

Press release

Children to Tell Tommies' Tales of the First World War

00:01 GMT Tuesday 21 October 2014: The National Archives is launching '[Telling Tommies' tales](#)'; a creative competition open to primary school aged children across the UK to discover and interpret some of the records in its First World War collection.

Using a box of letters from staff of the Great Western Railway office in Paddington, London, (file ref: [RAIL 253/516](#)), children are invited to create something inspired by their interpretations of soldiers' personal accounts of the war. It can be anything from a drawing, poem or cartoon to a TV report, an audio diary or even a short film.

Clare Horrie, Online Education Manager at The National Archives, said: "Our 'Telling Tommies' tales' competition allows primary school children to explore the original letters that were penned by the soldiers themselves and spark their creative flare by making something inspired by what they've read. Children will be able to take an active part in learning about the everyday lives of soldiers in the First World War, exploring history from the front line."

The competition aims to encourage children to engage with original First World War documents and pictures housed at The National Archives in Kew.

Children can enter as a group or individual. Entries must be received by **23:59 GMT on 31 January 2015**. Entries will be judged according to each school year group (year 3 to year 6). Winners will be announced on **12 February 2015**. First prize is a £20 book token and a gift pack of First World War related goodies worth £25 (runner up will receive a gift pack).

The winning entries, and other highly commended entries, will also be shown on our website and social media channels.

Full details of how to enter, terms and conditions and the digitised documents are available on the [Telling Tommies' tales competition page](#).

For further information, please contact Rebecca Simpson, Press Officer at The National Archives on: 020 8392 5277 or e-mail: press@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Notes to Editor:

About The National Archives:

For the record, for good... The National Archives is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archive of the UK government and England and Wales, we look after and make available to the public a collection of historical records dating back over 1,000 years, including records as diverse as Domesday Book and MI5 files.

Our 21st-century role is to collect and secure the future of the record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible as possible. We do this by devising technological solutions to ensure the long-term survival of public records and working to widen access to our collection. The National Archives also advises on information management across government, publishes all UK legislation, manages Crown copyright and leads the archive sector. We work to promote and improve access to public sector information and its re-use.

Follow the press office on Twitter [@TNAPressOfficer](https://twitter.com/TNAPressOfficer) and for general news [@UkNatArchives](https://twitter.com/UkNatArchives). The competition will be using the hashtag: #filesonfilm