



steam creative writing task

First World War Poetry (KS2)



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

A Call from the Trenches

Now sounds the hour of England's need,
Britons hear the call.

Let thought of pleasure be cast aside

Work must go to the wall.

Many a man **perforce**, must stay,

Though he longs to do 'his bit'

To many a brave heart sounds the **knell**

Of the Doctor's word – not fit.

Yet many refuse to hear the call

Or, selfish, will not heed;

While to heaven seek the **Hun's** foul work

And the Empire's bravest bleed.

We must face the ghastly struggle

And crush the cruel foe,

All thought of self must vanish

And every man must go.

So rally boys – all together,

Come every mother's son

The fiercer is our onset –

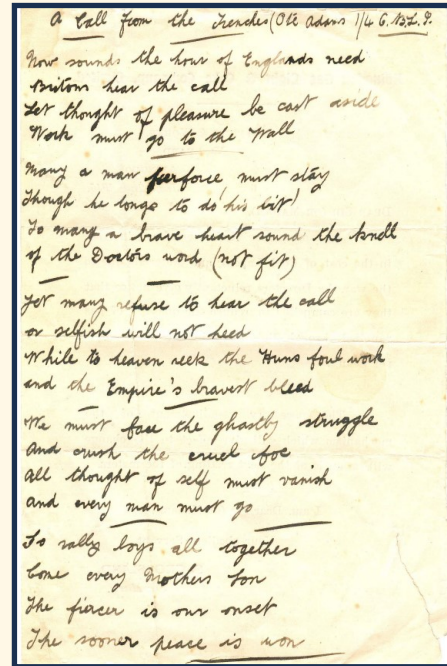
The sooner peace is won.

Private Adams,

1/4 Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry,

British Expeditionary Force.

c. 1915.



Read the poem written by soldier Private Adams during the First World War. It talks about a soldier's feeling of duty to his country.

Can you write an extra verse for this poem?

Try to:

- Make the verse four lines long
- Make the last words of the 2nd and 4th lines rhyme
- Include a reason you would want to go and fight in the trenches

Vocabulary Key:

- **Perforce:** unavoidably, something that has to happen
- **Knell:** sound of a bell
- **Hun:** a nickname that the British army called the German enemy in the First World War