

CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENCE

A HISTORY 1916—1919

BY

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"The Faith of a Quaker"*



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**" I shall only consider the best means of making the path of that class
a very hard one."**

**MR. D. LLOYD GEORGE,
House of Commons, July 26, 1916.**

" I ask no man to scrap his principles."

**MR. D. LLOYD GEORGE,
Manchester, September 13, 1918.**

DEDICATED
WITH AFFECTIONATE REVERENCE
TO THE
YOUNG MEN

WHO IN THE DARK DAYS OF THE WAR KEPT THE FAITH
AND STOOD BY THEIR COUNTRY AND MANKIND
WITH A COURAGE THAT DID NOT FAIL.

Composed by the Chartist Leader, Ernest Jones, when confined in a solitary cell, on bread and water, without books or writing materials, May 1849.

Troublesome fancies beset me
Sometimes as I sit in my cell,
That comrades and friends may forget me,
And foes may remember too well.

That plans which I thought well digested
May prove to be bubbles of air ;
And hopes, when they come to be tested,
May turn to the seed of despair.

But tho' I may doubt all beside me,
And anchor and cable may part,
Whatever—whatever betide me,
Forbid me to doubt my own heart !

For sickness may wreck a brave spirit,
And time wear the brain to a shade ;
And dastardly age disinherits
Creations that manhood has made.

But God ! let me ne'er cease to cherish
The truths I so fondly have held,
Far sooner, at once let me perish,
Ere firmness and courage are quelled.

Tho' my head in the dust may be lying,
And bad men exult o'er my fall,
I shall smile at them—smile at them, dying ;
The Right is the Right after all.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

To write with complete accuracy recent history concerning matters personally known to hundreds of accessible people, and sometimes even matters within my own cognizance, has been found more difficult than might be thought. Two eyewitnesses' account of the same event do not always agree. It must be much easier to make a narrative of events long gone by, concerning which there are few or no first-hand authorities. I cannot hope to have made no mistakes, in spite of every effort to be correct, and in spite of very great help given to me by many friends. The whole book has been carefully read by Clifford Allen, A. Fenner Brockway, Hubert W. Peet, Miss Edith M. Ellis, and Miss Joan M. Fry; and various chapters have been read by Miss Catherine Marshall, Howard C. Marten, and A. Barratt Brown. To their assistance the book owes—besides many minor corrections—some general advice of high value. Ernest E. Hunter in particular has contributed definite portions of that part of the narrative which concerns the inner working of the N.C.F. organization. To all these helpers I am deeply grateful.

It will be seen that the Preface does not concern the history, but is a statement of future policy should conscription ever be imposed again. Writing here as a mere narrator, I have not felt it necessary to concern myself—or to make up my mind—with regard to a situation which we hope, by the united efforts of us all, to make so remote that I shall no longer be an actor in it.

J. W. G.

DALTON HALL,
MANCHESTER,
December 1921.

INDEX

- Absolute Exemption, 84, 86, 346
 Absolutists and Alternativists, 192,
 213-220, 234, 252
 Absolutists, number of, 351
 Advising C.O.'s, 75
 Albright, W. A., 271
 Aldred, Guy, 306
 Alexander, Horace G., 162, 170
 Allen, Clifford, 11, 40, 92, 173;
 Address at Conference, 176; at
 First Convention, 189, 191, 192,
 193; on Home Office Scheme, 225,
 226; letter from prison, 260-264;
 on work-striking, 290; liberated,
 299; final speech, 332-338
 Alternative service, 161; Guild, 207
 Ambulance Unit for Italy, 159
 Ammon, C. G., 135, 242 n.
 Andrews, Maurice, cruelties to, 139
 Anti-Conscription Committee, 342
 Appeal Tribunals, 85
Appeal to the Conscience of the Nation,
 287
 Archbishop of Canterbury, 294
Armageddon or Calvary, 127, 130, 132
 Army Order X, 148, 187
 Asquith, Mr., 52; speech, 53, 112,
 113; on Home Office Scheme,
 222-224; letter to, from National
 Committee, 227-229
 • Attesting, 73
 Ayles, Walter H., 93, 192; at Wake-
 field, 301

 Backhouse, Edward, 170
 Baker, Philip J., 157
 Ballachulish, 241
 Ballantyne, Garth, 126-133
 Barlinnie Barracks, 150, 151
 Barlow, John Henry, 165, 166
 Barnes, Rev. E. W., 309
 Barritt, Cornelius, 120, 122, 125, 234
 Barrow, Harrison, 165, 166
 Basis of Testimony, 36-39
 Baxter Brothers, New Zealand, 126-
 133

 Beardsworth, Mr., 138
 Beauchamp, Miss Joan, 199, 200
 201, 202
 Beaumont, F., 137
 Beavis, H. Stewart, 93, 198, 234
 Benson, Mr. George, 138
 Bigland, Mrs. Percy, 167
 Bigland, Percy, 168
 Bilthoven message, 206
 Birkenhead Park, outrages at, 138
 Birukoff, 366, 367
 Bishop, Douglas R., 85, 287
 Blake, Major, 308
 Bodkin, Sir Archibald, 197, 201
 Bolsheviks, 366
 Bone, Walter, death of, 321
 Booth, the spy, 238
 Boothroyd, B. J., 192
 Boulogne, 120-124, 146
 Brace, Mr., M.P., 209, 223, 235, 243,
 244, 248; Committee, 251, 309
 Brierley, Mr., stipendiary, 69
 Briggs, Mark, 126-133
 Brightmore case, 140-143
 Briscoe, Major, 244
 Brockway, A. Fenner, 11, 82, 93,
 172; Mrs., 172, 173, 192; letter
 from, 258-260; work-striking, 291
 Brooke, Lieut.-Colonel, 144-146
 Brotherhood Church, riots at, 139
 Brown, A. Barratt, 11, 84, 93, 192;
 poem, 281; 286; resignation, 288
 Brown, H. Runham, 96, 198, 294
 Broxburn, 240
 Bryce, Viscount, 250
 Buchan, Colonel John, 309
 Burns, W. E., death, 320, 321
 Butler, Arthur, 313, 314

 Canadian C.O.'s in England, 133, 134
 Cartmell, Sir Harry, 85
 Catchpool, T. Corder, 94
 Catherall, A., 135
 Cave, Sir George, 209, 244, 310, 326
 Cecil, Lord Hugh, 112; speech,
 329-331

384 CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENCE

- Central Fund, 207
 Central Tribunal, circular from, and reply, 79, 80, 86, 216, 230
Challenge to Militarism, 165
 Chamberlain, W. J., 84, 191, 192, 202, 271
 Chancellor, Mr., M.P., 209
 Chaplains' Committee, 167-170
 Chaplains, list of, 169, 170
 Charlesworth, Ernest, 241
 Chertkoff, 366
 Childs, Brigadier-General, 64, 135, 190
 Christ before a Tribunal, 106-109
 Christadelphians, 34, 347
 Christmas cards in prison, 169
 Clark, Oswald, 94; poem, 282; 287
 Clark, Roderick, 94, 265
 Clark, Roger, 162
 Cleethorpes, brutality at, 140
 Collins, Sir Stephen, 57
C.O.'s Hansard, 208
 C.O.'s Information Bureau, 186
 C.O.'s sent to France, 111-126
 Compulsory registration, 175
 Conditions of release from prison, 230, 231
 Conference of the N.C.F., November 1915, 178-182
 Conscience, 42, 43
 Conscription, while white? 62, 63
 Convention of the N.C.F., first, April 1916, 188
Court Martial Friend and Prison Guide, 110; in France, 122
 "Court martial friends," 186
 Courtney of Penwith, Lord, speech, 60
 Crawshaw, James, letter from, 143, 144
 Cruelties in America, 372, 373, 376-378
Crusader, 205

Daily News, 297, 326
 Darling, Justice, 73
 Dartmoor, 168; diet, 210, 234-240; groups at, 235 n.; Press stunt, 237; spies suspected at, 238; cost of, 240; and slacking, 246; grading at, 247; mob riots, 248
 Darwin, men from, brutally treated, 136
 Davenport, Frank, 241
 Davies, P. T., 303
 Deaths, 312-325; list of, 323
 Debs, Eugene, 37
 Declaration by Friends, 1914, 155
 Deportations, 111-126; New Zealanders, 126-133; Canadians, 133, 134; others, 135
 Derby, Lord, 112, 294, 296
 Derby Scheme, 51, 176
 Devlin, James, 138
 Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, mob at, 1391; 71, 188, 331
 Disfranchisement, 328
 Ditton Priors, arson at, 140
 Divided loyalty, 212
 D.O.R.A., 140, 164
 Dryer, Oliver, 206
 Duckers, J. Scott, 215, 216, 303
 Dukes, Mr., 138
 Dunkirk, 158
 Dyce, 232, 233

 Egypt, violence in, 150
 Elliott, Sir Thomas, 213
 Ellis, Miss Edith M., 11, 161, 165-167, 286
 Ellison, T. H., 306
 Emergency Committee, 160
 England, Ernest, death of, 318, 319
 Everett, Ernest, 194, 258
 Exemption Clause, 53

 Fairby Grange, 328
 Fellowship of Reconciliation, 161, 183, 204-206; in Scandinavia, 206; in America, 206; against Capitalism, 206, 327
 Field Punishment No. 1, 114, 120, 122
 Firth, Henry W., 317-318
 Fletcher, John P. J., 192, 285, 288, 353
 Friends' Ambulance Unit, 83, 84; General Section, 97, 347; 157-159; York Hospital, 347; Ufulme, 347; "Star and Garter," 347; King George Hospital, 347
 Friends' Service Committee, 157, 160, 161, and *passim*.
 Friends' Yearly Meeting of 1915, 160; January 1916, 162; May 1916, 163; May 1918, 165, 287; May 1917, 171; Epistle, 283
 Fry, Lord Justice, 295
 Fry, Miss Joan M., 11, 134, 167
 Fuller, Mr., 197

 Gabarree prison, 150-152, 154
 Gales, Edwin L., 208 n.
 Gamage, Mr. A. W., 216
 Gardner, Miss Lucy, 205
 Gibbins, Hugh, 94
 Giesen, J., 358
 Gilbert, Edwin, 231, 244
 Gillan, Paul Leo, death of, 321, 322

- Gillett, Charles E., 315, 316
 Gillett, J. Rowntree, 125
 Gore-Booth, Miss Eva, 102
 Gosport Barracks, 139
 Goss, Isaac, 327
 Gray, Jack, cruelty to, 143, 144
 Griffith, R. A., 244
 Grubb, Edward, 183, 190, 192, 204
 Gwilliam, A. L., 192
- Hallett, G. H., 375
 Harby, E. W., 308
 Hartleur, 120
 Harmsworth Press, on Dartmoor, 237, 246
 Harris, Henry, 168
 Harris, J. Theodore, 207
 Harvey, T. Edmund, M.P., 53; speech, 55, 59; speech, 77; 114, 208, 217
 Harwich circular redoubt, 111
 Haycock, A. W., 321
 Henrville Camp, 124
 Herbert, Dorian, 137
 Hereford Barracks, 139
 Herford, Professor, 277
 Herford, Hugh V., 208 n.
 Hicks, Mr. Joynson, M.P., speech, 54
 Hills, John F., 353
History of the F.A.U., 159
 Hobhouse, Mrs., quoted, 41, 276, 277
 Hobhouse, Stephen, 94, 258, 264; liberated, 299
 Hodgkin, Henry T., 82, 204, 206
 Hodgkin, J. E., 272, 287, 298
 Holland, H. E., M.P., 127
Home Office Compounds, 242
 Home Office Scheme, 221-251; reply to, by the J.A.C., 224
 Hornsea Camp, cruelty at, 143, 144
 Horton, Arthur, 314-317
 Horwill, George, 303
 Hounslow Barracks, cruelty at, 136
 Howard, Geoffrey, 112
 Hudson, J. H., 95, 192; on work-striking, 292, 315
 Hughes, I. P., 318
 Hunter, Ernest E., 11, 202, 204, 242 n., 293
- I.L.P., 58, 60, 173, 210
 Industrial Conscription, 61, 62
- Jesus Christ, central message, 36
 Joint Advisory Council, 161 and *passim*, 183, 186
 Joint Board for Assistance, 328
 Jones, Morgan, M.P., 96
 Jones, Rufus M., 369
- Jordans, 157; on continuation of N.C.F., 339
- Keddington, 233
 Kierman, Harold, 99
 King George Hospital, 347
 King, Joseph, M.P., 58, 60, 208; on diet, 210; on spies, 238, 309
 Kinloch-Cooke, Sir C., M.P., 239
 Kinmel Park, 113, 137, 147
 Kirwan, L. J., 127, 133
 Knutsford, riot, 233, 248-250
- Labour Exchange, 162
Labour Leader, 171, 210
 Labour Party, 297
 Lambert, Richard, 208
 Langdon-Davies, B. N., 73, 206
 Lees-Smith, Mr., M.P., 208
 Liberation, 310, 311
 Lincoln, Bishop of, 74
 Literature Department of the N.C.F., 187
 Liverpool gaol, 297, 310
 Llandeusant, 241
 Llanon, 241
 Lloyd George, Mr., M.P., speech, 78; on Absolutists, 221
 Long, Mr., M.P., speech, 58; circular, 67, 83, 112
 Long, Robert J., 170
 Ludlam, Dr. Ernest B., 95
 Lyme Regis, 248
 Lyndhurst, 248
- MacCallum, Dr. J. C., 240
 Maclean, Sir Donald, Chairman of Tribunal, 69
 Macdonald, J. Ramsay, M.P., 58, 60, 207, 209
 Macpherson, Mr., 135, 209, 309
 Maidstone gaol, 300; hunger-strike, 304
 Mainwaring, T., 194
 Manchester, 75, 87, 207, 208 n.
Manchester Guardian, 60, 142, 147; on First Convention, 188; on Dartmoor, 235-237, 297; on Wakefield, 301
 Manifesto from Wakefield, 302, 303
 Mann, Albert, 315
 Maoris, 304, 305
 Marshall, Miss Catherine E., 11, 82, 185, 192, 198, 204, 294
 Marten, Howard C., 11, 115; diary, 116-126, 148, 231, 235 n., 238
 Mayors, A. J., 238
 Mee, John, 207

386 CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENCE

- Meeting for Sufferings, November 1914, 155; Peace Committee, 156, 170, 171, November 1915, 162; December 1917, 164, 194
- Mellor, Judge, 69; and Pelham Committee, 99; at Knutsford, 249
- Memorial Hall, 176
- Mennell, Robert O., 82, **93**, 162
- Mennonites, 358, 366, 371
- Message to Men and Women*, 171
- Meyer, Rev. F. B., 123
- Meynell, Francis, 192
- Military prison, 117, 119, 121, **129-131**
- Military representative, 66, 84
- Military Service Act II, **52**; last, 326
- Military Training in Schools, Committee on, 342
- Millwood, Ernest V., 135
- Molokans, 366, 377
- Morrell, Philip, Mr., M.P., 77, 208
- Murfin, F. J., 234
- Murray, Professor Gilbert, 112; on Absolutists, 217, 309
- Mustapha Camp, Alexandria, 150
- Nathan, Sir Matthew, 223
- National Committee of the N.C.F., 182; prosecuted, 191, 192; letter to Mr. Asquith on alternative service, 227-229
- National Council against Conscription, 73, 187, 206; for Civil Liberties, 206
- National Labour Press, 194
- National Registration, 161
- Nazarenes, 355-357
- Newcastle, hunger-strike, 303, 304
- Newhaven, 193, 233
- Newman, Major, 239
- Newman, Sir George, 157
- New Zealanders sent to France, **126-133**
- News Sheet* of F.O.R., 205; at Dartmoor, 245, 247
- No-Conscription Fellowship, **171-204** and *passim*; final Convention 331-342
- Non-combatant service, 213, 348^a
- Non-resistance, 44
- Norman, Mr. C. H., **144-146**, 173, 247, 318
- Northern Friends' Peace Board, 156
- Occupations of National Importance, 101
- Orchard, Dr., 204, 205
- Outhwaite, Mr., M.P., 54, 58, 208
- Oxford, Bishop of, letter, 74; 250
- Oxford Tribunal, 70
- Oxfordshire Appeal Tribunal, 70
- Pacifism, **38, 39**
- Pacifist Union Committee, 342
- Page-Croft, General, 239
- Parmoor, Lady, 205
- Parmoor, Lord, 250, 294, 295, 309
- Parton, F. Ll., case against Tribunals, 73
- Peace Group in Parliament, 58, 59, **208-210**
- Peake quoted, 41
- Peel, Viscount, 250, 352
- Peet, Hubert W., 11, 45, 82, 95, 123, 162, 187; writings, 264; on diet, 275
- Pelham Committee, 99, 207, 242, 347
- Pentonville, 266
- Perry, J. S., 243
- Pettifer, Mr., 347
- Philcox, Roland, **116**
- Pimlott, O. K., 134
- Plymouth, 237
- Plymouth Brethren, 34
- Political Department of the N.C.F., 185, 187, 208
- Ponsonby, Mr. A. H., M.P., 58, 60, 208
- Pontrefract guardroom, 137
- Preston Barracks, cruelty at, 136
- Prichard, Rev. Mr. and his sons, 69
- Princetown, 168, **234-240**; death at, 317, 318. *See* Dartmoor
- Prison, library, 256; heating and ventilation, 265; personality in, 266; letters, 267; chaplain, 268; Quaker chaplain, 269, 270; punishments, 272; in Scotland, 273, 274; doctor, 274; diets, 275, 276; magazines, 279-281; concessions, 298, 299
- Purley Tribunal, 84
- Quaker chaplains, 125, 187, 269
- Quakerism, 204, 205
- Quakers, 55; well treated, 84, **154-171**; trial at Guildhall, 165-167, 172, 183; union with N.C.F. Committee, 183; in Aberdeen, 232; at Dartmoor, 234; numbers of, 352; in Russia, 368
- Questions in Parliament, 83
- Raid on N.C.F. office, 194

- Ramus, Pierre, 355, 357
 Records Department of the N.C.F., 185
 Redfern, Percy, 207
 Registration Act, 52
 Regulation 27C, 164
 Religion of a C.O., 46
 Religious objection, 34
Repeal the Act, 191
 Reply to Central Tribunal's circular, 79-82
 Richards, Leyton, 205
 Richardson, Hugh, 186
 Rinder, Miss, 272, 309
 Roberts, Richard, 82, 204, 205
 Roberts, Walter, 232, 312, 313
 Robinson, A., 138
 Robinson, Mrs. Wright, 207
 Rose, Aylmer, 95, 172
 Routine of disobedience, 110
 Rowntree, Arnold S., M.P., 53 ;
 speech, 54, 112, 208
 Rowntree, Maurice L., 95
 Royal Army Medical Corps, 153
 Royden, Miss Maude, 204, 205
 Runacres, Mr., case of, 77, 78
 Russell, Bertrand, quoted, 36 ; trial
 of, 195-197, 199, 204 ; on Home
 Office Scheme, 222, 272
 Russell, Earl, 250, 294
- Salisbury, Lord, 230
 Salter, Dr. Alfred, article quoted, 45 ;
 204 ; on work-striking, 290, 328
 Salter, Mrs., 207
 Samuel, Mr. Herbert, M.P., speech,
 56, 326, 327
 Sandhurst, Lord, 296
 Sara, Henry, 303
 Saunders, J. B., 150
 Seaford, arson at, 139
 Seventh-Day Adventists, 152, 153
 Sheffield Tribunal, 72
 Shirkers, 40
 Shortt, Mr., M.P., 304, 308
 *Simon, Sir John, speech against
 Conscription Bill, 53, 59, 187
 Skinner, J. A., 278, 279
 Sling Camp, 127
 Smillie, Robert, 206
 Smith, Sir George Adam, on C.O.'s,
 43
 Smith, Henry, 96
 Smith, Lydia S., 96, 187, 202 ;
 letter to *Manchester Guardian*,
 235-237
 Snowden, Philip, 54, 58, 60, 73 ;
 speech, 74, 87 ; 112, 136, 147, 190,
 208, 309, 326
- Socialist objection, Preface, 35
 Socialists, 172, 210 ; number of,
 352
 Society of Friends, *see* Quakers
Solicitor's Journal, 74
 Solomon, 86
 Southall, Eric P., 96, 303
 South Molton, 248
 Sparkes, Malcolm, 95, 243
 Stafford, Norman, 153
 Stanton, H. E., 234
 "Star and Garter" Home, 347
 Statement of Faith, N.C.F., 174
St. Stephen's House, 160
 Stevenson, Miss Lilian, 204, 205
 Street, Mr. S. H., 200
 Sturge, Joseph, 140
 Substitution scheme, 61, 62
 Suffragists, 175, 185
 Sutherland, George A., 95
 Swansea, Recorder of, 295
 Swanwick, 205
- Taylor, Albert, 279
 Taylor, Alfred W., 234
 Tennant, 113, 147
 Terrell, Major, M.P., 244, 245
 Thieves, crucified, 38
 Thirty-four condemned to be shot,
 111-128
 Thomas, Gilbert, 205
 Thomas, Henrietta, 161
 Thomas, Norman, 206, 369
 Thompson, Mabel, 167
 Thompson, W. H., 303
 Tillard, Violet, 185, 207
Times, 296
 Total number of C.O.'s, 349
 Trades Unions, against conscription,
 64
 Trevelyan, Charles, M.P., 54 ; speech,
 56 ; 58, 60, 135, 208
 Trial of Service Committee at Guild-
 hall, 165-167
 Tribunal, 187, 190, 197 ; attacks
 upon, 199-203 ; on Absolutists,
 218-220 ; on Home Office
 Scheme, 222 ; on work-striking,
 290
 Tribunals, ordered, 53 ; nominated,
 65 ; character, 66 ; composition,
 68 ; failure, 68 ; ignorance, 71 ;
 breaches of law, 71, 72 ; char-
 acter, 78 ; neglect of circulars,
 87 ; exemptions, 89 ; tyranny,
 97, 98 ; description by Miss
 Gore-Booth, 102 ; revision, 300
 Tribunal statements, 89-92
 Tyrell, W. G., 146

388 CONSCRIPTION AND CONSCIENCE

- Uffculme Hospital 347
Union of Democratic Control, 58,
60, 209
Urquhart, Harry, 365
Venturer, 205
Visitation by N.C.F., 186
Wakefield, Settlement at, 233, 245;
final experiment, 301-303
Wallis, Bennett, 233, 319, 320
Walmsley, Alwyne A., 169
Wandsworth, 144, 253; rebellion,
305-309
Wanganui Barracks, 363
Waplington, Mrs., 293
War Office, letter from, 149; 167;
surrender, 326
War Victims' Relief Committee, 159,
242; in America, 371, 372
Warwick Settlement, 233
Waste in punishment of C.O.'s,
242
Watkins, Mr., case of, 78
Watson, William, 247
Watts, Arthur, 165, 166
Webb, Mr. C. P., M.P., 363
Wedgwood, Commander, 208, 304,
308
Wellock, Wilfred, 96
Whitaker, Mr. T. P., M.P., 144
Whitehouse, J. H., M.P., 58, 60, 79,
209
Whitlow, Maurice, 293
Wilson, Alexander C., 309; Mrs., 286
Wilson, Theodora Wilson, 205
Winchester prison, 209; *Whisperer*,
280; work-striking, 292; hunger-
strike, 304
Wolstencroft, 241
Work of national importance, 53,
56, 57
World Conference of Churches, 171,
206
World To-morrow, The, 206
Wormwood Scrubs, 168, 169, 187,
210, 230, 253
Wyatt, Rendel H., 112, 116, 234
Yearly Meeting, *see* Friends' Yearly
Meeting
York Hospital, 347

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