



National Archives of Scotland

Military Appeals Tribunals

Robert Gillon, 1916

Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles)

Reference HH30/2/1/42

Robert Gillon, butcher in Balerno, applied for absolute exemption from Military Service on grounds of being part of a certified occupation and of his importance to the local community. Furthermore, he highlighted that serious hardship would befall his mother, a widow, who would have to close their business if he was taken away from it. His appeal was dismissed.

A selection of images of documents on the appeal file (reference HH30/2/1/42) 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>).

HH342/1/42(1-5)
No. 241

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

Name of Local Tribunal Midlothian

Number of Case 141

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.
 - (a) Name (in full) Robert Gillon
 - (b) Address (in full) Balerno Midlothian
 - (c) Occupation, profession or business Butcher
 - (d) Whether he is attested or not attested Attested

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

Reference is respectfully made to the terms of the Application to the Local Tribunal, by Robert Gillon above mentioned (the Appellant's only Son and Manager) and to the relative written Statements by him and by the Appellant, and also to his Notice of Appeal, which are hereby adopted and held as repeated.

3. (a) Signature of appellant Agnes Gillon, Widow.
If appeal not made by the man —
- (b) Address of appellant Balerno, Midlothian
- (c) Occupation, profession, or business. (If military representative, state so.) Butcher
- (d) If appellant is not the military representative, why appellant acts for the man Mother & Employer

Date 16 March 1916.

2 Appeal

(No 5890) 1904 2/16 H & S

[P.T.O.]

FOR LOCAL TRIBUNAL.

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

1. That as the slaughterman and van salesman in the same business has been exempted from military service, it should not be impossible for the Applicant to make other arrangements for the carrying on of the business, in view of the close proximity of the Edinburgh Slaughterhouses.

2. That it is more expedient in the national interests that the attested man should be employed in military service than be engaged in his present occupation.

County Sheriff,

Edinburgh.

J. M. Trotter

25 MAR 1916

FOR APPEAL TRIBUNAL.

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

Edinburgh 4: April 1916. Appeal dismissed.

Chairman

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

Name of Local Tribunal Midlothian

Number of Case 141

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.

- (a) Name (in full) Robert Gillon
(b) Address (in full) Balerno, Midlothian
(c) Occupation, profession or business Butcher
(d) Whether he is attested or not attested Attested

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

Reference is respectfully made to the terms of the Appellant's Application to the Local Tribunal, and to the Relative written Statements by the Appellant and by his Mother Mrs. Agnes Gillon. In supplement to these, the appellant begs to explain that he has to supervise not only the principal shop and Business at Balerno, but also the Branch Shop and Business, in the Village of Currie. Besides purchasing all live stock, Bullocks, Pigs, Calves, Sheep and Poultry, he is also Assistant Slaughterman in the case of all Bullocks and Pigs as one man cannot do this. The Businesses have been carried on for 30 years and the Appellant, after his Father's death, was specially trained for the duties necessary to secure the continuance of the business, he being the only Son. It is absolutely impossible that Mrs. Gillon could perform the above mentioned duties.

3. (a) Signature of appellant

Robert Gillon

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

(S 5620) 1502 2/16 H & S

[P.T.O.]

FOR LOCAL TRIBUNAL.

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

1. That as the slaughterman and van salesman in the same business has been exempted from military service, it should not be impossible for the Applicant to make other arrangements for the carrying on of the business, in view of the close proximity of the Edinburgh Slaughterhouses.

2. That it is more expedient in the national interests that the attested man should be employed in military service than be engaged in his present occupation.

County Rooms
Edinburgh.

M. Trotter

FOR APPEAL TRIBUNAL.

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

Edinburgh 4th April 1916. Appeal
dismissed.
C. Macintosh
Chairman

Statements by Mrs Agnes Gillon
Butcher, Balerno. In regard to
her Claim (No 141) for absolute
Exemption of Robert Gillon Master
Butcher, Balerno.

I am a widow carrying on the only
Butcher's business in the Parish of Currie.
Robert Gillon, for whom I am claiming
absolute Exemption is my only Son.
He attends the weekly live stock markets
& buys for & practically manages
the business.

As I am not so able as I used
to be to give my full attention to
the business. it would be a very
serious hardship if I did not have
his help. In fact. as it is simply

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impossible in these times to get a substitute, it is a question whether without his assistance I could carry on the business & then financial loss & straitened circumstances would follow I do not know where I could get any other to do the work my son Robert does.

I also claim exemption on the ground that he is engaged in a certified occupation

Signed by me
Agnes Gillon

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Statement by Robert Gillon.
Master butcher. Balerno.
in support of his claim (No. 141)
for absolute Exemption.

I am in the service of my
mother. Mrs Agnes Gillon.
Butcher. Balerno. She is a widow
& I am her only son. She carries
on the only butchers business in
the parish of Currie, I attend
the weekly live stock markets
& buys for & manages the business.

I am claiming Exemption on
the ground that I am indispensable
to my mother's business & that I
am one of the principal means of
her support. She is not so able
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as formerly to attend to all
the details of the business &
without my help I consider
that the business would fall
behind or probably have to
be given up which would
mean not only an inconvenience
to the community but a
personal hardship to ourselves.

I am also engaged in a
certified occupation.

Signed by me

Robert Gillon

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FORM FOR VOLUNTARILY ATTESTED MEN.Name of Local Tribunal MiddlethorpeNumber of Case 141**APPLICATION AS TO EXEMPTION.***(The attached duplicate must also be filled up by the Applicant.)*

1. Man in respect of whom application made:—

- (a) Name (in full) Robert Gillon
 (b) Age 21 years
 (c) Address (in full) Balerno, Parish of Currie
Cockburn St. Edinburgh
 (d) Where attested
 (e) No. of group 4
 (f) No. on group card 172
 (g) Occupation, profession or business. (Give full and exact details.)

Master Butcher

2. If an employed person:—

- (a) Name of employer Mrs. Agnes Gillon
 (b) Address (in full) Balerno, Parish of Currie
 (c) Business Butcher.

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

(a) (d) and (e)

4. Nature of application. (A certificate of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary.)

absolute exemption

Application 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.

Application may also be made for exemption:—

- (e) 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 a certificate or by a military representative.

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

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.)

The applicant is the only son of Mrs Gillon, the claimant, who is a widow. He attends the weekly markets always for the business, and manages the butcher's business which is the only business of the kind in Carme Parish. He is thus in a critical and essential occupation which is not to be abandoned. He is really indispensable to the business. The suitable substitute can be obtained.

6. (a) Signature of person by whom application made *Agnes Gillon*
- (b) Address (if not already stated) ... *Balerno*
- (c) Occupation, profession or business. (If not already stated. If applicant is the military representative, this should be stated.) *Balerno*
- (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. *Application made by Employer*
- (e) Date of application *23rd February 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 USE OF 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).

Country Rooms, Edinburgh, 10th March 1916. The Tribunal finds that there are not sufficient grounds to support the application for Exemption: Therefore refuses the same.

Jm. Trotter C

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916.

**Form to be sent by Military Representative to
Local Tribunal.**

Name (in full) of man in respect of whom application made to Tribunal

Robert Gillon.

Number of case quoted on Application 141

Date on which Notice of application received by Military Representative

29th February, 1916.

OBSERVATIONS OF MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE.

[NOTE.—In cases to which Military Representative assents, he should write "I assent to the application." Where he objects to the application he should state briefly the reasons for his objection. If an absolute Certificate is applied for and the Military Representative considers that only a conditional or temporary Certificate should be granted he should state his reasons.]

I object to the application on the ground that another applicant in the same business, viz Abraham Brown (No. 142) who acts as Stenographer, Humber, Solomon & Sanderson is getting conditional exemption.

Signature John M. Clark Col.
Military Representative.

Date 2. 3. 16

The Military Representative must send this form duly filled in to the Tribunal within the time required by the Regulations under the Act.