

## Wilfrid Littleboy's Statement to the Tribunal

D.C.M. Statement Budbrooke Barracks 16/1/17

Gentlemen - My understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ has taught me that the Christian and only really effective way of overcoming evil is by meeting it with unwearied generosity and goodwill. No man, and I am convinced no nation, can permanently resist the power of persistent, unselfish love, I explained my convictions to the Tribunals, but though saying they considered by claim genuine, they refused to grant me the Absolute Exemption from the Military Service Act which they were empowered to do. Such exemption alone would have left me free and uncompromised to continue serving my country and humanity in the ways I have always tried to do.

Neither the decision of a civil tribunal nor the authority of the Army could discharge me from a loyalty which I owe to God. This principle was affirmed by so eminent a soldier as the late Earl Roberts in the House of Lords on July 6<sup>th</sup> 1914:-

"If you penetrate deep enough into human nature you will unfailingly reach in each one of us a stratum which is impervious to discipline, or any other influence from without. The strongest manifestation of this truth lies in what men call conscience - an innate sense of right and wrong - which neither reason nor man-made laws can affect. It is useless at such a juncture to invoke the authority of the constitution, to raise fine points of law, or to threaten pain and penalties. Such things matter not one jot when Men's consciences are aroused".

I therefore refused to obey a military order in the firm belief that I was thereby obeying the voice of God within me.

W.E.L.