

Walter Daniel John Tull – Second Lieutenant – 5th Battalion (attached 23rd Battalion) Middlesex Regiment



Walter was born on 28th April 1888 in Folkestone, Kent. He was the son of Daniel and Alice Elizabeth Tull (Palmer). He was educated at North Board School, Folkestone. His father was born in Barbados, and his mother was born in Kent.

In 1895, when Tull was seven, his mother died of cancer. A year later, his father married Alice's cousin, Clara Palmer. She gave birth to a daughter, Miriam, on 11 September 1897. Three months later, Daniel died from heart disease. The stepmother was unable to cope with five children, so the resident minister of Folkestone's Grace Hill Wesleyan Chapel recommended that the two boys of school age, Walter and Edward, should be sent to an orphanage. From the age of nine, Tull was brought up in the Methodist Children's Home and Orphanage in Bethnal Green.

As a professional footballer for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town, Tull was the first player from his club to enlist, joining the 17th (1st Football) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment in December 1914. He fought at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and was promoted to sergeant. Later he attended officer training in Scotland.

In May 1917, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, breaking the 1914 Manual of Military Law that required officers to be of "pure European descent". He served with distinction on the Italian Front, where he led a dangerous night-raiding party across the Piave River. On March 25, 1918, during the Second Battle of the Somme, Tull was killed in action near Favreuil, France while leading an attack on enemy lines. His body was never recovered, and he is remembered on the Arras Memorial, which honours missing soldiers. Despite a recommendation for the Military Cross for his bravery, he was never officially awarded it. A memorial in his honour was unveiled at Northampton Town FC in 1999, and he was inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame in 2021.



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
TULL Walter D.	Middle R.	L/Sgt. F/55	
		# b/c	
		2/21	
Walter Daniel John Tull	105	11752	B/113
15 STAR	E/13A	1	
Theatre of War first served in	France		
Date of entry there	17.11.15		

Notes: Taken on 17/11/15. Taken on 17/11/15. Taken on 17/11/15. Taken on 17/11/15.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

WALTER DANIEL JOHN TULL

5th Bn. attd. 23rd Bn., Middlesex Regiment who died on 25 March 1918 Age 29

Son of the late Daniel Tull; brother of Edward Tull-Warlock, of 419, St. Vincent St., Glasgow. Former professional footballer with Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town, he was also previously a FA Amateur Cup Winner with Clapton FC. He played more than a hundred first team games for Northampton Town before the First World War intervened.

Remembered with Honour

ARRAS MEMORIAL

Bay 7.



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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION