



Rowlands Gill: The Great War and the Great Peace Tommy Atkin Joins Up

Lesson Plan: Tommy Atkin - Learning from Service Records	
Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history. Use a range of historical information including primary sources. Construct an informed response to the evidence.	Success Criteria The children understand the process of joining the armed forces 1914-18 and how this impacted on local men and women.
Key Questions How did a soldier join the army 1914-18? What records can we find about a First World War Serviceman?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Point out the nickname for ordinary British soldiers in WW1 was <i>Tommy Atkins</i> . Explain that the British armed services were made up largely of volunteers until conscription was introduced for men between 18 and 41 in March 1916. Many soldiers, like Thomas Atkin from Birtley joined up in Newcastle. Only around one third of army service records survive – around 2 million. Most were destroyed by bombing in WW2 and those we still have a known as the <i>burnt records</i> . Ask the children if they can find evidence of damage on Atkin's form.	Resources Project original attestation form on white board.
Main Activity Read and transcribe Thomas's Attestation (joining up) form. Work together as a class and/or in pairs to understand the answers to each question. It's a fun exercise to have a few children take the Oath – saying it out loud. His calling is <i>apprentice grocer</i> . The person filling in the form and the witness is likely to be a regimental sergeant. His name is hard to read but may be George Nunwell. Rowlands Gill Link: Check out the service records of Private William Lumley (SR 7&8) for the attestation of a soldier on the Rowlands Gill War Memorial. They are quite easy to read.	Resources Print out page 2 as A3 if possible
Plenary Complete the blank form. This is a combination of a real attestation and medical form. Practice using imperial units. Chest girth is measured breathing in fully and just normally inflated. Thomas was 5ft 4 ½ inches with a 32 inch fully expanded chest and an expansion range of 2 inches. He had 2 vaccination marks on his left arm. A space for metric measurements has been provided if imperial is too confusing.	Resources Tape measure with feet and inches



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19090-4672 3RM 12/15 H & B Army Form B. 203

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE *100* *Duplicate*

SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve).

Card No.

86562

ATTESTATION OF

Name *Thomas William Atkin* Corps *3rd Div*
MACHINE GUN CORPS

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... *Thomas William Atkin*
2. What is your full Address? ... *3 St John Place
Birtley co Durham*
3. Are you a British Subject? ... *ys*
4. What is your Age? ... *18* Years *112* Days
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... *App Grocer*
6. Are you Married? ... *no*
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... *✓*
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... *ys*
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... *yes* Name *Geo Shumell co* Corps *M.G.C.*
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, 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. ... *yes*

I, *Thomas William Atkin* 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.

Thomas William Atkin SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Geo Shumell Co. App. Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas William Atkin* 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 as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at *St John Place* on this *1* day of *6* 19*16*

R. P. Smith
Signature of the Justice

Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the *3rd Div*

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date *11 NOV 1916*

Place *NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE* *W. H. ...*
RECRUITING OFFICER OR RECRUITING AREA } Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz—(Name) _____ on the (Date) _____



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What is the name of the recruit?	
What is his service number?	
What regiment (unit) did he join in the army?	
How can we tell that the recruit changed regiments?	
What is the recruits address?	
How old is he?	
What was his job (trade or calling) before he joined the army?	
Read the Oath to be taken by the recruit. By signing this what does he promise to do in the army?	
Now move on to page 4 and JOIN UP.	



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Tommy Atkin Joins Up**

Army Form B 2512

Short Service Attestation of

Number

Name

Corps

Questions to be put to recruit before enlistment

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. What is your name? | 1..... |
| 2. What is your full address? | 2..... |
| 3. Are you a British subject | 3..... |
| 4. What is your age? | 4..... Years.....Months |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5..... |
| 6. Are you married? | 6..... |
| 7. Have you ever served in a branch of His Majesties Forces, naval or military, if so which? | 7..... |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated? | 8..... |
| 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for general service? | 9..... |

Medical History

Examined		The Barracks Newcastle	
Height		Feet & Inches	Metres & Centimetres
Chest Measurement	Girth when fully expanded	Inches/cm	
	Range of expansion	Inches/cm	
Vaccination Marks		Arm	Right
		Left	
		Number	

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

.....**SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT**
*Signature of Witness*

