

‘Bringing It Home’ learning resource produced by Hawick Heritage Hub.

A learning experience for S3 students based on an archive of letters sent by Hawick soldiers in the Dardanelles campaign to their families between May and July 1915.



### Still Image: Crowds at Hawick Post Office

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“Crowds of people gathered at the Post Office in Bridge Street to see for themselves the notice of those men listed as casualties. In silence they moved away, as their hearts reeled for what their eyes told them.”

(*All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918*, p.50, by Derek Robertson)

### Still Image: Hawick's Boy Soldiers

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“Amongst the Hawick company were several boys under the age for service overseas. One morning the battalion was paraded in front of the officers and all those under age were to take one pace forward. Many hesitated, while others reluctantly stepped forward. The boys were eager to get involved at the sharp end of the war because, as everyone knew, the war would be over before Christmas. They could not afford to miss out on this great adventure. Morale was at a high, the men were young and eager to do their stuff. However, it would not be until the following spring that the battalion would be sent overseas.”

(Adapted from *The Men Who Marched Away*, by Derek Robertson, pages 2-3)

Students begin by creating dramatic still images based on extracts from a local historian's book on Hawick's wartime experience.

This establishes collaboration and gets students physically involved with the soldiers' stories.

Extracts from published letters, together with short biographies and studio photographs give insights into the soldiers' thoughts, lives and backgrounds.

In pairs students redraft these as short personal introductions.

This section culminates in the soldiers leaving Hawick on the train.



Private Robert Davidson is twenty five years of age and lives at Billerwell Farm, Bonchester.

Before joining the Army, he worked as a forester in the Galashiels District. He lives with his parents at Billerwell Farm, Bonchester. His father works for the farmer, Mr. Knox, there. The family recently moved to Billerwell from the Ancrum District.

He is unmarried.





Selected extracts from soldiers' letters give graphic accounts of their engagement with the Turks, life in the trenches and the loss of their friends.

Each group of students assembles a slightly different information set, and the whole story is only apparent once the groups combine their findings on an information wall.

'The next thing I remember was waking up on the beach, the shells still coming across...I had a wound through the foot, one through the buttock, one through the groin and two through my arms so I was absolutely helpless.'

(Private George Waugh)

'It will be a year next Thursday since we joined the Army, and already some of my dearest friends have been killed. But, we have to forget these days and keep looking forward, as we never know whose turn it will be next.'

(Private John McIntyre)

'If you have ever seen rain falling on calm water, that is what the bullets were like.'

(Lt. Cathels)

When the students have assembled their combined information board the story of the July 12<sup>th</sup> attack unfolds fully.

A concluding drama activity transforms the students into the townspeople gathered outside the Post Office waiting for lists of the dead and injured to be posted on the noticeboard.



The unit addresses these areas of the Curriculum for Excellence:

- Social Studies (History) outcomes
- NQ 4&5 arrangements for History
- Literacy across Learning
- Expressive Arts – Drama
- Skills for Learning, Life and Work
- Responsible and Active Citizenship
- Interdisciplinary learning experiences
- Fostering cross-community links
- A platform for intergenerational engagement
- Partnership working with external organisations

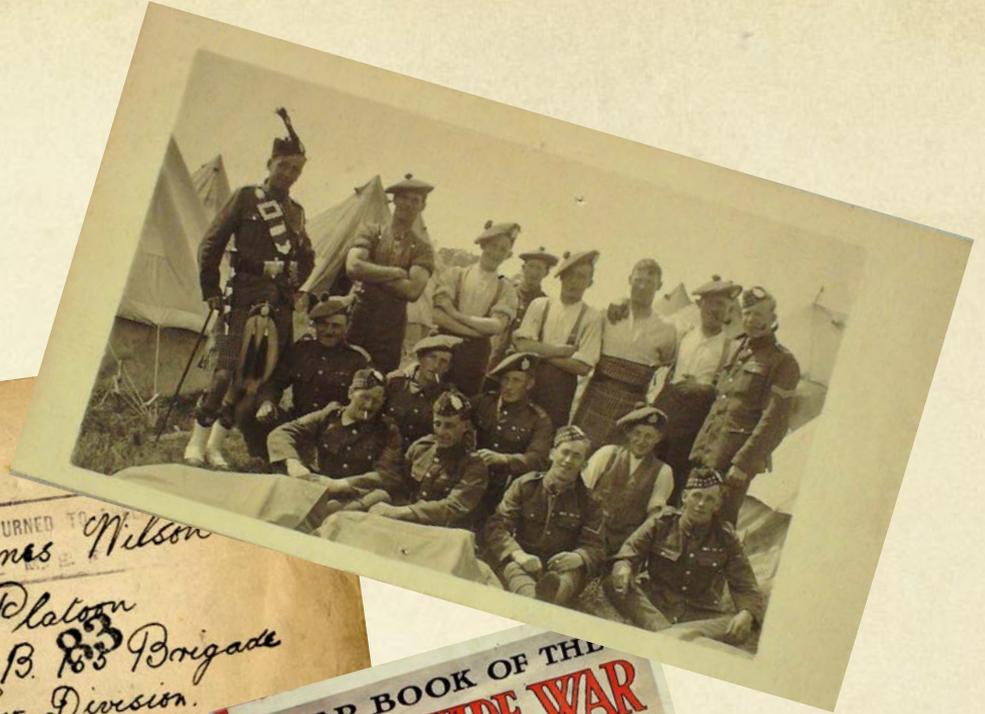
Private Andrew Wilson



Private Andrew Wilson is twenty three years of age and lives at 21 Garfield Street, Hawick.

Before joining the Army, Private Wilson worked as a dry cleaner with Turnbulls Ltd., Hawick.

He is the son of Mr. Andrew Wilson, railway stoker and lives with his parents. Private Wilson has two brothers who are also soldiers. An uncle of his, Private John Ferguson, was killed early in the war.



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 PRESSEE RETURNED TO  
 Pte James Nilson  
 My Platoon  
 14th K.O.S.B. 103 Brigade  
 52nd Low Division.  
 Mediterranean Expeditionary  
 Force  
 England

**How the K.O.S.B.'S made Porridge.**  
 Lieut. James B. Penman, of the machine gun section of the 150th K.O.S.B. (Dumfries and Galloway Territorials), son of Mr A. G. Penman, in a letter home gives a description of life at the Dardanelles under active service conditions. He says: "I am feeling really comfortable just now, having had a good wash with a waterproof sheet and a bucket of water yesterday dug out. We had a great delirium of syrup. None of my men had porridge in the morning, having bought, borrowed, or stolen meal from some Australians. We try all sorts of experiments in the way of food here. My tin, the meal being oatmeal biscuits, this down in a tin lid with the head of an iron trenching tool. Oats, make jam puddings with ordinary wheaten biscuits broken down and boiled with water and jam. We had boiled rice with jam, but no milk except condensed, which is too scarce for boiling as a pudding."

**GALLIPOLI**

