CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION REMEMBERED

A walk exploring the hidden history of Haringey’s First World War Conscientious Objection
This booklet comes to you from a project, ‘Conscientious Objection Remembered’, run by Haringey First World War Peace Forum and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It tells the hidden story of the 350 Haringey men who refused to fight in World War One. It’s a very interesting and compelling aspect of Haringey’s history and we hope the walk described here will attract individuals and groups, both young and old.

The booklet is in three main sections. It begins with background information about Haringey one hundred years ago, local anti-war protest and the legal process faced by Conscientious Objectors (COs) after conscription was introduced in 1916. You can find out about the beliefs that motivated them and what happened as a result of their choices. It will probably be helpful to read this before doing the walk, especially if you are going independently rather than with a guide.

Section two outlines the walk, which takes you from Finsbury Park station to the Salisbury Hotel on Green Lanes, Harringay. Stopping points, numbered on the map, take you past houses where some COs lived, chosen to show the range of CO experiences. Other points mark meeting places and organisations where the anti-war movement found support.

The walk covers about two miles and should take approximately one and a half hours at a moderate speed. Public transport links are close by for much of the route and they are shown on the map in the centre of this booklet.

Section three suggests other locations beyond the scope of the walk, which offer further aspects of Haringey’s First World War history.

You’ll find a list of resources and websites at the end of the booklet if you want to find out more.
One hundred years ago there were three local authorities covering the area that is today the Borough of Haringey: Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green, all in the County of Middlesex. Railways were key to their popularity as suburbs of London, with extensive housing, much of it recently built, and excellent transport links into the City and its jobs. Numerous clerks lived in these boroughs, commuting to offices and businesses, with poorer employees taking advantage of an early morning cheap railway ticket. Tottenham had developed rapidly to become a crowded, mainly working-class, district. By 1914 factories and engineering works clustered around Vale Road, Tottenham Hale, and north of Northumberland Park. The Gestetner company and Lebus furniture factory employed hundreds of local people. In 1910 Tottenham constituents re-elected their Liberal MP, Percy Alden, who opposed conscription in 1916.

Wood Green was an urban district council with a growing population boosted by the development of Noel Park. Built by the Artizans, Labourers and General Dwellings Company in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Noel Park was one of the first
garden suburbs in the world. The houses were designed as good quality Arts and Crafts style affordable housing for working-class people. By 1906 almost 2000 properties had been let to a mix of people, many newly arrived in the area. Nearby Barratt’s sweet factory and rail links to the City provided employment.

Of the three authorities, the Metropolitan Borough of Hornsey was more prosperous, more middle-class, and Conservative-voting. Less densely populated than its neighbours, wide areas were covered by parks – notably Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace – woodland and playing fields. Parts of Hornsey attracted professionals who worked in the City, though plenty of residents worked at home as tailors, dressmakers and milliners, or as domestic staff employed by affluent families. There were also pockets of extreme poverty around Hornsey Village, like the Campsbourne and

Above: Manor Gate, Finsbury Park.
Left: Boating on the lake.
Hornsey Vale areas which were poorly-built, overcrowded slums. Cultural and social life was flourishing. The three boroughs were teeming with choral and literary societies, music halls, organ recitals. There were the new cinemas, public libraries, local newspapers, tennis, golf, cricket, racing, Tottenham Hotspur football club, outdoor parades and rallies, political associations and debate. Political meetings at street corners were common with speakers well known locally. Spouters’ Corner in Wood Green was a favourite venue as were Crouch End Clock Tower, Finsbury Park and Tottenham High Road. Many activities for men, women and children – from adult classes and Sunday schools to sports teams and charities – were run by the Christian churches, where attendance was high. In 1903 over half of Hornsey churchgoers attended Non-Conformist Protestant churches, whose dissenting tradition inspired some COs.

Germans, Austrians, Russians and other European migrants were a well-established part of the community. Tottenham had a Lutheran church founded by German bakers in the 19th century. Even so, after the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 rioters attacked German-owned shops: a bakery and grocer’s on Green Lanes and a hairdresser’s on St Ann’s Road. A crowd of 3000 threw stones which smashed a shop on West Green Road and there was further violence on Tottenham High Road.
Anti-War Protest in Haringey

When Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, many people believed that war was noble, heroic and exciting. But enthusiasm was not universal. Thousands protested against the war. Some of the loudest and most active protesters were from Haringey which had a history of protest, strikes and dissent. Many radical workers’ groups, political parties and socialist organisations had campaigned for labour rights. Non-Conformist churches had opposed the 1902 Education Act with a tax resistance campaign. When war threatened many groups were split but some turned to campaigning for peace. They protested against government decisions that made armed conflict more likely.

Political groups in Haringey included the North London Herald League, a movement of readers and supporters of the Daily Herald newspaper which, under the socialist politician George Lansbury, was against the war. Before 1914 the North London Division of the Herald League had premises on Green Lanes, Harringay, where it organised meetings and educational activities. Large rallies were held, sometimes three on a Sunday, in nearby Finsbury Park, with noted speakers arguing that the war was being fought for business, the Empire and for wealth, not for working people.

Nationwide, many thousands of Quakers became COs and the Society of Friends provided help and support during and after the war. In Haringey, Quaker meeting houses, Bradley Hall on Station Road in Wood Green, and Tottenham meeting house, became hubs of anti-war activity. Alfred Butler from Wood Green would have been supported during his four spells in Wandsworth Prison, as would Albert Ashpole, Tom Brown and Fred Murfin from Tottenham during their punishments. With their sympathetic members they were places of support and aid for local COs, whether they were Quakers or not.

The Quakers also provided ways for men to take up vital work during the war while still holding true to their principles as objectors. Many COs joined the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) which worked both at home and abroad providing medical support for soldiers and civilians alike, saving lives rather than fighting.

The Brotherhood Church in Southgate Road, nearby in Islington, was hugely influential in the anti-war movement of North London, giving support and shelter to COs. The Church was an independent Congregational chapel and a centre for socialist and anti-war activity. During the First World War meetings at the Brotherhood Church
were frequently attacked after opponents were deliberately tipped off by the authorities and press to incite confrontation. On one occasion it was set on fire.

Other religious groups, Plymouth Brethren, Christadelphians and Jehovah’s Witnesses, were also opposed to taking part in the war. They argued that the war went against their beliefs, one of the clearest commandments of their faith: ‘Thou shalt not kill’.

Despite their best efforts, Britain went to war in Europe. Thousands of men from Haringey joined the army in 1914 and 1915, but many members of these protest groups refused to join up, while others, women as well as men, supported COs. By 1916 their commitment to the anti-war message would be put to the test.

Conscription

In the early days of the war public reaction was very mixed. Men volunteered for the army for different reasons, out of patriotism, enthusiasm or simply to get a decent wage. By 1915 recruitment numbers were dropping. The army realised that soon there would not be enough soldiers to replace those killed and injured on the battlefield. Top ranking officials began to consider forcing men into the army to make up the shortfall. For the first time in British history conscription was seriously debated in the House of Commons.

Conscription was fiercely opposed both in Parliament and on the streets. Protests, petitions and lectures made the true threat of conscription clear with the message that it meant much more than turning men into soldiers. Forcing men into uniform meant removing them from homes and families and giving the
military total control over their lives. Even though conscription was unpopular, it came into force from March 1916 with the Military Service Act 1916. Millions of men around the country faced a future in uniform.

Conscription was passed into law, though action in Parliament from anti-conscription MPs – including Tottenham’s Percy Alden – forced concessions in the bill. Exemption might be granted on any of seven grounds. Four related to men employed in work or training considered to be in the national interest, such as munitions, butchers and clergy, though not all teachers. Another was for men whose families or businesses would be seriously affected if they were called up. A sixth exempted men in poor health but the most controversial was the ‘Conscience Clause’. This permitted a man who disagreed with killing in war to be exempt from conscription on the grounds of conscientious objection to taking part in military combat.

The No-Conscription Fellowship, set up by prominent pacifists in November 1914, provided help and support to those men and their families who wanted to claim exemption from conscription as COs. Several Tottenham COs were members or organisers of a local
branch. The NCF’s *The Tribunal* had to be printed secretly because of police raids. It included accounts of cruel and illegal treatment of COs in prison.

**The Conscience Clause**

The Conscience Clause gave a common basis for all COs having a moral, religious or political objection to killing in war. There were three main reasons for being a CO:

Political – most political COs were left wing. Groups of socialists, anarchists and some trade unionists were vocal in Haringey’s anti-war movement. Political objectors refused to fight a war that they believed was for the benefit of the ruling classes but was fought and died for by an international ‘Brotherhood of Man’.

Religious – although in London there were representatives from many religious communities, including Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, the majority of Haringey’s COs were Protestant and Non-Conformist Christians who felt that war conflicted with their understanding of the Bible.

Moral – COs with a moral opposition to the war objected on principle to the use of violence as a solution to a problem. This could mean opposition to all forms of killing or just to killing in war. Some objected solely to conscription, arguing that no system that forced men to give up their freedoms was worth fighting for.

Being a CO meant sticking to principles in the face of enormous...
pressure to join the army. Despite Haringey’s large anti-war community there was none the less much public disapproval. It was a difficult and brave choice that saw men sometimes shunned by their families and even attacked, for believing that war was wrong.

Military Service Tribunals
Exemption under the Military Service Act meant applying to a local Tribunal where each man’s case would be heard and his fate decided. Each of the Municipal Boroughs now making up Haringey had its own Military Service Tribunal. The Hornsey Tribunal covered the west of the Borough and met in the Town Offices on Southwood Lane in Highgate. The Wood Green Tribunal convened at the Town Hall (today’s Woodside House) whilst the Tottenham Tribunals were overseen at Tottenham Town Hall at Tottenham Green.

It was a complicated process. Every applicant filled out a form noting their category – ‘F’ for Conscientious Objectors – and the reasons they should be given exemption.

Tribunals were meant to be fair and balanced in assessing applications. In reality they were often arbitrary and unfair. The men who sat on tribunal boards were usually aldermen and councillors who strongly believed it was their duty to get every man into the army. Joined by a military representative, they usually treated COs harshly and refused exemption sometimes on trivial and even malicious grounds.

At the Tribunals
Of over 350 men who applied to tribunals as COs, most came from Tottenham (162) and Hornsey (141) with the rest (around 50) from Wood Green. A very small number of the men who applied for
absolute exemption were successful. The most common verdict was ‘Exemption from Combatant Service Only’, a compromise decision that meant enlistment in the army’s Non-Combatant Corps in support of front-line soldiers. Less common was being sent to do ‘Work of National Importance’ such as horticulture or farming. Least common was work with the Friends Ambulance Unit or Royal Army Medical Corps. Men who accepted these verdicts were known as ‘Alternativists’ because they accepted work as an alternative to being a fighting soldier.

Men who would have nothing to do with the war or the military were known as ‘Absolutists’. These objectors would not just refuse to fight. They believed that any work that helped another man to fight was morally wrong. Tribunals could allow men to appeal. Locally, this meant submitting a claim for exemption to the Middlesex Tribunal which met at the Guildhall, and appealing later to the Central Tribunal which often met at Wandsworth Prison, although its official home was the House of Commons. This could be a gruelling and long-drawn-out process and one which was likely to end in forced labour in work camps. The Home Office work camps were in disused parts of Dartmoor and Wakefield prisons, or Dyce at Aberdeen where COs might spend time stone-breaking. If men refused the Tribunal decision they would be arrested and handed over to the army. A few simply disappeared, going on the run. Absolutists who continued to resist faced court martial, imprisonment and sometimes humiliating and cruel punishment. For some this was repeated several times. Those who were imprisoned or confined to work camps were not released until April 1919.
The walk from Finsbury Park, Station Place, to the Salisbury Hotel, Green Lanes, Harringay, will take about one and a half hours visiting places where a number of COs associated with the area lived, stayed or worked during the period of conscription between 1916 and 1918. By 1916 the station had become a major transport hub of trains with the new terminus of the Piccadilly line, trams, and buses for north London with connections to central London and the outer suburbs. This made Finsbury Park an easily accessible open space for Londoners.

Follow the numbers on the map in the centre spread.
From the time that the Park was opened in 1869 it became a popular place for open air meetings used on a regular basis by suffragettes, socialists and trade unionists which attracted people from many walks of life. The Society for the Promotion of Universal and Permanent Peace, more popularly known as the London Peace Society, used the park for their annual gatherings in the 1880s.

Richard, ‘Dick’, or RM Fox was a well-known speaker in Finsbury Park until his arrest in 1916. An engineer, he became a socialist at an early age, listening to speakers on Tottenham High Road. He belonged to the Workers’ Union and was chair of the Northern Division of the Herald League. His work meant he was not conscripted but nevertheless he applied for unconditional and absolute exemption. He was arrested, court-
In January 1916 the North London Herald League organised a meeting at which Sylvia Pankhurst was to speak but, according to the *Daily Herald*, a paid and violent mob rushed the platform and broke it up. On another occasion in 1917 a debate in Finsbury Park between the North London Herald League and Havelock Wilson, the Seamen’s Union leader and a vociferous spokesman for the pro-war faction in the Trades Union Congress, was violently disrupted by 200 merchant seamen led by Captain Edward Tupper, Wilson’s henchman in the union.

Leaflets picked up from the mud at a meeting in Finsbury Park, 1917.
A young CO lived at 7 Oxford Road.

Frederick Ernest Webster, 18 years of age, a newspaper assistant, applied to Hornsey Tribunal for absolute exemption on religious grounds, with a letter of support from his pastor, Mr Saxby of 596 Green Lanes, Harringay. The Tribunal refused his application saying ‘there were not sufficient grounds for exemption’. He would have been sent to Mill Hill Barracks and must have refused orders as he was in prison in August 1916.

In Cornwall Road two COs lived who received very different treatment.

Hector William Kingston, a clerk aged 25, married, living at 25 Cornwall Road, applied for exemption to Hornsey Tribunal four times in 1916 on two grounds: conscience and hardship. The Tribunal refused all his applications, and he appealed to the Middlesex Appeal Tribunal which rejected his appeal. He was forcibly enlisted, joining a Cycling Battalion, and was killed in action in 1918.
Henry Horace Peacock, a Post Office letter sorter, married, aged 37, living at 9 Cornwall Road (above), applied for exemption to Hornsey Tribunal in 1916 on grounds of conscience as a Congregationalist. He was only granted exemption from combatant service. The Middlesex Appeal Tribunal extended his exemption, so that he could remain with the Post Office for six months, until March 1917. Dissatisfied, he went absent and was arrested in April and sent to Mill Hill Barracks Non-Combatant Corps Depot, where he joined the Guardroom Branch of the No-Conscription Fellowship. He was court-martialled and sentenced to 56 days hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs. The Central Tribunal eventually classified him as a CO and sent him to the work camp on Dartmoor.

In Connaught Road there were seven men at three addresses, the greatest number of COs on any street in Haringey.

16 Connaught Road was home to Isaac Goss, son of Jewish refugees from the Russian Pale of Settlement, 36 years of age, married with four children and owner of a tailoring business. The Hornsey Tribunal refused him an absolute exemption in 1916, giving him exemption from combatant service to do work of national importance. He refused to accept this conditional exemption but the Middlesex Appeal Tribunal only confirmed Hornsey’s decision and he was duly arrested for absenteeism and taken to Mill Hill Barracks. He must have convinced the military authorities...
that his work was of national importance as he seems to have avoided enlistment in the Non-Combatant Corps and appears to have returned to civilian life. Perhaps being the Secretary of the London County Council School Care Committee and running a Sunday school, a Boys’Club and summer camps was enough to make the authorities wary of his influence. He was also a leading member of the No-Conscription Fellowship and a ‘thorn in the side’ of Hornsey Tribunal.

The five Walker brothers, clerks and commercial artists, all single, aged between 33 and 21, lived at 17 Connaught Road, the largest family group of COs in Haringey. All five young men refused to answer any call-up papers, respond to any military orders or undress for medicals when they were taken to Mill Hill Barracks for enlistment into the Non-Combatant Corps. All five were at one time or another arrested, court-martialled, or given prison sentences with hard labour. Isaac Goss raised the brutal treatment of the brothers as an example of the wider mistreatment of all COs.

Joseph Goss, younger brother of Isaac, lived at 31 Connaught Road. At 25, he was unmarried, a tailor’s cutter and manager. Hornsey Tribunal refused him absolute exemption on 23 March 1916, offering exemption from combatant service, which he refused. He was arrested for absenteeism in October and taken to Mill Hill. Joseph refused military orders and was given six months hard labour to be served in Wormwood Scrubs.
Walk on to the end of Connaught Road, past the blocks of flats that were part of the extensive post-WW2 bomb damage reconstruction of Stroud Green, to Oakfield Road. Turn left at this junction to reach Stapleton Hall Road.

Look left down Stapleton Hall Road towards where a CO lived who was to have post-war experience of prison.

Albert Samuel Inkpin lived at 16 Stapleton Hall Road. He was 32, married, and secretary of the British Socialist Party. He was exempted from military service in July 1916 on medical grounds. A year later he appeared again before Hornsey Tribunal under the provisions of the second Military Service Act that allowed tribunals to re-examine men previously declared medically unfit. His claim for absolute exemption was turned down by the Chairman who determined that his motivation was political, and so could not be conscientious. The outcome of this is unknown. After the war he became Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain and was imprisoned at least twice for political reasons.

Turn right from Oakfield Road into Stapleton Hall Road and continue up the hill to Quernmore Road, a cul-de-sac beside the fine red brick Stroud Green and Harringay Library, leading to Harringay Railway Station.

The house opposite the library was home to a CO.

Andrew James Melhuish, aged 34 and single, was a tool and hardware merchant living at 157 Stapleton Hall Road. He applied to Hornsey Tribunal in March 1916 and was granted exemption from combatant service, conditional on joining the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU). He served in England with the FAU from April 1916 until November 1918.
Walk over the railway bridge at the end of the cul-de-sac into Railway Approach and cross Wightman Road, turning right at the Shelton Hotel.

This section of Wightman Road used to be a thriving shopping centre of 41 shops when it was built in the late 1880s. To the right at 20 Wightman Road, Herbert Bishop’s dairy was the address of a young CO whose family lived at 22 Crouch Hill.

Walter Charles Hohnrodt was 18 and a research assistant at the Royal Veterinary College. His German father was amongst 3,000 ‘enemy aliens’ interned at Alexandra Palace. Walter’s applications and appeals for absolute exemption were all turned down until October 1917, when the Central Tribunal exempted him to the Home Office Scheme. He refused and was sentenced to hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs and then in Wandsworth Prison between late 1917 and June 1919. In January 1919 he went on hunger strike and was released due to illness under the 1913 so-called Cat and Mouse Act (which had been used against hunger-striking suffragettes). Walter was re-arrested and re-imprisoned until June 1919.

Above: An extract from one of Walter Hohnrodt’s handwritten letters, from the Peace Pledge Union archives.

Right: Andrew Melhuish. Left: His Friends Ambulance Unit service card.
Walk down Atterbury Road and turn left into Woollaston Road and then right to walk down Umfreville Road towards Green Lanes.

The border between Hornsey and Tottenham ran between houses 94 and 96 Umfreville Road.

70 Umfreville Road was home to Charles Robert Watson, aged 26, single and a commercial traveller. He is one of those COs about whom we know very little indeed. Though he is listed as a CO on the Pearce Register of British Conscientious Objectors 1914-1918, we have no record of why he became a CO, his tribunal appearances or of what happened to him after that.

Grand Parade, Green Lanes, which can be seen from the bottom of Umfreville Road, was one of the finest late Victorian shopping parades in North London when it opened in 1900. Across Green Lanes, a flat above a florist’s shop, 75b Grand Parade, was the address of three brothers, two of whom were activists in the North London Herald League.

Cecil Whitby Howard was a grocer’s manager aged 28, Percy Wilberforce Howard an accounts clerk aged 26, and Leonard S Howard a shop assistant aged 22. All lived at 75b. Cecil was arrested as an absentee, court-martialled at Mill Hill Barracks and sentenced to 112 days hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs before the Central Tribunal granted an exemption conditional on joining the Home Office Scheme, first in Wakefield Prison and then at Dartmoor. Percy and Leonard were at different times secretaries of the Northern Division of the Herald League, organising meetings at Liberty Hall, the Herald League’s premises up at 318 Green Lanes, at nearby Fairfax Hall and at the Allison Hall, further north up Green Lanes. They continued their activities and though both were absolutists, neither seems to have been detained by the authorities for any great length of time.

Edward Knight lodged at 75b. Aged 26 and a bookseller’s stockkeeper’s assistant, he asked for, but was refused, exemption on political grounds. His appeal was refused and he was subsequently court-martialled four times, serving consecutive prison sentences in Wandsworth Prison.
Cross Green Lanes and walk into the turning by Barclays Bank, Stanhope Gardens. Take the first turning on the right, Portland Gardens.

At the far end of Portland Gardens is the Kurdish Community Centre. In 1916 this was Fairfax Hall, a one-time dancing school, where Sylvia Pankhurst was the main speaker in 1916 at a ‘Grand Concert and Dance’, one amongst many events organised there by the North London Herald League.

Another CO had an address next door in the top flat above a greengrocer’s shop.

76c Grand Parade, Green Lanes, was the address of Arthur Francis Simmons, aged 30, a school attendance officer. He is another man on the Pearce Register of COs about whom next to nothing is known. He apparently served in the Non-Combatant Corps, so he must have been given an exemption from combatant service which he was prepared to accept.

39 Stanhope Gardens was home to Alexander Simpson Coursier, a clerk who, in 1909, when he was 18, joined the Army Territorials on a four-year enlistment as a driver. His voluntary enlistment did not last the full four years and he was discharged in March 1911. There is no record of Alexander applying for exemption from military service in 1916, but he was court-martialled at Mill Hill barracks on 16 April 1916 and sentenced to 112 days hard labour, served in Wormwood Scrubs. He appeared before the Central Tribunal on 16 and 23 June 1917, was classified as a CO and on 12 July he was sent to Dartmoor Work Centre.

Below: *Daily Herald* advertisement for meeting in Fairfax Hall.
Walk down Stanhope Gardens to the second turning on the left, Grafton Gardens. Walk along Grafton Gardens and turn left into Rutland Gardens and then take the first right along Devon Gardens. Turn right into Roseberry Gardens and then take the first left, Sussex Gardens, to reach Chesterfield Gardens.

Two COs lived in Chesterfield Gardens.

33 Chesterfield Gardens (above) was home to Harry Phipps, a printer’s compositor, aged 26 and married, who claimed exemption on conscientious grounds in July 1916. Tottenham Tribunal gave him time to find work of national importance, which he did. But before he could return to the Tribunal his application was refused. Appeals were dismissed and he refused to join the Non-Combatant Corps, ending up in Wormwood Scrubs prison. His rough treatment meant he was sent to Barnet War Hospital, and then Aylesbury Hospital before being discharged as unfit. He died in 1919 leaving a wife and daughter.

Percy Bertram Harrow, 29 and married, was a piano finisher and polisher who lived at 98 Chesterfield Gardens. He applied for exemption on grounds of conscience for moral reasons. Tottenham Tribunal were not satisfied that he was a sincere conscientious objector and dismissed the claim. There is no information about Percy to be found between August 1916 and 1918 which may mean he accepted the fact that he was conscripted or perhaps he went on the run.

Another family group of brothers, all COs, lived in Stanhope Gardens.

The three Abbott brothers, working in sales and stores, Percy Richard, 28, Harvey, 27, and William Thomas, 22, lived at 58 Stanhope Gardens (above). Percy and Harvey applied for exemption to Tottenham Tribunal. This was granted and they agreed to join the Non-Combatant Corps. Percy was sent to France. However in July Harvey was found guilty of misconduct in the field and given seven days Field Punishment No. 2. This meant wearing fetters and handcuffs even while marching with his unit and also hard labour and loss of pay. William’s application was heard by Brighton Tribunal which granted him exemption from combatant service after which he also joined the Non-Combatant Corps.
From Chesterfield Gardens walk back to Green Lanes and turn right. Walk along Green Lanes to pass the address of another CO.

8a Grand Parade was the address of Edward Dauben, married, a 33-year-old bus driver. He was born Emil Daubenspeck, of German parentage, and was court-martialled in December 1916, and given 112 days hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs. In January 1917 the Central Tribunal offered him a place on the Home Office Scheme which he refused and he was sent to join the Non-Combatant Corps. Three days later he was sentenced to two years hard labour and transferred to Wandsworth Prison, staying in prison until April 1919.

17 Continue to walk until you reach Salisbury Corner and the Salisbury Hotel.

The Salisbury Hotel, now a Grade II* listed building, was opened in 1899, and forms the starting point of Grand Parade. The area outside the Hotel was a popular outdoor meeting place used by the North London Herald League, which organised an anti-war protest there on 5 August 1914. This is the end of the walk and the proposed site for a Conscientious Objectors plaque.
The majority of Haringey COs appeared before a Military Service Tribunal which met in one of the three Town Halls.

‡ HORNSEY Town Hall at the time was the former Hornsey Local Board Offices in Southwood Lane, Highgate, built by the Parish of Hornsey in 1867. The Offices remained in use until 1934 when the new Hornsey Town Hall was built in Crouch End. The original building was demolished and housing was built on the site in the 1960s. It is worth noting that the offices stood in the wealthy western-most part of the old borough and was probably unfamiliar territory for the COs from further east.

Postcode: N6 5TA. Transport: Highgate underground, buses.
WOOD GREEN men appeared at the Military Service Tribunal held at Wood Green Town Hall (pictured right). Earlham Grove House and surrounding land had been bought by the Local Board in 1893 becoming Wood Green Town Hall in 1894. The grounds are known as Woodside Park.
Postcode: N22 8YX. Transport: Wood Green underground and buses

TOTTENHAM men appeared at the Tribunal held in the very grand Town Hall on Tottenham Green. It was built in 1905 and is a Grade II listed building today. It was sold off to Newlon Housing Association in 2011, which has been responsible for the refurbishment and restoration of the building now used by voluntary services and as an entertainment centre.
Postcode: N15 4RY. Transport: Seven Sisters underground, buses

OTHER PLACES

103 CROUCH HILL
This was the home of the Reverend Richard Roberts and his family when he was minister at the Holly Park Presbyterian church further down Crouch Hill. (The church closed in 1975 and was demolished.) On the outbreak of war Roberts was shocked to see that
eight young German businessmen in his congregation had disappeared, and he realised that they might soon be fighting against fellow church members. Roberts chaired the founding conference of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and resigned from Holly Park church in 1915 to become the first secretary of this new pacifist society.

Roberts’ controversial views no doubt encouraged local COs, including Arthur Denny, who had been secretary of the Young People’s Fellowship, and Sydney Crisfield, secretary of the Young Men’s Debating Society, at the church. We know that Isaac Goss of Connaught Road had a book of essays by leading pacifist writers including Roberts.

Almost opposite 103, number 86 Crouch Hill was turned into a home for Belgian refugee families who had fled their homeland after the German invasion at the start of the war. Members of the Presbyterian congregation funded number 86 and another house at 4 The Grove from 1914 until 1916 when the War Refugees’ Committee took charge.

**ALEXANDRA PALACE**

To the north of the streets included in the walk is the iconic Alexandra Palace. During the First World War it was first used as a camp for Belgian Refugees who were then dispersed to various parts of the country. From 1915 it became a camp in which 3000 Germans, Austrians and Hungarians were interned until 1919 as ‘enemy aliens’. Many spoke no German and had been born in England. Some were living in Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green before the War: musicians, businessmen and ship-owners, or artisans such as bakers. They included Jewish refugees who had come to Britain in the 1890s from Russia and Eastern Europe. Some were ruined financially by internment and all suffered from the experience.

**Postcode: N22 7AY. Transport: W3 bus**
George Kenner, an interned German, produced a wonderful set of watercolours of daily life in the camp. Hornsey Historical Society’s Archive (hornseyhistorical.org) holds copies of a number of his pictures and an account from George himself.

100 HORNSEY HIGH STREET
This shop premises was used as the meeting place for the Hornsey Branch of the Herald League and must have been a familiar venue for many of the local political COs. Its secretary from at least July 1913 was Kate Offley, the older sister of three brothers who all went to Hornsey Tribunal for exemption as COs. William and Amyas became so demoralised by the bullying they received at the hands of the Tribunal that they reluctantly joined up. They were both killed in France. The third, Arthur, was an absolutist who spent most of the war in prison, went on hunger strike and was force-fed.

Kate was also secretary of Hornsey British Socialist Party which was another user of the premises. She must have known many local men who refused to
fight. In 1921 she married Rowland Pratt, another Hornsey CO who lived at 75 Claremont Road, Highgate, and was a prominent member of the anti-war movement. Postcode: N8 7HT. Transport: 144 bus.

**BROOK STREET CHAPEL**

There were many supportive churches and chapels, often small assemblies, particularly in Tottenham and largely Non-Conformist, which produced and supported COs. See for example Brook Street Chapel in Tottenham High Road set up by dissident Quakers and later adhering to the Brethren. Tottenham COs William George Couchman and Ernest Cuthbert attended and helped there. Postcode: N17 9JF. Transport: Bruce Grove Overground and buses.

**HARINGEY’S COS**

You will find all Haringey’s 350 COs listed on the HFWWP website with their addresses, occupations and, so far as it is possible to know, the details of their pre-war, wartime and post-war biographies. Visit hfwwpf.wordpress.com
We Will Not Fight: the untold stories of World War One’s Conscientious Objectors
by Will Ellsworth-Jones

Don’t be a soldier! The radical anti-war movement in north London 1914-1918
by Ken Weller
Search online at: libcom.org

For more publications go to hfwwpf.wordpress.com/select-bibliography/

Books

We Will Not Fight: the untold stories of World War One’s Conscientious Objectors
by Will Ellsworth-Jones

Websites

Bruce Castle Museum: Search at: haringey.gov.uk
Conscientious Objection Remembered: conscientiousobjectionremembered.wordpress.com
Conscientious Objectors’ Register 1914-1918. (The Pearce Register):

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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION REMEMBERED

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This booklet tells the hidden story of some of the 350 Haringey ‘Conscientious Objectors’ (COs) who refused to fight in World War One. It takes us back to Haringey a hundred years ago, to the local anti-war protests and the legal battles faced by COs after conscription was introduced in 1916.

The walk (map in centre pages) from Finsbury Park Station to the Salisbury pub on Green Lanes, Harringay, captures the range of CO experiences, taking in their homes, and meeting places where the anti-war movement found support. Other locations in the borough have been chosen to further illuminate this forgotten aspect of Haringey’s First World War history.

Haringey First World War Peace Forum
www.conscientiousobjectionremembered.wordpress.com