



**National Archives of Scotland**

**Military Appeals Tribunals**

**Archibald Brown Naysmith, 1916**

**Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records  
(Lothians and Peebles)**

**Reference HH30/1/1/6**

Archibald Brown Naysmith, a 20 year old postman from Musselburgh, appealed against his military service on grounds of conscientious objection to the war. His plea was dismissed.

A selection of images of documents on the appeal file (reference HH30/1/1/6) follows.

Transcribed extracts from the case papers can be viewed at <http://www.nas.gov.uk/about/081103.asp>.

Images of the original documents can be consulted in the National Archives of Scotland search rooms (<http://www.nas.gov.uk>).

HH30/1/1/6(1-8)

This form may be used by attested men and by men applying under the Military Service Act, 1916.

Name of Local Tribunal Musselburgh

No. 6 Number of Case

R.-43

### NOTICE OF APPEAL.

#### TO BE FILLED UP BY APPELLANT.

(The attached duplicate form must also be filled up and sent to the Local Tribunal with this form.)

1. Man in respect of whom appeal made. Archibald Brown Naysmith.
  - (a) Name (in full)
  - (b) Address (in full) 42 Lochend Road, Musselburgh
  - (c) Occupation, profession or business Postman (Established)
  - (d) Whether he is attested or not attested Not Attested.

2. Grounds on which appeal made. (These should be fully stated.)
 

*I appeal for Absolute Exemption because I am a Christian, and war is opposed to the spirit of Christianity: therefore I refuse to participate in any service directly connected therewith whether combatant or non-combatant, which interferes with freedom of conscience which I claim as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. (a) Signature of appellant A.B. Naysmith.

If appeal not made by the man—
- (b) Address of appellant
- (c) Occupation, profession, or business. (If military representative, state so.)
- (d) If appellant is not the military representative, why appellant acts for the man

Date March 2, 1916.

(S 5899) 190x 2/16 H & S

[P.T.O.]

.....Detach duplicate along this line.....

FOR LOCAL TRIBUNAL

4. Reasons for the decision of the Local Tribunal. (To be signed and dated.)

Refused: The Tribunal considered that Blaceman  
should be placed in Non-combatant's force.

Robert Miller Chairman

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FOR APPEAL TRIBUNAL

5. Decision. (To be signed and dated.)

Edinburgh 14: March 1916. The  
Appeal Tribunal Dismiss the  
appeal.

C Macmoeche  
Chairman

R-41

Name of Local Tribunal Musselburgh

Number of Case 2

# MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916.

## APPLICATION AS TO EXEMPTION.

(The attached duplicate must also be filled up by the Applicant.)

Any person making a false statement or false representation is liable to imprisonment.

1. Man in respect of whom application made:—

- (a) Name (in full) ... .. Archibald Brown Naysmith.
- (b) Age ... .. 20 yrs
- (c) Address (in full) ... .. 42 Lockhead Road,  
Musselburgh.
- (d) Occupation, profession or business (Give full and exact details)

Postman. (Established.)

2. If an employed person:—

- (a) Name of employer ... .. Postmaster General
- (b) Address (in full) ... .. G.P.O. London
- (c) Business ... ..

3. Ground on which application is made. [See footnote. It will be sufficient if the letter (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) (whichever is appropriate), is entered.]

(f)

4. Nature of application. (A certificate of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary. Also, a certificate granted on conscientious grounds may be for exemption from combatant service only, or may be conditional on the applicant being engaged in some work which, in the opinion of the Tribunal, is of national importance.)

Absolute Exemption.

Applications may be made:—

- (a) On the ground that it is expedient in the national interests that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged in other work in which he is habitually engaged; or
- (b) On the ground that it is expedient in the national interests that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged in other work in which he wishes to be engaged; or
- (c) If he is being educated or trained for any work, on the ground that it is expedient in the national interests that, instead of being employed in military service, he should continue to be so educated or trained; or
- (d) On the ground that serious hardship would ensue, if the man were called up for Army service, owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position; or
- (e) On the ground of ill-health or infirmity; or
- (f) On the ground of a conscientious objection to the undertaking of military service.

Application may also be made for exemption:—

- (g) On the ground that the principal and usual occupation of the man is one of those included in the list of occupations certified by Government Departments for exemption. The official list of the certified occupations may be consulted at the office of the Local Tribunal or of the recruiting officer.

An application may be made for the withdrawal or variation of any certificate of exemption by the holder of the certificate or by a military representative.

An appeal from the decision of the Local Tribunal lies to the Appeal Tribunal for the area.

[P.T.O.]

(S 5683) 250x. 2/16 H & S

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5. Reasons in support of the application. (These should be fully stated, and any documentary evidence in support of the application should be forwarded herewith.)

1. I am a Christian: and war is opposed to the spirit of Christianity: therefore I refuse to participate in any service directly connected therewith; whether combatant or non-combatant, which interferes with freedom of conscience which I claim as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. (a) Signature of person by whom application made *A.B. Naysmith*

(b) Address (if not already stated) ...

(c) Occupation, profession or business. (If not already stated. If applicant is the military representative, this should be stated.)

(d) If application not made by the man or his employer, or by the military representative, brief statement why application made by applicant for the man.

(e) Date of application *Feb 21 1916*

The form and the duplicate, when filled up, should be sent to the appropriate Local Tribunal This will be—

(a) the Local Tribunal for the area in which the place of employment or business is situated if the application is made on grounds wholly or mainly connected with the man's employment or business;

(b) in other cases, the Local Tribunal for the area in which the man resides.

#### FOR LOCAL TRIBUNAL.

7. Decision of the Tribunal. To be signed and dated. If exemption is granted it should be stated whether it is to be absolute, conditional (in which case the conditions to be entered on the certificate should be stated) or temporary (in which case the time for which the exemption is granted should be stated).

Refuse

(Sgd) James A. Hope Lieut Col

*Refused.* *Albert Miller Chairman*

CLAIM - A.B. NAYSMYTH.

This man would make a splendid soldier. He has a fine physique and just wants the nonsense knocked out of him. When the Tribunal's decision was given to him he walked out of the room in a towering rage and slammed the door after him, so that I think his "Christianity" is not very sincere! I think his appeal should be rejected.

*Samuel A. Hope*  
*S. Col.*

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42 Lockend Road,  
Musselburgh  
March-13-1916.

To the Clerk  
to the Appeal Tribunal,  
Edinburgh

Sir,

I enclose herewith, a statement of my  
case, which is to be considered by the Tribunal to-morrow, (Tuesday)

I shall endeavour to be present personally,  
(or) but whether or not, it may be read in either case

Thanking you for your services  
I am

Yours Sincerely  
A.B. Naysmith.

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