

**FALLACIES AND FACTS,  
AN ANSWER TO  
"COMPULSORY SERVICE"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649404063

Fallacies and facts, an answer to "Compulsory service" by Frederick Sleigh Roberts

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FREDERICK SLEIGH ROBERTS**

**FALLACIES AND FACTS,  
AN ANSWER TO  
"COMPULSORY SERVICE"**





PRINTED BY  
HAZELL, WATSON AND VINEY, LD.,  
LONDON AND AYLESBURY.

ΑΙΡΟΦΩΤΙΑΣ ΤΟ ΜΗΝ  
23 ΔΕΚΜΒΡ 2017  
ΥΡΑΡΕΛΙ

U.F.  
345  
G-7R6

# CONTENTS

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955

PART I	
THE NATION'S PERIL . . . . .	PAGE 1

PART II	
THE MILITARY AND NAVAL SITUATION	52

PART III	
THE ARGUMENT FROM HISTORY . . .	193



PART I  
THE NATION'S PERIL

I

LORD ESHER'S COMMITTEE

TEN years ago this country found itself in a serious difficulty.

We were engaged in a war 6,000 miles away, against an enemy numbering from first to last less than 90,000 fighting men. Our forces had encountered a severe check and the people of the British Empire were thoroughly roused and determined to do all that could be done to turn defeat into victory. In this they were successful. To accomplish the task, however, required twenty-eight months, and a total



sacrifice of over twenty thousand lives and more than two hundred and fifty million pounds.

Now as a people we pride ourselves on our business aptitudes. We recognized that the cost of this our latest venture in war was higher than it should have been, and we determined, if possible, to make more satisfactory arrangements to meet any similar complications which might arise in the future. Accordingly we appointed first one Royal Commission, then another, to consider and deal with the question, and finally a Committee, all in the space of a few months ; one led to the other. The purpose in each case was one and the same—or so the country believed—namely, that the men best qualified, by ability and experience, to throw light upon the subject and to come to a practical conclusion, should take and sift all available evidence and then make their recommendations for the improvement of our land forces as regards their preparation for war.

Let us see what these recommendations were. The two Royal Commissions had

met under the presidency of the Earl of Elgin and the Duke of Norfolk respectively, and their conclusions may be shortly summarized. Lord Elgin's Commission reported that "No military system will be satisfactory which does not contain powers of expansion outside the limits of the Regular Forces of the Crown, whatever that limit may be." The Duke of Norfolk's Commission said of the Militia that it was "unfit to take the field for the defence of the country," and of the Volunteers that "neither the musketry nor the tactical training of the rank and file would enable it to face, with prospect of success, the troops of a Continental Army," and followed up this assertion by unanimously declaring that "a Home Defence Army capable, in the absence of the whole, or the greater part of the Regular Forces, of protecting this country from invasion can be raised and maintained only on the principle that it is the duty of every citizen of military age and sound physique to be trained for the national defence, and to take part in it should emergency arise."

The Committee, which succeeded the two Royal Commissions, met under the presidency of Lord Esher to consider an organization for Army Headquarters better suited to our needs than that which then existed. After a short deliberation it recommended the formation of an Army Council of seven members, four military and three civil. This Council was forthwith created. It was hoped that, by thus placing the administration of the Army in the hands of a Council in which professional opinion preponderated, the people of this country might feel assured that the experts in the art of war were satisfied with our preparations.

The Esher Committee laid stress on the responsibility attaching to each member of this Council in any decisions taken, and in executive orders issued in the name of the Council. Its Report as concerns this matter is couched in the following terms: "It thus becomes the duty of any military member or members of the Council who may dissent from a decision taken, either to resign office or to accept a share of responsibility for the action involved. While,