

*Dear my beautiful wife and children,*

*I hope that you guys are okay, and that you are doing well at home. I will give some money or anything; I just want you to be safe.*

*The war is quite hard and I believe that I won't live to see you again. This is what I have to leave, with all my valuables and my British money.*

*I hope to earn a medal, there is a hard chance but at least I was gifted by the Lord to become an officer. I am an African descendant and you would have to be European.*

*I really hope to see you soon, I am crying meanwhile writing this letter to you. If I survive this war, I will have a better life; we, will have a better life. This might better my last day on earth, so there's one more thing to say.*

*I love you!*

*George Edward Kingsley Bernard*

*British army*

(Ethan)

*Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 1914*

*Dear Mum, brother and sis*

*"I have reached my destiny, right in the middle of war I decided to tell you how  
was is and how I've been since I left out home".*

*I'm so happy to fight for our freedom plus I am also "an all-black national  
guard unit the most famous member of the Harlem Hell-fighters".*

*Myself and my good friend they call Needham Roberts.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Henry Johnson*

# WALTER TULL

Dear Family,

It has been very difficult for me to get in contact with you until now. I have been coping with a lot of troubles and at times my life has been very challenging for me. For a year I was signed up as a professional footballer but due to racial incidents that occurred during the matches I played in I was picked out of the first team. This is because of the racial conflict between the white people and people like me.

After the great war began in Summer 1914 there was a lot criticism of professional football for keeping soldiers out of the war. I joined London on the 21<sup>st</sup> December and I was one of the early recruits and this made me very anxious to if I would survive. I miss you all very much and wish I could have you in my arms. I hope you get this letter to tell you how much I love you and how much I miss your presence. I will be thinking of you always,

Yours truly,

Walter Tull



1888 - 1918

## THE FIRST BLACK OFFICER IN THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES

Walter Tull was born in Kent in 1888. After both his parents died while he was young, Walter and his brother Edward were sent to a Children's Home in Bethnal Green. A keen footballer, Walter was signed up as a professional footballer for Tottenham Hotspur in 1909. Although he played well, racist incidents occurred at matches, and he was dropped from the first team. He found a new home, though, at Northampton Town FC.

After the Great War began in the summer of 1914 Walter joined the 'Footballers' Battalion' of the Middlesex Regiment. His rapid promotion over the next few months was evidence of his leadership quality. He fought at the battle of the Somme. In late November 1916 he filled out an application to be commissioned as an officer. A month later, his application was approved and he went to Scotland for officer training – despite a specific rule in Army Orders restricting officer status to men of 'pure European descent'.

He was recommended for the Military Cross, but was not awarded it.



*Dear Family,*

*I'm doing great here but I'm missing u's lot so much however I hope you are alright.*

*I got titled "The man whom White soldiers call "The Black V.C."". The Black V. C. Is the highest medal, so in this case I was awarded the French medal for bravery. (By the way V.C. stands for Victorian Cross).*

*I'm in the British Army.*

*Lots of love*

*John Williams*

*British Army*