

The Challenging Road to Peace since The First World War



In memory of the death of more than 10 million
people during the First World War 1914 -1918

War Voices

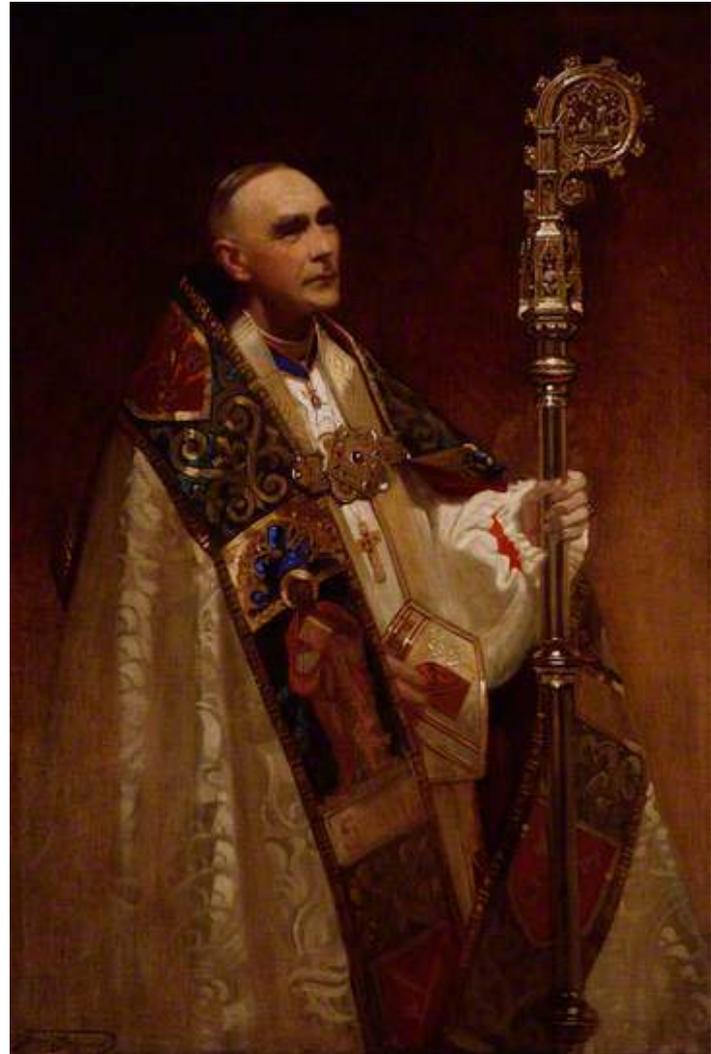
SOME THOUGHT IT WAS 'RIGHT AND PROPER' TO DIE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY.

“Everyone who loves freedom and honour is banded in a great crusade to kill Germans!

Kill them, not for the sake of killing, but to save the world, to kill the good as well as the bad, to kill the young men as well as the old...

I look upon it as a war of purity, **I look upon everybody who dies in it as a martyr.**”

Arthur Winnington Ingram, Bishop of London, 1915



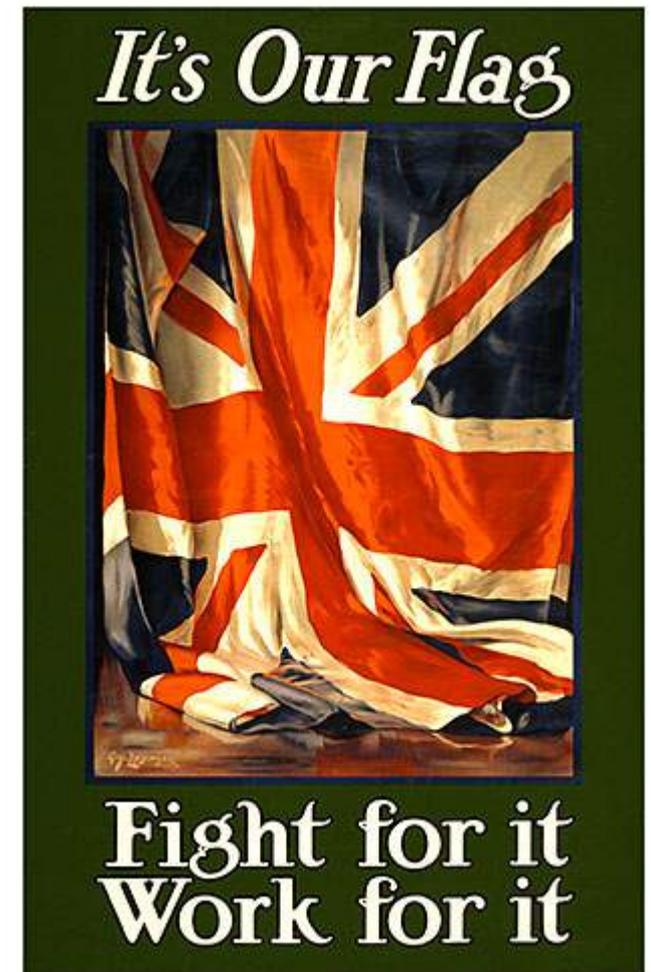
Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram (1918)

War Voices

SOME BELIEVED IT 'RIGHT AND PROPER' TO DIE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

Poem by diplomat Cecil Spring Rice, which he wrote in 1908



What Did the Papers Say?

“We are telling lies. We daren't tell the public the truth. You have seen the correspondents...they don't speak the truth and we know they don't.”

- Lord Rothermere, owner of the Daily Mail, November 1917

“So far as Britain is concerned, the war could not have been fought for one month without its newspapers.”

- John Buchan, Director of Information (Propaganda)

“If the people really knew, the war would be stopped tomorrow.”

- Prime Minister Lloyd George

GERMAN GHOULS.

Corpses Converted to Soap and Explosives.

DIVIDENDS FROM DEATH.

The long suspected belief that the Germans are distilling glycerine from the bodies of their dead, and so obtaining some portion of their explosives, is confirmed by a statement in “La Belgique,” of Leyden, in Holland, a translation appearing in “The Times.”

The story, omitting some of the most repulsive details, is as follows:—

“We have known for long that the Germans stripped their dead behind the firing line, fastened them into bundles of three or four bodies with iron wire, and then dispatched these grisly bundles to the rear. Until recently the trains laden with the dead were sent to Seraing, near Liège, and a point north of Brussels, where were refuse consumers. Much surprise was caused by the fact that of late this traffic has proceeded in the direction of Gerclstein, and it was noted that on each waggon was written ‘D.A.V.G.’

“German science is responsible for the ghoulish idea of the formation of the German Offal Utilisation Company, Limited (‘D.A.V.G.’ or ‘Deutsche Abfall-Verwertungs Gesellschaft’).

Voices for Peace

Bertha von Suttner 1843-1914

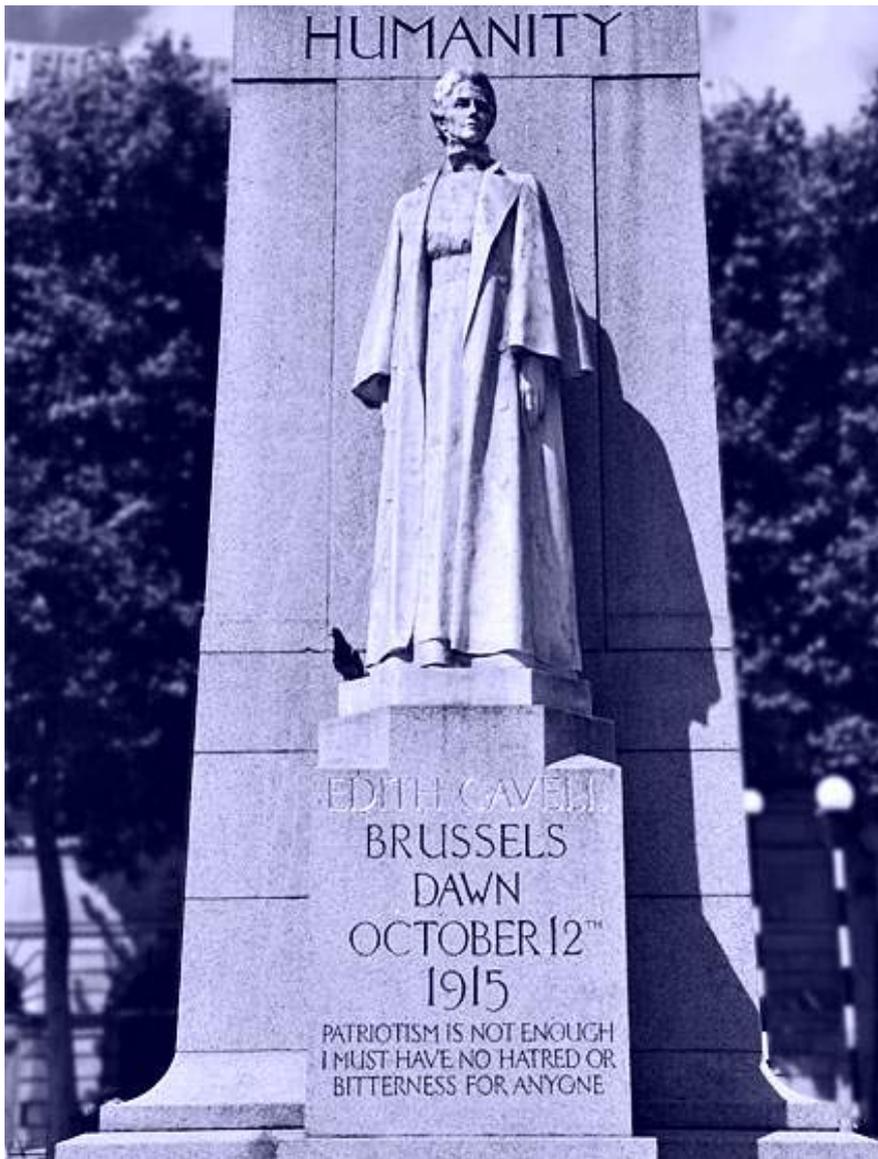
Austrian General's daughter
founded Austrian Peace Society
& promoted peace throughout Europe.

Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
in 1905 and she warned
about the outbreak of war.



“Fortresses are being erected, submarines built, whole areas mined, airships tested for use in war; and all this with such zeal - as if to attack one's neighbour were the most inevitable and important function of a state.” Oslo, 1905

Voices for Peace



Edith Cavell, Nurse, shot by firing squad at dawn in Brussels

12th October 1915

**“Patriotism is not enough.
I must have no hatred or
bitterness for anyone.”**

She was found guilty of treason under German military law for assisting wounded British soldiers.

Voices for Peace



Emily Hobhouse 1860 -1926

Cornish woman worked for
Peace, Justice & Rights of Women.

Exposed the horrors of the
concentration camps for Boer families
in South Africa in 1901.

In First War travelled widely in
Europe trying to bring about peace.

“Few English people have seen war in its nakedness...
they know nothing of the poverty, destruction,
disease, pain, misery and mortality which follows in its
train....I have seen all of this and more.” August 1914

Voices for Peace

- “And it was like a flash to me that this is what war did. It created utter inhumanity in perfectly nice, gentle, kindly people. I felt ‘It is not right, it is wrong and I cannot have any further part in it’.”

Sybil Morrison, ambulance driver

- “I would rather see my sons put up against a wall and shot than see them go to the War.”

Keir Hardy 1914

- “If I live, I mean to spend the rest of my life working for perpetual peace.”

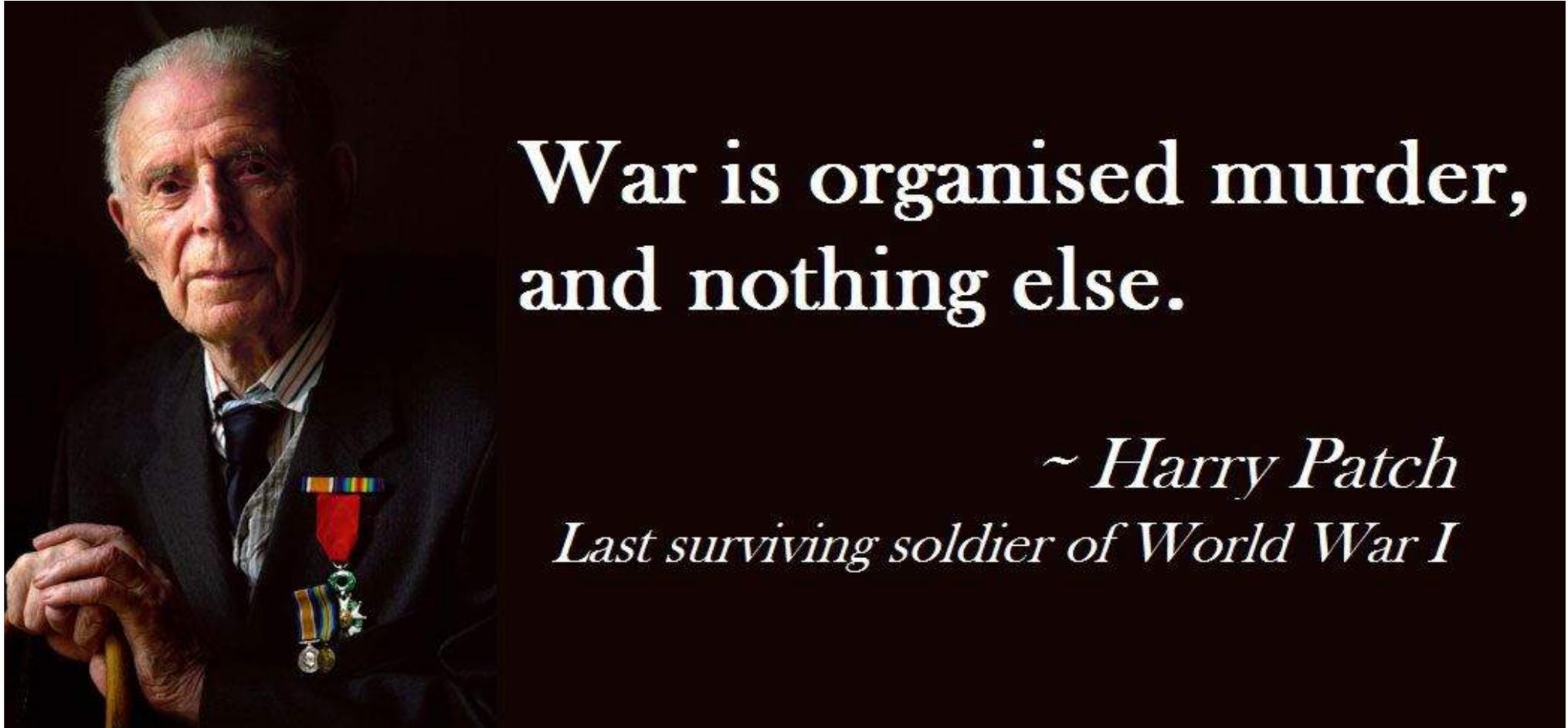
Capt. Thomas Kettle, 8th September 1916. He had been a barrister, an MP and an economics professor in Dublin. He was killed in action the following day, aged 32.

“I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon Earth through the years to come, than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war.”

King George V when he visited Tyne Cot cemetery

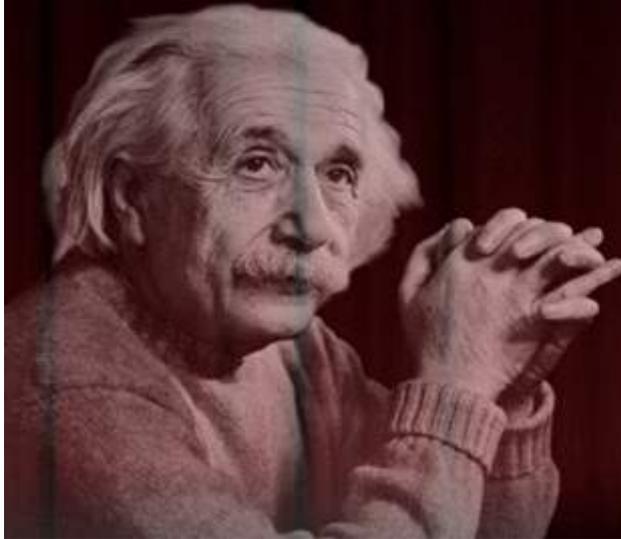


Voices for Peace



Voices for Peace

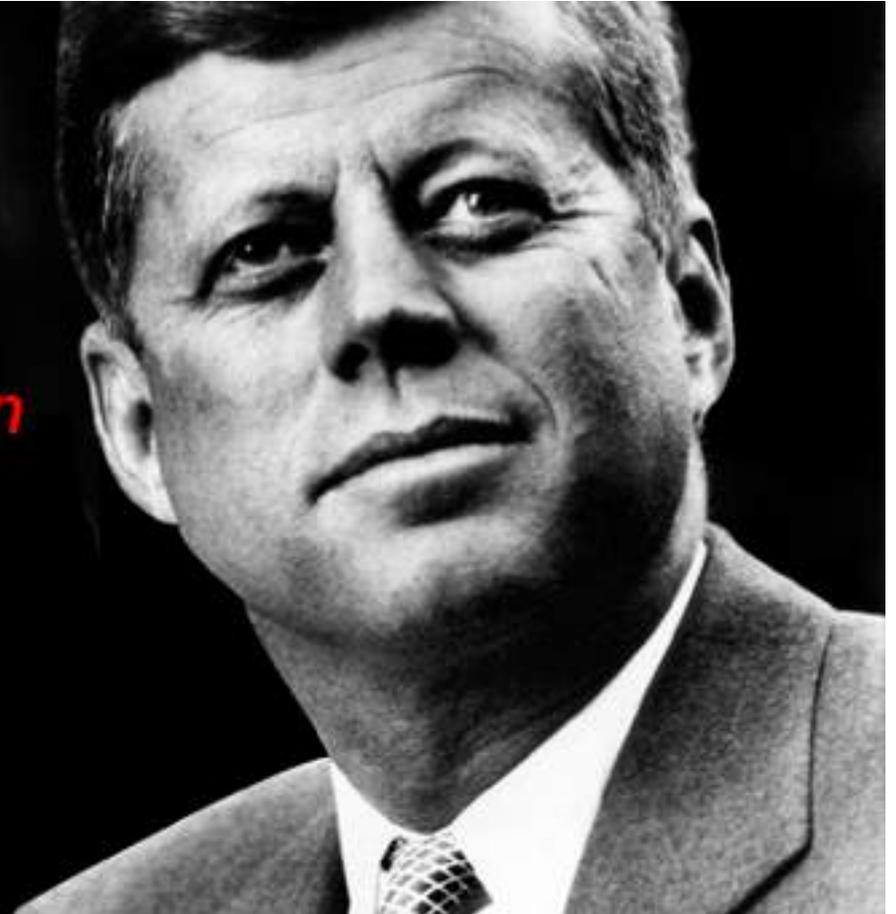
"The conscientious objector is a revolutionary. On deciding to disobey the law he sacrifices his personal interests to the most important cause of working for the betterment of society."

A circular seal of the University of California, Berkeley, is visible in the background. Overlaid on the seal is a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Albert Einstein".

Voices for Peace

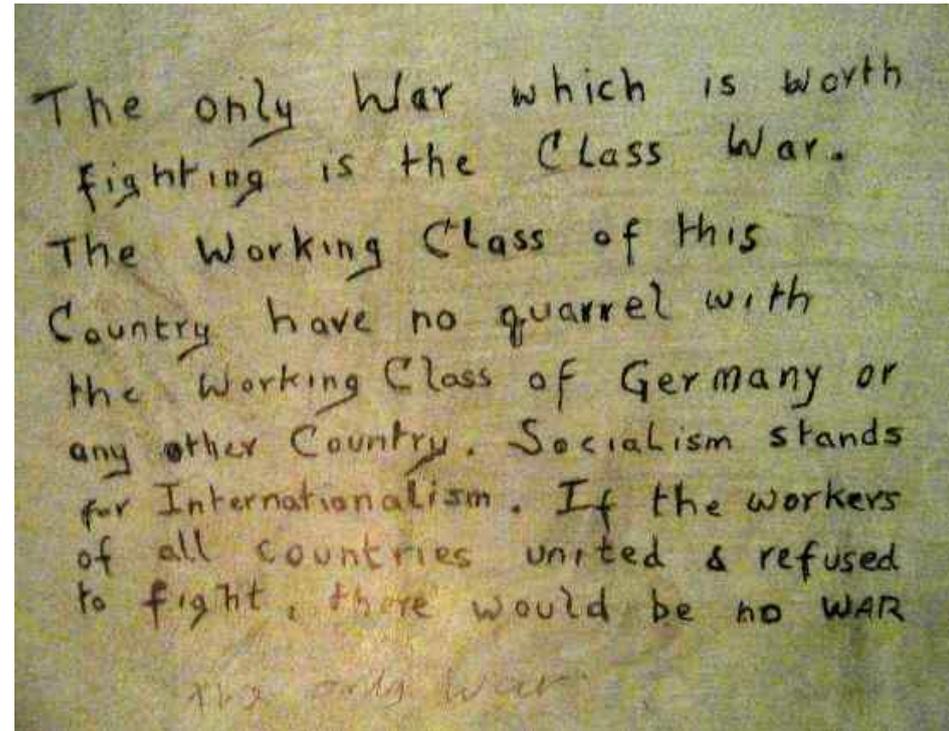
War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

--- JFK



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

- Most Conscientious Objectors (COs) applied for exemption because of their firmly held belief that war and killing another man was against Christ's teaching.
- Some Socialists or Communists objected on political grounds that they had close bonds with workers in other countries.
- Many members of the Reform Churches were committed Socialists.
- Their stand was an active protest against what they considered the greatest evil in the world - killing another human being.



The only war which is worth fighting is the Class War.
The Working Class of this Country have no quarrel with the Working Class of Germany or any other Country. Socialism stands for Internationalism. If the workers of all countries united & refused to fight, there would be no WAR
The only war

16,000 recorded Conscientious Objectors.

- 3,000 allocated to special work camps
- 6,000 had application to be C.O. refused and were conscripted to the Army : were then imprisoned when they refused to obey orders
- Some Conscientious Ojectors were sentenced to Death - but sentence commuted.
- 7,000 given noncombatant duties (the Non Combatant Corps, NCC) around military bases or medical teams near the Front
- The Friends Ambulance Unit established by Quakers in 1914 : provided medical support on ambulance trains & hospitals. More than 1400 served and 21 died in service



Imprisonment

- Over 1,000 refused to cooperate in any way. Imprisoned
- For first two weeks prisoners not given mattress to sleep on. Rule of absolute silence, very poor diet, abusive warders
- Refusal to abide by the silence rule: eight months solitary confinement
- By end of 1917, 300 of the 1,300 in prison released due to ill health, but disenfranchised for 5 years
- By mid 1919 all Conscientious Objectors released, often in poor physical condition. 69 had died and 39 had been declared insane
- Struggled to get employment and to continue their previous lives



End