

Schools Online



William Smurthwaite

Remembered

Lesson Plan

Background information for teachers

William Smurthwaite was a young soldier in the 18th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry who was born on June 9th 1894 and lost his life on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The documents in this pack provide some details about his short life.

Divide your pupils into small groups and give them copies of the documents. Ask them to work together to sequence the resources, note down any questions that they have, and interrogate the materials to find out what they can about William's short life.

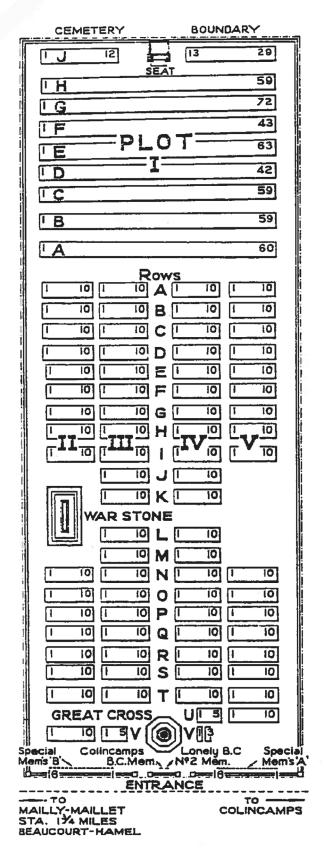
Curriculum links: English, History, Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship Core skills: Citizenship, Collaboration and communication, Student leadership and personal development

Encourage each group to present what they discover in an interesting way. They could for example write an obituary for William or make a scrapbook or presentation about his life with illustrations, maps and facts using the link https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/sites/so/files/british_council_somme_resource.pdf remembering the Battle of the Somme pack for reference.

Extracts from Durham Johnston School Admission Register

Name	Address	Age	Birthday	Date of joining	Father's details	Previous school
Andrew Norman Brown	Boat House, Durham	12	26 th Nov	01/02/1905	Joseph Brown, Boatbuilder	Boys Model School, Durham
John Duke	7 Fenton Terrace, New Herrington, Fencehouses	14	30 th Aug	17/09/1906	William Duke, Miner	N Skelton Colliery School
William Smurthwaite	Langley Park Hotel, Langley Park	13	9 th June	01/10/1907	M A Smurthwaite, Publican	Langley Park Council School

Grave plot 1.B.21



Extract from 'War History of the 18th Battalion Durham Light infantry' by Lieut-Col W D Lowe, DSO, MC (1920)

At the outbreak of the War 'a committee of gentlemen....agreed to raise and equip at their own expense a Battalion from the County of Durham....this Battalion was the only unit in the country that was so raised.....Lord Durham generously offered to place Cocken Hall at the disposal of the committee'

'On September 24, 1914, recruits began to assemble rapidly at Cocken Hall, the Durham City and District contingent marching from the Racecourse. They were soon joined by contingents from South Shields, Sunderland, Hartlepool and Darlington. From the outset a very high standard of physique was required, the minimum height being 5 feet 9 inches; the result was that the Battalion was composed of magnificent material: similarly, the recruits were of an unusually high level of intelligence, a very great proportion being drawn from clerks, tradespeople, shop assistants, students and men engaged in educational work'

'During the first six weeks the training consisted largely of route-marching'

Heading

Extract from 'War History of the 18th Battalion Durham Light infantry' by Lieut-Col W D Lowe, DSO, MC (1920)

Mary Smurthwaite

Daughter

1901 census Smurthwaite family

Address: Langi	Langley Park Hotel, Langley Park, Co Durham	gley Park, Co	Durham	
Name:	Position:	M/S	Age:	Occupation:
Walter Smurthwaite	Head	3	41	Innkeeper
Margaret Smurthwaite Wife	Wife	3	33	
Barbara Smurthwaite	Daughter	S	16	
Lily Smurthwaite	Daughter	S	14	
Margaret Smurthwaite Daughter	Daughter	S	13	
 William Smurthwaite 	Son		6	
Tom Smurthwaite	Son		U	
	P		Ŕ	

Durham - Newbottle

Birthplace:

Durham - South Shields

Durham - Oxhill

Durham – West Stanley

Durham – West Stanley

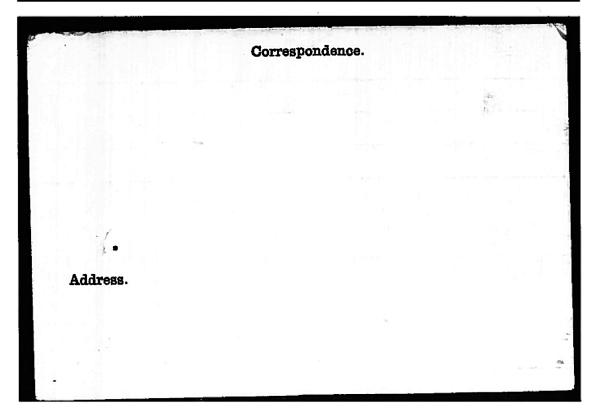
Durham – West Stanley

Durham – West Stanley

Durham – West Stanley

British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card

Campaign :—	1914-15 (A) Where decoration was earned.
Name	(B) Present situation. Corps Rank Reg. No. Roll on which included (if any)
(A)SMURTHWAITE	DUPH PE 18/594 VICTO VO/1/103 B/2 329
Action taken	15STAR 9/1/6/3 63
THEATRE OF WARL	(3/EGYPT.
EVALIFYING DATE (6 84 46) W234—HP5590 500,000	4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.



Medical History Form

The state of the s	Army Form B. 178.
Form B. 178a to be used	enlisting direct into the Regular Army only. Army for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists nlisting into the Regular Army.
	DICAL HISTORY OF
Surname Smuthe	caite Christian Name William
	Table 1.—GENERAL TABLE.
Birthplace Parish	st Stanley County Duham_
Examined	on 17 day of Left 191 4.
Declared Age	20 years 3 months
Trade or occupation	Mining_Student
Height Weight	/33 lbs
Chest Girth when fully Expanded,	35½ inches.
Measurement. Range of Expansion.	3 inches.
Physical Development and Pulse rate	Par /2 Left.
Vaccination Marks	4
When Vaccinated	Mary
Vision	RE-V= RE-V=
(a) Mark- indicating con- genital peculiarities or previous disease	(u)
(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection	(6)
Approved by (Signature)	Medical Officer
(Rank)	at Oluham
Enlisted	on _17 day of Sept 1914
Joined on Enlistment	Cornely Bal D. C. J. a.
Transferred to	
Became non-effective by	10 - 0
	on day of lepe 1914.
(Signature)	
(Rank)	P. T. O.
9/14.	

Enlistment Form

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auton sayer	. /
SHORT SI	ERVICE
(Three years with th	a Colques)
ATTESTATIO	
No 7 Name & vam Smart	4 1 1 1 144 1
Questions to be jut to the R-c	Contract of the contract of th
1 What is your name?	Linklan . Like art
• In or near what Romb or William was bound	2. In the Parish of in in in near the Town of
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you boto ?	in the County of
S. Are you a Dritish Subject ?	5 3
4. What is your Age?	Allemine Studen
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	o
G. Have you resided out of your Father's hidge for three fragars continuously in the same place or amounted a boundary lead of the years over the same of the fragars over the same and prick rates for the same, and, in	§ No)
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that	ne have given a wilfully files snawer to any of the
following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of	8 years imprisonment with hard labour.
7. Arg you, or have you been, an Approntice? If so, where it afters for that period Fand which this er will, the period of your Afgrenativeship repire?	7. 4e 21 GOLD
8. A y u Married?	8 No Dimer
9. Hore you ever be a sentenced to imprisonment by the	9
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Nava, the Army, the Royal Marraet, the M. its, the Special Reserve, the Terriportal Force, the Army Reserve, the Milita Reserve, or any Naval Rosagra Force I if es, to what Unit and Corps !	10
11. Have you ever served in the Rigal Navy, the Army,	
the departed Veneziant, the special measure, the ferritorial Peter, the Mittle Beserve, or any Baral Reserve Facca? I me, state which unit, and cause of discharge.	11
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous	12
18. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Mi itary or Baral Forces of the Crawn! If so, on what grounds!	13,
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated ?	11
15. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service :	16
meaning, and who gave it to you!	
17. Are yest willing to serve upon the following reachiness provided His Maje. Pear a term of three vests. You will be required to seem for one day with	
Far a term of litty texts. Yas will be required to occas for one day wit in the Arner Removes until ours times on you may be easiled up by order of the depots of Macrinol Critic, and as thereby, etc., you may be related after the man be special, but such resembles shall in an case queered six months. If, how	termination of hostilities until your sorvices gover, thus War is over in less than 3 years,
Jog will be streetarged with all contrasts there	
1. William Sizunstwack	alo solemnly declare that the above answers made by
me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfi the	
Wellan esin	Signature of Wilness.
- Li Zin	***
OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRU	UIT ON ATTESTATION.
be feithful and bear true Allezianes to His Majesty King Grouge	the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I
will, as in duty housed, honestly and faithfully defent the Major dignity against all enemies, and will observe and only all orders the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.	y. His Heira, and Sprone-ore, in Person, Grown, and of His Mejessy. His Heirs, and Successors, and of
CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE O	
The Recruit above-named was cautioned by my that if he mule be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.	
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my present I have taken care that he understands each question, and that he	is answer to each-question has been duly entered
riplied to, and the mid Broruit has made and rigned the	is declaration and taken the oath before in
at DURHAM. on this day of	44 EEP 1914 191
	re of the Justice (Start & RE TOTE

Personal Effects Letter from War Office

