



Transcript

Walter Tull's application for a temporary commission in the army

Walter Tull (1888–1918) was of dual heritage; his mother was white British and his father was African-Caribbean. Tull was commissioned* as an officer in 1917 at a time when the army required officers to be of 'pure European descent'. This was an important challenge to a racist policy. For his army service he was recommended a Military Cross. This is his application for a temporary commission form in 1917.

*A commissioned officer commands a military unit.

1. Name in full (Surname, Christian names)	Tull, Walter Daniel
2. Date of birth	April 28th 1888
3. Whether married	No
4. Whether of pure European descent	No
5. Whether a British subject by birth or naturalization. (State which, and if by naturalization attach a certificate from the Home Office)	By Birth
6. Nationality by birth of father (if naturalized, state date)	West Indian
7. Permanent address	419, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow
8. Present address for correspondence	23rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, "C" Company, B.E.F. [British Expeditionary Force]
9. Whether now serving, or previously served, in any other Government Department (Home, Indian, or Colonial). If so give particulars.	Now serving. 21 months in 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment 2 months in 23rd Battalion [Middlesex Regiment]
10. Whether able to ride	No.
11. Whether now serving, or previously served, in any branch of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces, or in the Officers Training Corps. If so state:- (a). Regiment, Corps, or Contingent (b). Date of appointment (c). Rank (d). Date of retirement, resignation or discharge (e). Circumstances of retirement, resignation or discharge	17th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment December 21st 1914 Sergeant
Whether an application for a commission has been previously made, if so, on what date and for what branch of the service.	Nil