

APPEALS TO RECRUITING TRIBUNALS

1916 January: Conscription for single men aged 18-41.

Tribunals set up for deferment, exemption due to work of national importance, or on compassionate / health grounds.

Provision made for conscientious objection.

THIS AREA WAS COVERED BY DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT TRIBUNAL

APPEALS TO RECRUITING TRIBUNALS

HOW TO PROCEED FOR EXEMPTION OR CLAIMS FOR LATER SERVICE

- Get **official form of notice of claim**
- When **Local Tribunal** receives claim it forwards it **to military representative**
- **Military representative's Advisory Committee** –
 - If claim to be allowed notification will be sent to claimant
 - If claim not allowed
 - (a) because occupation is such that no postponement can be allowed
 - (b) numbers exempted in that occupation have been reached
- **Local Tribunal notified** and it sets a date for hearing with the claimant and military representative
- If claimant dissatisfied with decision, appeal to **Central Appeal Tribunal**

The exempted were given badges/ armbands so they were not branded cowards.

APPEALS TO DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT TRIBUNAL

No local names appear in the one surviving folder of conscientious objectors, whose hearings were held by a different Tribunal.

The main system was overwhelmed with appeals against recruitment.

Many men had already volunteered for combat, and essential services, businesses were finding it hard to carry on with the reduced skilled labour force.

Many local employers backed up claims for exemption.

Surviving records of the Dartford Rural District Local Tribunal in Kent County records list names, dates of hearings and sometimes marginal notes.

Local newspapers reported details of some hearings.

One folder, in which 1 random name in 50 was kept as a sample, survives with fuller Tribunal hearings and records.

The only local claim with these details was by Henry Cox of Crockenhill.

LOCAL APPEALS FOR EXEMPTION TO RECRUITING TRIBUNALS

In Dartford Rural District most appeals were from **FARM WORKERS** often backed up by their employers, who were under pressure to increase food supplies.

Mr Lee, farmer of Crockenhill, for -
S. Booker, horseman of School House
T. Spooner, farm carter; Reginald Shepherd,
engine driver (Exempted); John Isaac
Harbour, worked on steam trailer
(Given 2 months exemption)

Mr John Wood, farmer of Crockenhill,
for – Thomas Ethridge, labourer
C. Peck, Westview, horseman / waggoner

Sidney F Haste of The Bower, 29, farm
worker applied for by employer – 1 month
A.J. Everest, Woodcroft, Crockenhill, farm
foreman, B1 health, not called up.

William Everest for - Thomas Wise, 38 married, farm foreman at Walden's Farm
St Mary Cray. 4 men had gone from the farm. Mr Everest also had wheelwright
and van making business, Crockenhill. (2 months exemption)

Mr Baldwin, of Hulberry –
His horseman, aged 20
F.I. Ingram, farm bailiff,
(Both conditional exemption)

Mr Ladds, Nurseryman, for - Albert
E. Tallett, Highcroft, Swanley
Junction, his night stoker
(Given conditional exemption)

W. Turner, Willow Terrace,
Eynsford, general labourer aged
41 with 5 children. Found work of
national importance at munitions
factory. (Conditional exemption)



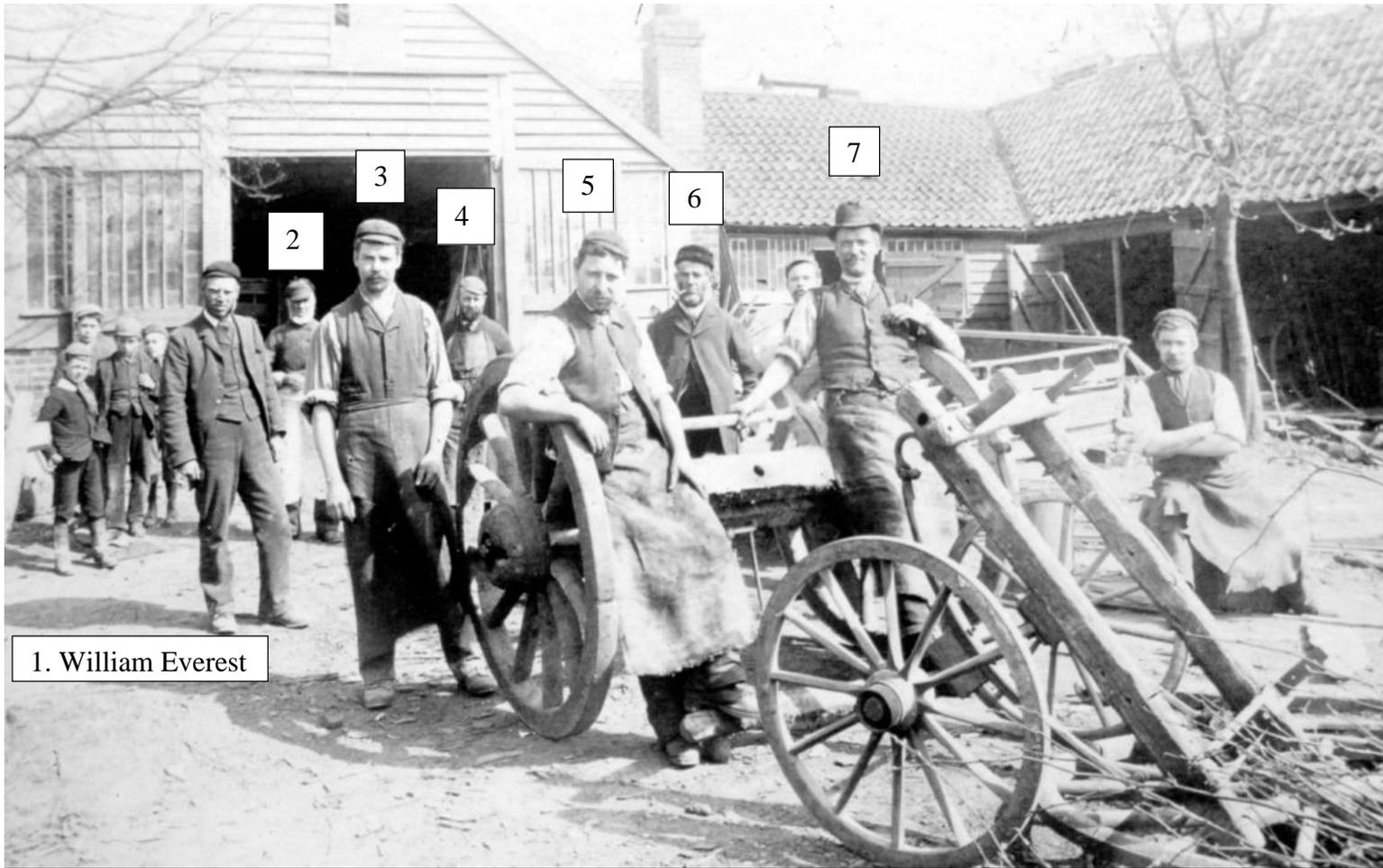
Lady Emily and Sir William Hart Dyke, in the early 1930s, with their staff. (l) 'Old Nurse' Sarah Hanger, (to r of Sir William Hart Dyke) Frank Southall (butler), part face Jim Barke (odd job man), Tom Booker (carpenter), Dandy Baldwin (carter), Harry Paine (Chaffeur), granted exemption to look after Lullingstone water supply in Great War

LOCAL APPEAL BY PROPRIETOR OF ANCHOR & HOPE, CROCKENHILL



Anchor and Hope Beer (once opposite the shops), Broadway, run by Henry Cox who sought exemption in 1914-18 War. Bath Cottages to left. All these demolished because of appearance of sink holes, now site grassed and left empty. Fern Farmhouse to right, pulled down in 1960s for present houses leading up to Village Hall

THE FORGE, BROADWAY, CROCKENHILL



1. William Everest

1. William Everest, owner of The Forge
2. Bob Peck
(made vans and coffins in shed behind him)
3. Bill Peacock

4. Bob Maley
5. Townsend
6. Phil Ingram
7. Jim Blackwell
(Blacksmith)

William Everest besides being a wheelwright, blacksmith, farrier, undertaker and builder, also farmed land at Crockenhill, Swanley, Shofton, Shelmore, Waldens and Beeches. He was life deacon at the Baptist Church, father of 9, and had no known hobbies.

LOCAL APPEALS FOR EXEMPTION TO RECRUITING TRIBUNALS

Appeals from other workers.

The Paper Mills Eynsford – Mr Foster of Spicer Brothers Ltd. needed workers to carry out essential government contracts. From Eynsford – F. Mayger, F. Hussey, W.M. Gibbons, J.H. Gaston, W.S. Dawton, J. Burke, F.S. Rivers, A. Rivers, R. Venton, H. Warner, and W.G. Spicer of Farningham. 4 exemptions were withdrawn, 4 exemptions confirmed for Mayger, Gibbons, F.S. Rivers, Warner, A. Rivers to go before medical board.

Lullingstone Estate - Sir William Hart Dyke for – H.J.H. Paine, aged 29, indispensable on his estate being responsible for machinery for water supply. Conditional exemption.
(N.B. The estate still has a private water supply serving several properties.)

Henry Cox, beer house keeper of Anchor & Hope, Crockenhill – Believed he was 41, but unable to produce birth or baptism certificate. He had a wife and 4 children dependent on him. He worked alone in the beer house, without an assistant, & business would close without him. He also worked in Vickers munitions factory.
(The Tribunal did not believe his age. Considered his business small, and more in the national interests that he should join the army.)

TRAGEDY OF ONE MAN UNABLE TO FACE CALL-UP

From undated local newspaper, October

INQUEST OF GEORGE WILLIAM LAWRENCE OF EYNSFORD

Found drowned in a tank of 18 inches deep water in Lullingstone gardens by Mr Hutt, head gardener.

Single man, aged 42, lived with mother, worked in the gardens for many years.

Suffered in head since an accident at work the previous month, September.

At home under doctor for several weeks, but had returned to work.

5 p.m. He had complained of pains in head, went to bed 9.30 p.m. and got up at normal time.

6 a.m. Appeared usual.

Got army papers about 2 years ago and was exempted on account of health and hardship to mother, but worried he might receive new papers.

George Hutt had known him the 21 years he had been employed at Lullingstone. Quite early in the week George Lawrence had said, "If anything happens to me, you will find me in the tank, tell my mother it was an accident," though later told him to forget he said it.

Verdict - Suicide while temporarily mentally deranged

SOME LOCAL MEN WHO APPEALED TO THE MILITARY EXEMPTION BOARD

bold – known to have been called up		JAMES	Lewis Edward	SMITH	Arthur
ALDERSON	Stanley	JOY	Amos Benjamin		Augustus
ALEXANDER	Archibald	JOHNSON	Charles		Ernest
		JUSTICE	William Webster		Frank
BALDWIN	Albert Victor				Sumner Hugh
	Jim	LAWRENCE	Charles		William Charles
	John Thomas		Richard		
	Kipps			TAYLOR	Bertie Thomas
	Thomas	MILLS	Edward Wilfred	TOLHURST	George William
BATEY	George W. jnr.		Ernest Henry	TURNER	Arthur Samuel
					Arthur Sidney
CHIPPERFIELD	John W.	PAGE	William Edward		Arthur William
CLEMENTS	Alexander	PEARSON	Thomas John		George Howard
	Arthur		William		Harry
	Arthur Bernard				Lewis Archibald
	George John	RELPH	Richard James		Lionel
COLE	William James		Edward		Thomas
COX	George	REYNOLDS	Joseph		Walter Frederick
	William George	RICHENS	Charles		Walter Henry
		RIVERS	Harry		
			William James	WADE	Fred
EVEREST	Arthur	ROGERS	Edwin Arthur	WELLARD	Thomas Albert
	Raymond		John	WILLIAMS	Bert
	Sydney			WRIGHT	William
GATES	R.	SATTURLEY	Tom	WOOD	Ernest Wallace
GILHAM	Sidney Lewis	SCOTT	Edward Morris		Frederick Richard
GRANT	Fred	SEAL	Charles William		Thomas Henry
		SHEPHERD	Reg		Thomas William
HARBER	H.T.	SIMMONS	John (2 of name –		William Simon
HARRIS	Walter James		Crockenhill and		
HILLS	Absalom Arthur		Farningham)		
HILLS	George				
HILLS	Nelson				
HAYNES	Thomas				