

Y1 – Walter Tull

Key vocabulary

Famous	Very well known
Significant	Important or special
Childhood	The period of life where you are a child
Racism	A belief that a particular race of people is than another race or races.
World War I	A military conflict lasting from 1914- 1918 involving nearly all the biggest powers in the world
Shell shock	Stress caused by traumatic experiences during combat.

Walter's Childhood

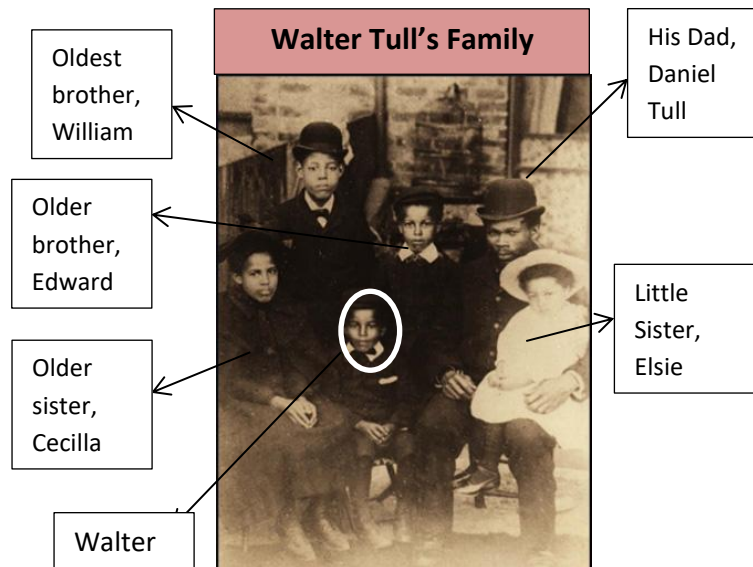
When Walter was little his mum kept getting ill and eventually died before his 7th birthday.

His Father struggled to look after the children and the house as well as work so he married Aunty Clara and she became Walters step mum.

Walter's dad died from a heart attack on 10th December 1897. Aunty Clara tried her best to look after them but in February sent him and his Brother Eddie to live at Bonner Road Children's Home.

Walter's brother Eddie was adopted by a family in Scotland on 14th November 1900. This left Walter alone at the children's home.

Walter Tull's Family



Who was Walter Tull?

Born: Folkestone, 1888

Orphaned: Aged 9

Footballer: The first black British out field player. Star of Clapton, Tottenham Hotspurs and Northampton Town. Signed for Glasgow Rangers but never played.

Soldier/Lance Sergeant: 1915-1916

The first black officer in the British Army 1917. Recommended for the Military Cross, Italy 1918. This was never awarded.

Died: In Northern France during the German Spring offensive of 1918, Aged 29.

Memorial: Walter Tull's name is inscribed on the Arras Memorial to the missing in France, along with 35,000 other fallen soldiers.

Walter Tull's Memorial in Northampton



Football Career

Walter first began playing for Clapton FC amateur team. He had first trial match October 1908. By 1909 he was a regular player helping them to win and also bigger clubs started to notice him.

In April 1909, Tottenham Hotspur had him join their reserves team and asked him to go on a tour of South America. After this he then signed with them as a professional and was the first black professional outfield player.

Walter passed up the opportunity to transfer to Glasgow Rangers to join the army and stand up for his country.

Walter's football kit

Shirt – thick and warm, would soak up the water if it rained

Shorts – known as knickers. They were long and loose and would soak up the mud.

Boots – heavy leather with big sharp studs. They would really hurt if you got kicked.



Walter and World War I

Walter became Private Walter Tull of the 17th Middlesex Regiment – The Footballers Battalion. Everyone in the Battalion was either a player, a supporter or had worked for a club.

Walter was promoted 3 times during his time in the army. By the time he was 26 he was Lance Sergeant Walter Tull.

He was sent back to Britain in April 1916 to recover from 'shell shock' for three months before returning to war in September 1916.

On Boxing Day 1916 he was sent home on leave and to train to become an Officer. This was amazing as there was a rule that a black man couldn't become an officer in the British Army. This made him the first black Officer in the British Army.

