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Mathematics and pacifism in Cambridge 1915–1916: a student perspective

From January 1915 to July 1916 the Cambridge mathematics student F. P. White kept a detailed diary in which he freely recorded all aspects of his life. During this period White came top in the Mathematical Tripos, embarked on postgraduate research in applied mathematics and appeared in front of several Appeal Tribunals as a conscientious objector. White's diary not only includes vivid descriptions of the mathematics he studied and the mathematicians with whom he associated but it also provides an insight into the intellectual environment of the Cambridge pacifist milieu (Bertrand Russell *et al.*) to which he belonged.