



Feature: 90 years on – the records of military appeal tribunals

Military Service Tribunals

There were three types of Military Service Tribunals.

Local Tribunals were appointed by the Local Registration Authorities designated under the National Registration Act 1915 (effectively local burgh and city councils). They dealt with attested (voluntary servicemen) and non-attested (conscripted) applications. Recruiting officers or other military representatives were also entitled to attend any hearing and to question applicants.

Appeal Tribunals were appointed by the Crown, and in Scotland these were located within sheriffdoms. Any applicant refused exemption by the Local Tribunal, or dissatisfied with the type of exemption granted, had a right of appeal to it. Conversely military representatives or recruiting officers could appeal against the exemption granted to an applicant.

A Central Tribunal was appointed for the whole of Great Britain. Any person dissatisfied with a decision of an Appeal Tribunal could appeal to it, but only provided they were given leave to do so by the Appeal Tribunal. The Central Tribunal frequently took over cases in which conscientious objection was made by men who had already been called up. These records survive in The National Archives at Kew.