available from Quaker History Society

Refusing to Kill: Conscientious Objection and Human Rights in the First World War. Oliver Haslam. Available at <http://goo.gl/GIIrR9>

**ONLINE:**

Courage and Conscience available from Forum websites

The story of conscientious objection [www.coproject.org.uk/](http://www.coproject.org.uk/)

15 May 2014 INTERNATIONAL CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS' DAY



