



# 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](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 <sup>th</sup> Nov	01/02/1905	Joseph Brown, Boatbuilder	Boys Model School, Durham
John Duke	7 Fenton Terrace, New Herrington, Fencehouses	14	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	17/09/1906	William Duke, Miner	N Skelton Colliery School
William Smurthwaite	Langley Park Hotel, Langley Park	13	9 <sup>th</sup> June	01/10/1907	M A Smurthwaite, Publican	Langley Park Council School

# Grave plot 1.B.21

CEMETERY BOUNDARY

1 J 12 SEAT 13 29

1 H 59

1 G 72

1 F 43

1 E PLOT 63

1 D I 42

1 C 59

1 B 59

1 A 60

Rows

1 10 1 10 A 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 B 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 C 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 D 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 E 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 F 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 G 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 H 1 10 1 10

II III IV V

1 10 1 10 J 1 10

1 10 1 10 K 1 10

WAR STONE

1 10 1 10 L 1 10

1 10 1 10 M 1 10

1 10 1 10 N 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 O 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 P 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 Q 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 R 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 S 1 10 1 10

1 10 1 10 T 1 10 1 10

GREAT CROSS U 1 3 1 10

1 10 1 3 V VII 3

Special Mem's B' Colincamps B.C. Mem. Lonely B.C. N°2 Mem. Special Mem's A'

ENTRANCE

TO MAILLY-MAILLET STA. 1 3/4 MILES BEAUCOURT-HAMEL

TO COLINCAMPS

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

'The time in Eqypt had been well spent: plenty of hard work, plenty of digging, a good deal of marching in the heavy sand and a not too luxurious diet with a very limited choice of refreshing drinks had combined to make the men very fit.....during this period a good deal of football was played.....and the tug of war between teams mounted on mules ridden bareback and the camel races added considerably to the humour.....It was a good time and prepared us very gently for the more serious work ahead'

## 1901 census      Smurthwaite family

**Address:**      Langley Park Hotel, Langley Park, Co Durham

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>	<b>M/S</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>Occupation:</b>	<b>Birthplace:</b>
Walter Smurthwaite	Head	M	41	Innkeeper	Durham – Newbottle
Margaret Smurthwaite	Wife	M	33		Durham – South Shields
Barbara Smurthwaite	Daughter	S	16		Durham – West Stanley
Lily Smurthwaite	Daughter	S	14		Durham – West Stanley
Margaret Smurthwaite	Daughter	S	13		Durham – West Stanley
• William Smurthwaite	Son		6		Durham – West Stanley
Tom Smurthwaite	Son		5		Durham – West Stanley
Mary Smurthwaite	Daughter		2		Durham - Oxhill

## British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card

68  
Campaign :— **1914-15** (A) Where decoration was earned.  
(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) SMURTHWAITE	DURH L.I	PTE	18/594	VICTORIA ROLL 0/1/103 B/2 327
(B) William	---	---	---	BRITISH ROLL 100 100 15 STAR 9/1/63 63

Action taken

H.M.A.

THEATRE OF WAR (3) EGYPT.

QUALIFYING DATE 22/12/15.

(6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608

[OVER]

Correspondence.

Address.

## Medical History Form

Army Form B. 178.

To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only. Army Form B. 178a to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

### MEDICAL HISTORY OF

Surname Smurthwaite Christian Name William

TABLE 1.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace ... Parish	<u>West Stanley</u>	County	<u>Durham</u>
Examined ...	on <u>17</u> day of <u>Sept</u>		191 <u>4</u>
	at <u>Durham</u>		
Declared Age ...	<u>20</u> years <u>3</u> months		
Trade or occupation ...	<u>Mining Student</u>		
Height ...	<u>5</u> feet, <u>7</u>		
Weight ...	<u>133</u> lbs		
Chest Measurement. { Girth when fully Expanded,	<u>35½</u> inches.		
{ Range of Expansion.	<u>3</u> inches.		
Physical Development and Pulse rate	<u>Fair</u>	<u>72</u>	
Vaccination Marks { Arm ..	Right <u>4</u>	Left <u>4</u>	
When Vaccinated ...	<u>17 Sept 1914</u>		
Vision ...	R E - V = <u>17 Sept 1914</u>		
(a) Mark- indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease	(u) <u>17 Sept 1914</u>		
(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection	(b) <u>17 Sept 1914</u>		
Approved by ... (Signature)	<u>17 Sept 1914</u>		
(Rank)	<u>Medical Officer</u>		
Enlisted ...	at <u>Durham</u>		
	on <u>17</u> day of <u>Sept</u>		191 <u>4</u>
Joined on Enlistment ...	Corps. <u>Cosmby Btl D.C.I</u>	Regd. No. <u>6</u>	
Transferred to ...			
Became non-effective by ...	on <u>17</u> day of <u>Sept</u>		191 <u>4</u>
(Signature)			
(Rank)			

FOOTER, PAINTER, DURHAM  
9/14.

P. T. O.



## Enlistment Form

Army Form B. 200.

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(Three years with the Colours)

**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 7 Name William Smurthwaite Corps Infantry

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name?	1. <u>William Smurthwaite</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of <u>Durham</u> in or near the Town of <u>Durham</u> in the County of <u>Durham</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age?	4. <u>20</u> Years <u>3</u> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Learning Solder</u>
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state where?	6. <u>No</u>

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of 8 years imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where to whom, for what period? And when did, or will, the period of your Apprenticeship expire?	7. <u>Yes</u> <u>James R. Gaby</u>
8. Are you Married?	8. <u>No</u> <u>Durham</u>
9. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Unit and Corps?	10. <u>No</u>
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and cause of discharge.	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service?	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No</u>
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?	14. <u>Yes</u>
15. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service?	15. <u>Yes</u>
16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?	16. <u>Yes</u>
17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services:— For a term of three years. You will be required to serve for one day with the colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. If, however, the War is over in less than 3 years, you will be discharged with all convenient speed.	17. <u>Yes</u>

I, William Smurthwaite do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

William Smurthwaite SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
E. Chat Signature of Witness.

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**

I, William Smurthwaite swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered, replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me.

at DURHAM on this 7 day of SEP 1914 1914

Signature of the Justice Charles

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 8 (v) Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Attestation on Army Form B. 2005a.

## Personal Effects Letter from War Office

25 51) W2225-7300 3000 0/18 HWV.ETD.113 1110.922

11202-111255 6000 1 17

Effects. Form 118.

**MEMORANDUM FOR**

The Officer in charge of  
*Infantry* Records,  
*York*

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
The Secretary,  
War Office,  
Park Buildings,  
St. James's Park,  
London, S.W.1  
and the following number quoted.

**WAR OFFICE,**  
**PARK BUILDINGS,**  
**ST. JAMES'S PARK,**  
**LONDON, S.W.1**

28<sup>th</sup> March 1917.

E. 1214675/1 (Accounts 4.)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the late *NO 18/594. Private William Smurthwaite* 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion *Durham Light Infantry* should be despatched to:—  
*Mr A. Davis & Mr George E. Johnson*  
*C/o Mr J. Turnbull*  
*Solicitors*  
*Market Place, Durham*

Infantry Records, York.  
EFFECTS SENT.  
2 APR 1917  
FILE ATTESTATION.

*Chambers*  
Assistant Financial Secretary.

## **Credits**

Grateful thanks to the Durham Light Infantry  
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