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Tattersfield Notebook 1

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First Petition

First Petition, Rothamsted Research (1917) Tattersfield Notebook 1, pp 49aL - 49aL2

Cpy by Douglas of Brynne
Pebble

We the undersigned, members of the Friends Ambulance Unit, have voluntarily undertaken our present peace service in a deep desire to alleviate the suffering caused by the war and to show love to our fellow men who have obeyed a call different from our own.

We recognise many and varied forms of service to which a man's conscience may lead him, and believe that testimony for Peace may find as true expression before the Tribunals in England as upon the Battlefields of Flanders. We view with dismay the injustice of many Tribunals and are convinced of the sincerity of those who, having claimed absolute exemption now await sentence of ~~unlawful~~ court martial, or arrest as deserters.

We resent the impression that the Unit is an integral part of the military machine, and take our stand by the Conscientious Objectors whose service lies at home. We cannot accept preferential treatment, and insist that the conditions of our free & voluntary service as conscientious objectors is justice for all alike under the provisions of the Military Service Act. 2(3)

We therefore ask the Government to give an assurance that all conscientious objectors

whose sincerity is proved by the willingness to suffer for their beliefs shall be released from detention and granted absolute exemption from the provisions of the Military Service Act to which the measure entitles them, and without this assurance we shall feel in duty bound, though with the utmost reluctance, to sever our connection with the Friends Ambulance Unit and return to England to stand by those whose lawful claim for exemption has been refused.