

TALES FROM THE GREAT WAR: SMITH FAMILY, INVERNESS

George and Isabella Smith married in 1910 and lived at Douglas Row, Inverness with their two daughters, Mary who was born in 1913 and Elspet who was born in 1918. In 1915 aged 36, George enlisted in the Army and was transferred to the Reserves.

W 11207-1420 500,000 10/15 H.W.V.P. 607
 O1373/1/2(1)
 Army Form W. 3194.
 Name George Smith No. _____
 Address 11 Douglas Row, Inverness
 Group Number 39
 Date of Attestation 27. Nov. 1917
 The above-named man has been attested and transferred until required for service, when he will be sent a Notice to the date, time and place at which he is to report himself. will be given.
 N.B.—Any change of address should be immediately notified.
 Officer Barron Barracks
Inverness Station. D. Holt
27.11.17 Date.

O1373/1/2(1)
CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE. Army Form W. 8291.
 THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Mr. George Smith was medically examined on 27 February 1917 and classified as:—
A. Fit for general service. — Recruits who should be fit for general service so soon as trained.
B. Fit for service abroad, but not fit for general service. (i) In garrison or provisional units. (ii) In labour units, or on garrison or regimental outdoor employment. (iii) On sedentary work as clerks or storemen only.
C. Fit for service at home only. (i) In garrison or provisional units. (ii) In labour units or on command garrison or regimental outdoor employments. (iii) On sedentary work as clerks, storemen, batmen, cooks, orderlies, sanitary duties, &c.
R. Rejected and therefore excepted from Military Service.
27.2.17 Date. [Signature]
 Categories not applicable to be struck out: Inverness Station.
 B292c Wt. W10168/M1047 500m 11/16. H. & J. Ed. Form W 8291.4 (P.T.O.)

Army Form W. 1176a
Army Reserve.
CERTIFICATE OF PROTECTION
 issued by Military Authorities on ground that holder is marked in Military Register as not to be called up for service with colours so long as certificate is in force.
 G.D. 2008 200,000 417 HWV(D)

In 1917 George was given a medical examination by the Army and was classified as “fit for service at home only”. Shortly after his medical examination, he received a Certificate of Protection which said he was “not liable for Military Service until he is sent a calling-up notice”.

The struggles of those left behind can be seen through the Smith family records, which contain both ration cards and registration documents.

Holder's Surname: Smith
 Christian Name: George
 Address: 4 Douglas Row Inverness
 KEEP THIS CARD CAREFULLY
 RATIONING ORDER, N. 86, 1918.
 Food Office of Issue.
BURGH OF INVERNESS
 Name and Address of BUTCHER **A** MR. McHILLIBAY, VAPOR STREET.
 Name and Address of BUTTER Retailer **B** QUEENSGATE, INVERNESS
 Name and Address of SUGAR Retailer **C** QUEENSGATE, INVERNESS
 Name and Address of Retailer for **D**
 Name and Address of Retailer for **E**

O1373/1/1(1)
INVERNESS BURGH FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE.
MILK CARD.
 No. of Persons in Household 8
 Address: [Signature]
 Adults 7
 Children 1
 Retailer: James [Signature] to (Waterloo Pl.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| OCT. | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| NOV. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| DEC. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |

The family was issued with a milk card and each member of the family had a ration booklet and a Food Retailer card.

TALES FROM THE GREAT WAR: SMITH FAMILY, INVERNESS

There were different types of ration book for adults and children, even the youngest child Elspet, who was under one year old in 1918, had her own ration book!

D1373/1/1 (2)

MINISTRY OF FOOD.
NATIONAL RATION BOOK (B).

INSTRUCTIONS.

Read carefully these instructions and the leaflet which will be sent you with this Book.

1. The person named on the Reference Leaf as the holder of this ration book must write his name and address in the space below, and in the proper space and address, and the serial number (printed upside down on the back cover, in the book) to be sent to the left of each page of coupons.

Food Office of Issue Date

Signature of Holder *George Smith*

Address *7 Douglas Row Inverness*

2. For convenience of writing at the Food Office the Reference Leaf has been put opposite the back cover, and has purposely been printed upside down. It should be carefully examined. If there is any mistake in the entries on the Reference Leaf, the Food Office should be asked to correct it.

3. The holder must register this book at once by getting his retailers for butcher's meat, bacon, butter and margarine, sugar and tea respectively, to write their names and the addresses of their shops in the proper space on the back of the cover. Persons staying in hotels, boarding houses, hostels, schools, and similar establishments should not register their books until they leave the establishment.

4. The ration book may be used only by or on behalf of the holder, to buy rationed food for him, or members of the same household, or guests sharing common meals. It may not be used to buy rationed food for any other persons.

N. 2 (Nov.) (Continued on next page.)

D1373/4/1 (1)

MINISTRY OF FOOD.
CHILD'S RATION BOOK (A).

INSTRUCTIONS.

Read carefully these instructions and the leaflet which will be sent you with this Book.

1. The parent or guardian of the child named on the reference leaf as the holder of this ration book must sign his own name and write the child's name and address in the space below, and write the child's name and address, and the serial number (printed upside down on the back cover) in the space provided to the left of each page of coupons.

Food Office of Issue Date

Signature of Child's Parent or Guardian *George Smith*

Name of Child *Elspet L. Smith*

Address *7 Douglas Row Inverness*

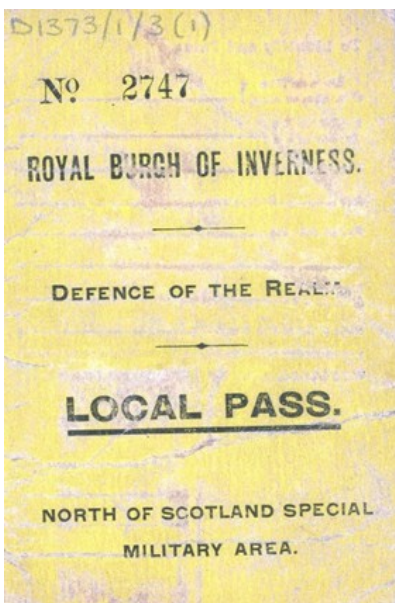
2. For convenience of writing at the Food Office the Reference Leaf has been put opposite the back cover, and has purposely been printed upside down. It should be carefully examined. If there is any mistake in the entries on the Reference Leaf, the Food Office should be asked to correct it.

3. The book must be registered at once by the child's parent or guardian, who must take the book to the retailers with whom the child was previously registered for butcher's meat, bacon, butter and margarine, sugar and tea respectively, or, if the child has not previously held a book, to any retailers chosen. These retailers must write their names and the addresses of their shops in the proper space on the back of the cover. The books of children staying in hotels, boarding houses, hostels, schools and similar establishments should not be registered until they leave the establishment.

4. The ration book may be used only by or on behalf of the holder, to buy rationed food for him, or members of the same household, or guests sharing common meals. It may not be used to buy rationed food for any other persons.

N. 1 (Nov.) (Continued on next page.)

When parts of the Highlands were declared a Special Military Area in 1916 under the Defence of the Realm Act, George and Isabella were subject to registration documentation. As local residents of Inverness they were issued with Defence of the Realm Local Passes.



D1373/1/3 (1)

To Identify and Pass:—

Style or Title } *Mr.*

SURNAME } *SMITH*

Christian Names } *George.*

Age *34* Occupation *Iron monger*

Postal Address *7 Douglas Row*
INVERNESS.

Signature of Holder *George Smith*

Date of Arrival in Burgh

Issued by *M. Dalgleish*

Rank *Police Constable*

Burgh Police Chambers, Inverness.

Date *NOV 10 1916*

CONDITIONS.

This Pass must be produced for inspection at any time, if required by any Naval or Military Officer, Sailor or Soldier on duty, or Police Officer, or any other authorised Person.


This Pass can only be used by a British Subject ordinarily resident in the Burgh of Inverness since 4th August 1914; but those who have become permanent residents between 4th August 1914 and 25th July 1916, may also receive this Pass, provided the date of arrival is stated in the space for that purpose.

This Pass may at any time be revoked.

JOHN MCNAUGHTON,
Chief Constable.

OFFICIAL STAMP

BURGH POLICE CHAMBERS
NOV 10 1916
INVERNESS



The Highlands was declared a Special Military Area because it was considered strategically important to the war effort. To reduce the possibility of spies in the area, local people were issued with these cards to prove they lived in the Highlands and had the legal right to be there.