

Walter Tull

Walter Tull achieved success as both a footballer and a soldier. Born in Folkestone, Kent, in 1888, he grew up at a time when black people often faced unfair treatment. His father came from Barbados and his mother came from Kent.



After his parents died, Walter and his brother Edward lived in a children's home in London. There, Walter had opportunities to play football and develop his talent.

Walter became one of Britain's first black professional footballers. This meant he was paid to play. He played for Tottenham Hotspur and later Northampton Town. Although some spectators shouted racist insults at him, he continued playing. This showed great resilience and determination. Walter felt strongly that he deserved the same respect as any other player.

During the First World War, in 1914, Walter joined the British Army. In 1917, he became one of its first black officers, despite rules that tried to prevent black men from becoming officers. His role involved leading soldiers and taking responsibility for others.

Walter was recommended for the Military Cross for bravery, although he did not receive it. He died in France in March 1918, aged 29. His achievements challenged racist ideas, and his courage is remembered today.



Walter Tull

Walter Tull achieved success as both a footballer and a soldier. Born in Folkestone, Kent, in 1888, he grew up at a time when black people often faced unfair treatment. His father came from Barbados and his mother came from Kent.



After his parents died, Walter and his brother Edward lived in a children's home in London. There, Walter had opportunities to play football and develop his talent.

Walter became one of Britain's first black professional footballers. This meant he was paid to play. He played for Tottenham Hotspur and later Northampton Town. Although some spectators shouted racist insults at him, he continued playing. This showed great resilience and determination. Walter felt strongly that he deserved the same respect as any other player.

During the First World War, in 1914, Walter joined the British Army. In 1917, he became one of its first black officers, despite rules that tried to prevent black men from becoming officers. His role involved leading soldiers and taking responsibility for others.

Walter was recommended for the Military Cross for bravery, although he did not receive it. He died in France in March 1918, aged 29. His achievements challenged racist ideas, and his courage is remembered today.

Questions

1. What two jobs did Walter Tull have?
2. In which town was Walter born?
3. Where did Walter's father come from?
4. Who lived with Walter in the children's home?
5. What does being a professional footballer mean?
6. Which two professional football clubs did Walter play for?
7. How did Walter respond to racist insults from some spectators?
8. In which year did Walter become an army officer?
9. What responsibilities did Walter have as an officer?
10. Why was Walter recommended for the Military Cross?



Walter Tull

Questions

1. What two jobs did Walter Tull have?
2. In which town was Walter born?
3. Where did Walter's father come from?
4. Who lived with Walter in the children's home?
5. What does being a professional footballer mean?
6. Which two professional football clubs did Walter play for?
7. How did Walter respond to racist insults from some spectators?
8. In which year did Walter become an army officer?
9. What responsibilities did Walter have as an officer?
10. Why was Walter recommended for the Military Cross?



Walter Tull

Answers

1. He was a professional footballer and an army officer.
2. He was born in Folkestone, Kent.
3. His father came from Barbados.
4. His brother Edward lived there with him.
5. It means being paid to play football.
6. He played for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town.
7. He continued playing, showing resilience and determination.
8. He became an officer in 1917.
9. He led soldiers and took responsibility for others.
10. He was recommended for the award because of his bravery.



achievement	battalion	courage	determination	equality	heritage	memorial
officer	orphanage	pioneer	professional	racism	respect	teamwork

1. Someone who is paid to do a job, such as playing football.
2. Unfair treatment of people because of their skin colour or ethnic background.
3. A home that cares for children whose parents have died.
4. A large group of soldiers within an army.
5. A person in the armed forces whose job includes leading others.
6. Being brave when facing something frightening or difficult.
7. Continuing to try to reach a goal, even when it is difficult.

8. Working together with other people to reach a shared goal.
9. The idea that everyone should have the same rights and opportunities.
10. Treating someone with care and showing that they matter.
11. The family background, traditions and history that help shape who someone is.
12. Something worthwhile that someone succeeds in doing through effort or skill.
13. A statue, building or other special object that helps people remember a person or event.
14. Someone who is among the first to do something and helps open the way for others.



Walter Tull

Timeline Challenge

Walter Tull became one of Britain's first Black professional footballers and later served as an army officer during the First World War. He faced racism but continued to work hard and succeed. His courage and achievements helped challenge unfair ideas about what Black people could achieve.



Can you put these key events from Walter's life into chronological order?

Walter becomes an officer in the British Army. This is a major achievement at a time when unfair rules make it difficult for Black soldiers to become officers.	Walter is born in Folkestone, Kent. His father is from Barbados and his mother is from England.	Walter is killed while serving in France during the First World War. He is 29 years old.	Walter signs for Tottenham Hotspur and becomes one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain.
Walter and his brother Edward move to a children's home in London after both of their parents die.	When the First World War begins, Walter joins the British Army. He serves with the Football Battalion.	Walter signs for Northampton Town. He becomes an important player and plays more than 100 matches for the club.	Walter is spotted while playing football for an amateur team. His talent leads to the chance to play professional football.

Link each event with one of the dates below. Use the information to make a timeline.

1888	1898	1908	1909	1911	1914	1917	1918
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

