

Year 6

# Walter Tull



## Europe before the war

In the Early 1900s, many European countries such as Britain, France, Spain and Italy colonised countries in Africa and Asia and were considered very powerful. Germany did not colonise other countries and they were not as powerful. Germany wanted greater power so they began building large warships.

Countries also formed alliances. The Triple Alliance formed in 1882. The Triple Entente formed in 1907. Power struggles and alliances caused tension and distrust.

On 28th June 1914, Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip.

This is considered the start of World War I.

KEY COUNTRIES INVOLVED in WW1: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the USA



## KEY VOCABULARY

- 1 **orphanage** a place where children who don't have parents can be housed and cared for.
- 2 **colonise** to establish a settlement on (a distant territory) and begin to rule.
- 3 **alliance** a group of people, countries, or groups that share certain goals and agree to work together.
- 4 **trench** a ditch that is packed on one side with the dirt dug from it, used as shelter and a place of protection from enemy fire.
- 5 **memorial** a ceremony, custom, building, or statue to honor a dead person or past event.
- 6 **heritage** something that one believes, thinks, or does that comes from one's family or ethnic background; tradition.
- 7 **significant** being or causing something of importance.
- 8 **The Commonwealth** an organization of independent countries that have friendly and practical connections with each other. Most of them belonged in the past to the British Empire
- 9 **census** an official count of the people who live in a country or other area. A census is also used to collect information about these people, such as their job, age, or sex
- 10 **racism** When people are treated unfairly because of their race. A race is a group of people who share the same skin colour, religious beliefs or background.

## KEY Information

- 1 His mother died when he was 7 years old and his father when he was 9. Walter grew up in an orphanage.
- 2 Edward was adopted by the Warnock family of Glasgow and became, the first mixed-heritage person to practise this profession of dentistry in the United Kingdom.
- 3 Whilst at the orphanage, Walter began to play football.
- 4 Walter Tull was an English professional football player who played for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town.
- 5 Tull is widely considered the first African Caribbean mixed heritage man to be commissioned as an infantry officer in the British Army
- 6 He was praised for leading his group of 26 men to safety in Italy
- 7 A road leading to Northampton Town's football stadium was named after Walter because of his success and service to the team.

## KEY EVENTS

- 28<sup>th</sup> April 1888 Walter Tull born
- 1895 Walter's mother dies
- 1897 Walter's father dies and Walter and his brother Edward are sent to an orphanage
- 1908 He signed for amateur football club Clapton
- 1909-11 Played for Tottenham Hotspur
- 1911-1914 Played for Northampton Town
- August 1914 World War 1 broke out and Tull was the first play from Northampton to sign up
- March 1918 Killed in action in France.
- 11 November 1918 WW1 ends.
- 11 July 1999 Northampton Town F.C. unveiled a memorial wall to Tull in a garden of remembrance at Sixfields Stadium.

**Full name** Walter Daniel John Tull  
**Date of birth** 28 April 1888  
**Place of birth** Folkestone, England  
**Date of death** 25 March 1918 (aged 29)  
**Place of death** near Favreuil, Pas-de-Calais, France  
**Position(s)** Half back  
**Senior career\***  
**Years** Team  
**1908–1909** Clapton  
**1909–1911** Tottenham Hotspur10  
**1911–1914** Northampton Town  
**1917** Rangers  
**Military career**  
**Allegiance** United Kingdom  
**Service/branch** British Army  
**Years of service** 1914–1918  
**Rank** Second lieutenant  
**Unit** Middlesex Regiment  
**Battles/wars** World War I



Who was Walter Tull and where did he live?

What was Walter Tull's childhood like ?

What sort of experiences did he have whilst playing football ?

What was Walter Tull's contribution to WW1?

Why is Walter Tull's life celebrated?



Through his actions, W. D. J. Tull ridiculed the barriers of ignorance that tried to deny people of colour equality with their contemporaries. His life stands testament to a determination to confront those people and those obstacles that sought to diminish him and the world in which he lived. It reveals a man, though rendered breathless in his prime, whose strong heart still beats loudly.

written by Tull's biographer, Phil Vasili

