



**BREAKING THE MYTH-
WWI & AFRICA**



***“WALTER TULL (28TH April 1888 - 25th March 1918).
BREAKING DOWN WALLS”***

A Short Play

By

Year 5 – St. Michael’s C.E. Junior School, Maidstone

&

Diversity House

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Acknowledgement

Diversity House use this opportunity to thank the teachers and pupils of St. Michael's C.E. Junior School, Maidstone for their willingness and enthusiasm to embark on a historical journey, exploring the involvement and contributions of Africans in the Great War. Using Walter Tull (an Afro-Caribbean and Black British Officer) as a symbol of all Black people, particularly those of African descent to try to break down the walls of the gnawing persistence of prejudice in our society that makes history and the narratives of World War One a Eurocentric rather than an inclusive one. Using this play as a vehicle to remember the "unremembered" and thereby build bridges for a cohesive Britain during and after the Centenary of WWI.

We thank the teachers and pupils for taking ownership of the play, adapting and interpreting the script to suit the age and abilities of the actors.

It is not, we hope, invidious to single out Lauren Mercer and all Year 5 teachers/staff for their

tireless work and practical assistance, ensuring that the pupils got their lines, and gained skills in stage management and props making.

Memoire - Walter Tull



Walter Tull



Walter & Edward

Walter Tull was born at 16 Allendale Street in Folkestone on 28th April 1888. His grandfather was a slave in Barbados. His father, came to Britain in 1876 and married a girl in Folkestone and they had six children. Walter attended the North Board school (now Mundella Primary school) and when both parents died was taken into care in London. He went on to become the first black outfield professional football player. He signed for Tottenham Hotspur in 1909 and then Northampton Town football club, where he played 111 times, scoring 9 goals. He joined the army at the outbreak of WW1. He fought in six battles, The Battle of Ancre, First Battle of the Somme, Battle of Messines, Third Battle of Ypres, Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, Second Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Bapaume - where he fell. He was the first black officer in the British army and was killed in action on 25th May 1918. His name is

inscribed on the war memorial at the top of the Road of Remembrance, in Folkestone.

Walter's siblings: Cecilia Sarah Ann Tull, Edward James Alexander Tull-Warnock, Elsie Tull, Miriam Victoria Alice Tull

Parents: Daniel Tull, Alice Elizabeth Palmer



CHARACTERS

Narrators x 1

Walter Tull - Mixed Race (Father Black & Mother White)

Edward Tull (Brother of Walter - was in the Children's and Orphanage Home in Bonner Road, East London with Walter before being adopted)

Daniel Tull - a Carpenter (Walter's Father, arrived from Barbados in 1876, Married Alice & Clara but died a heart disease in December 1987)

Clara Palmer - Alice Cousin (became Daniel's wife at the death of his first wife - Alice, had a daughter - Miriam for Daniel.

Miriam - Walter & Edward's sister from Clara

Elsie - Walter & Edward's sister

Cecilia -Edward & Walter's sibling

Edward's Wife

Mr Burrows - Vicar and the resident minister of Grace Hill Wesleyan Chapel-recommended that Walter & Edward be taken to an orphanage Home)

Teacher -

School children in a classroom

Students at the assembly hall

Head Teacher

Dr Stephenson - Founder and Manager of the Children's and Orphanage Home, at Bonner Road, East London)

Older Boy - Resident of the Orphanage Home

A couple - adoptive parents of Edward)

Football Coach - Talent scout

Football Manager

Football Team - Walter's team mates (Team member 1; Team member 2)

Teammate 1

Football Team - Bristol FC (opposition team)

Treasurer (to the Tottenham Hot Spur)

Journalist

Lord Horatio Kitchener (the War Minister)

Recruitment Officer

Army Trainer

Medic

Doctor

Nurse

Soldier 1

Soldier 2

Soldier 3

Wounded Soldier

Army Commander

Jefferies and Nicholson

Officers Benson and Robinson

Campaigner

Member of Parliament

Child 1

Child 2

School children

Songs: "God of Truth Fulfil Your Promise" or "Lizalise idinga lakho"
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPUN-Jwft6w>)

"It's A Long Way to Tipperary"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4omozkMCQwY>

**The play ends with the characters dancing on stage at the sound of
"Mpundulu" By Brenda Fassie
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tayMEg1_Qxs

Props – Pictures, stretchers, nurse’s apparatus, Nurses, uniform, Doctor’s overall and stetoscope, etc.



ACT I

SCENE 1

LOCATION: Folkstone, Kent (Year 1897. A class in North Board school

NARRATOR

In November 1897, Daniel, Walter’s father suddenly died of a heart disease. Leaving his young wife, Clara with 7 children to take care of. Meanwhile, unaware of the tragedy at home, Walter and his older brother – Edward are happily working their classroom. For them, it was just another normal day at school.

(Children and teacher completing activities together on the stage)

(Telephone rings) Blrlrlrlrlrl. Blrlrlrlrlrlr

Teacher: **(Picks up the phone, greet, listens and speaks).** Hello. Okay. Yes, I will send them to you now. **(Puts the phone down).**

Teacher: (To Walter and Edward) Boys, you need to go to the Head Teacher's office, he will like a word with you.

(Walter and Edwards stand up and head to the Head Teacher's office)

Walter: (worriedly to Edward) Why do you think we must go to the Head Teacher's office?

Edward: I've never been inside the Head Teacher's office before! I hope we're not in trouble. I don't want to get the cane.

Walter: I can't think what we might have done! I hope we don't have to wait too long - I'm not enjoying this.

(The door opens and the Head Teacher steps out).
Head Teacher: Walter, Edward, please come into my office and sit down.

(The boys nervously enter the office and slowly sits down. The Head Teacher goes and sits down behind his desk).

Edward: I'm very sorry sir. We don't know why we are here...

Head Teacher: You're not in trouble boys, but I'm afraid I have some sad news to give you. (Walter and Edward look nervously at on another). I have just been informed that your father has passed away. You are needed at home, so you are excused early today.

(Edward and Walter start to cry).

Head Teacher: (He lets them cry for a moment and then gets up out of his chair and walks over to them and holding them comfortingly)

Edward: But I don't understand! He was fine this morning! He kissed us goodbye as usual and said he would see us both tonight!

Walter: **(To the Head Teacher)**. Are you sure it's our father?

Head Teacher: I'm afraid so boys and I'm so very sorry. But you must now go home - your mother needs you right now.

(Edward and Walter stand up and leave the room).



Act 1 Scene 2

NARRATOR

Following the death of Daniel - Walter's father, Clara (a young and full time stay at home mum) was unable to cope with looking after all six children, even with the weekly £1.00 welfare donation from the Church. Mr Burrow - Resident Vicar of their local Church comes to pass on the decision of the elders that the weekly donation is to be stopped and that Clara should consider sending two of her children into care.

(Sound of a knock on the door. Clara sitting in the living room and children playing around her.)

Clara: I will go and answer that. **(Answers the door)**
Good morning Vicar! What a lovely news!

Vicar: Good morning, Clara. I hope you are well.
Unfortunately, I am not here with good news!

Clara: (Looks worried). Oh! What could it be? Come in, we can talk more in the living room.

Elsie: (Looking up from the floor) Mummy, Mummy! Who is it?

Clara: It's the Vicar, darling. He has some news for us (turns to the Vicar). I'm sorry..... it's rather busy in here!

Vicar: Well, that is what I wanted to talk to you about.

Clara: I'm afraid I don't know what you mean.

Vicar: (Twists his hands nervously) What I mean is... Um...that the Church is unable to give you any more funds. You are too young to look after six children so it has been suggested that you send two of your eldest to the Children and Orphanage Home in London.

(Clara gasps and puts hands to her face. At this moment, Edward and Walter enter the room)

Walter: Mother, what's going on? What's wrong?

Edward: Mother! What is it?

Clara: (Holds out her arms to welcome them for a hug and the boys run to her). Edward, Walter - the Church can no longer give us the funds to support us anymore. I have no choice! You two boys will have to go to an orphanage as you cannot stay here with us.

Edward: Mother! No! We can't leave you! You need us here!

Walter: Please let us stay here! We don't want to leave you and we can find ways to make money!

Vicar: I am sorry boys but there is nothing more that the Church can do! You must pack your things straight away and your mother will take you to the orphanage. Once you have settle, I am sure you will be very happy there as there will be lots of children your own age to plat with.

Clara: **(Crying)**. My boys, my boys! I am so sorry... I will see what we can do to fight this.

(Close Curtain)



ACT 1 SCENE 3

NARRATOR

Following the visit of Mr Burrow - Vicar of the Tull's family Church and the recommendation to send two of her children to the orphanage. Clara has no option but to send Walter and his older brother Edward to the orphanage home at Bonner Road, Bethnal Green, East London. A heart-broken Clara must tell the boys and get them ready to leave Folkstone for good. Consequently, in February 1898 Walter and his brother Edward were sent to a Wesleyan Methodist orphanage in Bonner Road, Bethnal Green, where Walter spent seven years.

(Walter and Edward at the end of the school day, enter the house. Clara and the other younger children are waiting in the living room quietly).

Edward: What is going on? Why is everyone so upset?

Elsie) (**Confused**) What? Don't you already know!

Clara: Elsie, let me take it from here please.

Elsie: You are going to the orphanage today!

Clara: (**Annoyed**) Elsie!

Elsie: What? I thought they know!

Clara: Go to your room and play with your dolls please, Elsie!

Walter: (**Confused**) Is that true? Are you really sending us to the orphanage today? (**Getting worried**)

Clara: (**Biting her lip**) I don't have any other choice. You know I would keep you if I could but we don't have enough money for all of us. I know we hoped we would find another way but it has got to happen! (**Clara starts to cry**).

Cecilia: (**Puts a hand on Clara's shoulder**). It will be okay mother.

Clara: (**To Walter and Edward**) Go and pack a bag please boys. We are leaving at noon!

(**Elsie comes to find them and knocks on the door**)

Elsie: I'm sorry. Cecilia explained it all to me. Do you forgive me for telling you like that?

Edward: It's okay Elsie. We know you didn't mean to be horrible.

Clara: (**Come running in**) Hurry up! It's nearly time to leave. (**Turns to Elsie**) Elsie, I thought I told you to stay away so they could pack!

(**Clara and Elsie leave**)

Walter: Edward, what will become of us? Will we ever see our family again?

Edward: I really don't know Walter – I just hope so! At least we have each other and we will have one friendly face at the orphanage. Now, be brave Walter, this is hard for Clara too.

Walter: (Nods and starts to cry quietly)

End of Scene



ACT 1 SCENE 4

NARRATOR

Clara, Edward and Walter leave Folkstone for London. After a long journey, they arrive at the Children's and Orphanage Home. Walter and Edward are upset that they must go to the orphanage and stay there without their family. They wonder what is going to happen now.

(Clara, Walter and Edward come on stage and ring the doorbell to the orphanage home.)

Clara: Hello! Is anyone here?

Dr Stephenson (Manager of the Home, walks from the other side of the stage and opens the door). Hello there! Please come in. (Ask them to sit down and offer them a drink). How may I help?

Clara: (To Dr Stephenson). My Vicar suggested that I bring my two boys – Edward and Walter to stay here. You see, I have no other choice. I am a good mother but I cannot look after them all by myself

Dr Stephenson: Would the boys like a tour of the place?

Clara: That would be wonderful, thank you.

Walter: No mum, please! We want to stay with you|!

Dr Stephenson: It's okay boys. One of our older lads will show you around.

(Dr Stephenson rings the bell and an older boy walks in)

Older Boy: Would you care to follow me, please?

(All characters walk around the stage and the older boy starts to show them around and where everything is)

Walter: (Looking all round and up to the ceiling)
Woah! This place is huge! (Quick) I still don't want to stay though! Please don't make us stay here.

(Older boy leaves the stage and member of staff comes on)

Clara: I think this is suitable (sniffing and wiping her eyes because she has been crying)

Member of Staff: I will go and sign them in and return shortly (walks away).

Edward: (Crying) Pleas mum...we want to come home with you! We can't stay here!

Clara: (Also crying) I have no choice! I don't want to do this but sadly it's the way it must be. The

Church cannot support us anymore. Now you boys be brave! (She hugs them both to her).

(All leave stage and Narrator comes on)

Narrator

Walter and Edward settle in to their new life in the orphanage. Time seems to pass slowly for the boys until one day..... Edward is adopted. Whilst Walter remain at the orphanage taking on apprenticeship as a printer and pursues his hobby playing football.

(Walter and Edward enter)

Walter: We've been here for such a long time and everybody has been mean to us! When are we going to leave, Edward?

Edward: I know! I want to go too.

(A Scottish couple looking to adopt visits the orphanage, rings the bell. A member of staff opens the door and welcome the couple. They were offered something to drink while settling on their chairs)

Member of staff: How may I help you?

The Scottish couple: We are from Scotland and we have been told that you can help us. You see, we want to adopt a child.

Member of staff: **(Happily)** Yes, we can be of help. We have children of all ages here and I have two brothers in mind, very good boys and I am sure you will like them. Let me bring them in.

(Member of staff walks into the boys' room)

Member of staff: We have a family for you! They're waiting for a young boy. Would you like to meet them?

Walter and Edward **(together)** Yes, Please!

(The Scottish couple looks up as Walter and Edward walks in. The boys are introduced to the couple. The couple confers).

Scottish Couple: **(To Edward)** Would you like to come and live with us in Scotland? We live by the seaside. You will like it there.

Edward: **(Happily but looks at Walter with sadness in his eyes)** Yes, please!

Walter: What are you doing?

Edward: **(Sadly)** Bye Walter - this bad dream is finally over!

(Edward and his new family leave, Walter remains on stage)



ACT 1 SCENE 5

Narrator

After finishing his schooling, he served as an apprentice printer; but in October 1908, whilst playing for the children's home football team, he was spotted by a scout and invited to join Clapton FC, a top amateur team.

(The coach and Walter walk on to the stage at half time)

Coach: (Seriously) Walter, I need to speak to you about something important.

Walter: (Feeling anxious) Yes, Coach... (panting)

Coach: Walter, you have been excellent for the past few weeks (impressed and smiling)

Walter: (Feeling proud) Thank you very much! I appreciate it.

Coach: (Excited but disappointed that Walter will leave his team) Just before the game, a Scout for Clapton FC came up and talked to me. He could negotiate with me about inviting you to join his team.

Walter: (Flabbergasted) That would be great, thank you! I really appreciate it. (He shakes the Coach's hand and they both leave the stage).

Narrator

After the match, Walter is alone in the changing rooms, getting dressed. His teammates walk in and start to cheer as they won).

Walter: (Excited) Guess what lads!

Teammates: (in unison) What? What is it Walter?

Walter: (Yelling and punching the air) I got into Clapton FC - I'm to be a professional footballer (Cheering and pumping his fists)

Teammates: (Amazed) Wow! Amazing (all offer their congratulations).

(All leave the stage celebrating)



ACT 2 SCENE 1

Narrator

Edward, is now living in Glasgow, is sat in his living room reading the Glasgow Daily Mail when he discovers his brother's face on one of the pages.

(Edward and his wife are sat in chairs and reading a newspaper. He jumps up in surprise and cannot believe his eyes)

Edward: Wow! Oh, my goodness, look at this! My brother is a professional footballer. (He starts to jump around) I am so proud of my younger brother - what an amazing achievement.

(Turns a few pages in the newspaper)

Edward: He's even promoting Heinz! Look at this my love! Look how amazing this is - doesn't he look fantastic?

Edward's Wife: That is very exciting! I'm so pleased to see you happy after all these years of wondering how he was!

(The both smile at one another)



ACT 2 SCENE2

Narrator

His promising talent attracted the attention of Tottenham Hotspur who signed him on for a fee of £7 in July 1908. While still an amateur, Walter was invited to tour Argentina and Uruguay with Spurs, signing him on as a professional on his return. Walter has just scored the winning goal for Tottenham Hotspur and he is going to collect his first wages.

(Teammates walk over to Walter and clap him on the shoulders to congratulate him.)

Teammate: (Surprised) Good game! We didn't expect you to be this good!

Walter: (Laughs) Thanks! I'm glad you were impressed!

(The Manager walks over)

Manager: Walter - great game! The Treasurer would like to see you!

Walter: Oh okay, thanks for letting me know.

(Walter walks to the Treasurer and knocks on the door)

Treasurer: Come in!

(Walter enters)

Treasurer: Ah Walter. Thanks for coming. Here are your wages, £7 for the week!

Walter: Thanks very much. I can't believe I'm earning money for playing a sport that I love!

Treasurer: No problem. Have a good day now.

(Walter walks out of the room and collects this bag)

Walter: In a year, I'll earn £336 - fantastic!
(Throws his arms in the air).



ACT 2 SCENE 3

Narrator

Walter is now playing for Northampton FC. Inside the dressing room, Walter and the other players are discussing how Walter is feeling about playing t=his first game for the team against Bristol.

(Characters sat around and getting ready, pulling up socks etc.)

Teammate: Are you excited for the match, Walter?

Walter: (Stretching for the game) Oh yes - I am very excited. But I've heard they're quite vocal and aggressive.

(The Manager walks in)

Manager: Right boys - time to go out and onto the pitch

(Boys walk off stage)

Teammate: Don't worry Walter, just play as you always do! You will be amazing!

Narrator

(Narrator walks onto the stage).

Out on the pitch, Walter is receiving some nasty name calling because of the colour of his skin. He is finding it all rather horrifying.

(Boy's play football on the stage. Audience begin to shout racial slurs and offensive language at him. Walter looking around and worried)

Teammate: (Grabs Walter's arm) They're worse than I thought they'd be. Don't let them get to you! Just try to ignore it.

(Journalist enters the stage with a microphone)

Journalist: I'm reporting here from Bristol football ground where we have witnessed some terrible racial slurs against Northampton player, Walter Tull. Billingsgate language of the worst kind has been used and many of the fans of Northampton are in shock that the Bristol team would use this kind of language.



ACT 2 SCENE 4

Narrator

At Edward's house, Walter has written to tell him about his experiences playing in Northampton FC. He plans to transfer to Glasgow FC in Scotland to be close to Walter.

(Edward and his wife sitting in the living room on chairs. Edward is opening a letter he has received from Walter. His wife is knitting).

Edward's Wife: Oh, how wonderful! What does it say?

Edward: I'll read it to you. "Dear Edward, I hope you and your lovely wife are well. I am writing to keep you informed of my life as a footballer! Unfortunately, I have received a lot of negativity due to the colour of my skin. It has been a tough time for me but I am going to carry on and keep my chin up! (Stops reading and looks at his wife) Oh how awful! I can't believe he's had to go through this all alone.

Edward's Wife: Oh, how terrible. You had better write him back to make him feel better!

Edward: Oh yes. I will.



ACT 2 SCENE 5

Narrator

Walter has been playing for Northampton for a while but he has been offered a position to play in Scotland. This will be his last season playing for Northampton. Moving to Glasgow will mean be closer to his brother. He now must tell his teammates.

(Walter and his teammates enter the stage talking about the match)

Walter: Everyone, I have some news for you all.

Teammate 1: **(Curious)** What is it, Walter?

Walter: This is my last match.

Teammates: **(All together)** What? Oh no! Why?

Walter: I've been given the opportunity to play for Glasgow FC and I want to take it as that way, I can be nearer to my brother, Edward. He's very important to me! Sorry everyone!

Teammates: Walter, we 're going to miss you on the team - you're one of the best players, if not the best!

Walter: I know and I'm going to miss you too! But this will be good for me.

(All huddle around Walter and wish him the best. Also, tell him they're going to miss him).



ACT 3 SCENE 1

Narrator

On 7th August 1914, Lord Kitchener, the war minister, immediately began a recruiting campaign by calling for men to join the war. This personal appeal saw thousands of young men eager to fight for their country. Meanwhile, Walter and his teammates are walking back from a football match. The poster of Lord Kitchener can be seen all over shop windows, bill board, a propaganda urging young people to enlist, follow the flag and not lag.

Lord Kitchener: To the people of Great Britain, a terrible war has begun. Men, we need you to sign up and fight for your country. Sign up Men! WE NEED YOU!

Lord Kitchener stands on the side of the stage and points at the men who are walking on stage).

(Walter's opposition walk on stage cheering)

Opposition Team: (All together - shouting) 3-0, 3-0, 3-0! We won!

Another Team Member 1: (After the chanting stops, turns to his mate and says) Did you hear about the signing up station in the Town Square?

Another Team Member 2: **(Confused)** But I thought all this talk about the war was just rumour. Do they actually want people to sign up?

Another Team Member 1: Yes, I've seen lots of men lined up ready to sign up. They've even put posters up to make us want to, see.... there's one over there! **(Pointing to the side of the stage at Lord Kitchener)**

(All carry on walking and off the stage. Walter and his teammates walk onto the stage and stand in front of Lord Kitchener)

Walter's Mate 1: **(Excited)** Gosh - did you hear what they were talking about? There really is a poster!

Walter's Mate 2: **(Uncertain)** Do you really want to sign up though? Because I know I don't.

Walter's Mate 1: I will because we could start our own football regiment. People will be proud of us.

Walter **(Looking despondent)** I really want to serve my country but do you think they'll take me?

Walter's Mate 2: Of course, they will, they need all the men they can get! Why wouldn't they take you?

Walter: **(Looking sad)** For the same reason the football fans hate me!

Walter's Mate 1: **(Soft tone of voice)** Walter you're one of the best team players and leaders I know. They should snap you up!

Walter: (Shrugs and smiles) If it comes to it, I'd like to try and I'll try my hardest. But I bet I don't get any further than a foot soldier! Still, I love my country and will do my best to defend it against the Germans!

Walter's Mates (Slap him on the back jovially) That's the spirit!

(They all walk off the stage laughing and joking)



ACT 3 SCENE 2

Narrator

Walter wondered whether he should be a soldier or not. After a few days of careful thinking, he realised that he desperately wanted to become a soldier to serve his country. So, he went to the recruitment office in order to enlist to serve the King and country.

(Walter walks up to the door and entered the enlistment office)

Man 1: (Walking past Walter moaning) How dare they not choose me! I want to fight!

(Walter looks worried after hearing people are being turned away)

Enlisting Officer: NEXT! (He gathers a few sheets of paper)

Walter: (Walks up to the Enlisting Officer)
Uh-uh...hello sir! I would like to sign up, please. (In a polite voice)

Enlisting Officer: (Take a few moments to answer and looks shocked about what Walter said) Are you sure you are from this country? (Confused) You're Black. (In a straight to the point voice)

Walter: Yes sir, I am sure I am from this country.
What do I need to do next? **(Eager)** My name is Walter
Tull and I am ready to fight for my country
(Confident).

Enlisting Officer: Well... **(Clears his throat)** you are
six feet tall, have a courteous manner and you are
strong and mighty. I have no reason to tell you 'no'
and that you shouldn't be a soldier...unfortunately
(disappointed). Uniform is in the birch cupboard.

Walter: Thank you! And yes, I am a footballer! **(He
walks over to the cupboard to retrieve his uniform)**.

(All walk off scene and Narrator enters)

Narrator

As Walter has been enlisted he needs to train so that
he is ready for the war. Training was hard and tough
but Walter excelled at it and shows all the qualities
of an officer and gentleman.

**(Walter and other soldiers in the background training
and doing push ups, jogging, etc.)**

Trainer: (To Walter) Excellent work, Tull! You are
going to be a fine soldier!

Walter: Thank you sir! **(Salutes smartly)**

(All characters exit the stage)



ACT 3 SCENE 3

Narrator

Walter is now at war in Italy. In the trenches, Walter sits after being injured. He is being treated by a field Medic. He may need to leave the battle at Flavaur to return home for treatment.

(Walter lying on the floor with the Medic. Walter to half sit up).

Walter: AHHHHHHH! That hurts (he holds his leg as the doctor treats the wound).

Medic: Soldier, try not to move or the wound could become worse.

Walter: (in a faint voice) Okay, I'll try.

Medic: Oh goodness me. This wound is worse than I thought. You may have to go to England for medical treatment Tull.

(Soldiers come on stage to take him off. They can put Walter's arms over their shoulders and he can hop on one leg around the stage. They sit him down with a doctor and a nurse).

Narrator

Walter is taken to England where he is treated for his wound. He is sitting in bed with other soldiers in the hospital ward who are wounded from various battle fronts.

Wounded Soldier: Hi, I'm Charlie. How did you end up in here?

Walter: **(Talking quietly)** I was leading my men out into the battlefield when a German sharp shooter shot me in the leg. I collapsed on the battlefield. What happened to you?

Wounded Soldier: I was out fighting for my country. So many men lost their lives right in front of me. One of my oldest friends was shot right next to me. I was shot too. I'm going to lose my leg I think. My hand will never be the same either. **(Holds up his hand)**.

Walter: **(Walter stays silent for a few seconds)** I'm sorry to hear this Charlie, it's been rough, hasn't it?

Wounded Soldier: Yes, it has. Thanks for talking to me. It's nice to have someone awake to talk to.

Walter: **(Smiles at him)**



ACT 3 SCENE 4

Narrator

Walter has been slowly recovering at a hospital in England. His family have travelled to visit him and make sure he is getting better.

(Walter is on stage in bed. His family enter)

Clara: Oh Walter, we are so pleased that you are okay and healing nicely. We were so worried after we heard the news.

Edward: Yes, it's good to see you awake and well rested. How are you?

Walter: I'm getting there. You wouldn't believe how terrible it was. I was filled with hope about the war but now... now I'm not so sure.

Clara: I would beg you not to go again but I know how brave and courageous you are. I know you can get through this! You're strong!

Walter: I've got to go. I need to fight for this country's freedom. I've signed on for Rangers FC when I return. I'll be back -do not worry about me!

Edward: we're so proud of you Walter!

Clara: Stay safe out there my love.

(Clara and Edward leave and Walter is left to sleep)



ACT 4 SCENE 1

Narrator

After he is fully recovered, Walter is waiting for the train that will be taking him back into France and then travel to the Somme battlefield. After being injured, Walter is well rested and ready to go back to fight for his country. He is returning to war as an officer, in command of his own men.

(In the background - "It's A Long Way to Tipperary" plays while Walter waits for the train)

(At the Train Station - Walter steps onto the stage holding his kit bag, join in the singing of "It's A Long Way to Tipperary")

ALL CHILDREN SING

Jeffries and Nicholson enter

Jeffries: (Whispering seriously to Nicholas) I've heard that this Walter person is amazing. He's the first Black officer ever to have command over a unit.

Nicholas: I know. I'm really interested to see how he leads - I've heard he's a real inspiration.

Walter: (Humming song as they pass him)

Jeffries: (Pointing at Walter) I think that must be Walter.

(All climb aboard the train)

Narrator

Inside the train compartment, Walter walks through the train looking for somewhere to sit. He knocks on the door to Jeffries' and Nicholson's compartment.

Walter: Do you mind if I join you?

Jeffries: Erm... (Looking around nervously at the others)

Nicholson: No, we don't mind, here sit yourself down.

Walter: (Happily, with a smile on his face) Thank you I appreciate it.

Narrator

After arriving at the Somme, the battle rages on, tough and was very challenging. It was due to Walter's excellent leadership, bravery and gallantry but unfortunately, he was lost in the battle. On 25 March 1918, the 29-year-old was killed in no-man's land, near Favreuil, whilst leading a counter attack

against the German positions (WO 95/2639). His men held him in such high regard that they risked their own lives to try to retrieve his body, which was never found. Unfortunately, the recovery had to be abandoned under increasingly heavy machine gun fire.

(Children act out a battle. Walter is shot in the neck and Walter holds his neck as he falls to the ground. The men try to carry him back and shout to each other but it is too dangerous. They must leave him where he fell).

Narrator

Sadly, Walter lost his life that day and his body was never returned to his family.

(All children stand and salute and freeze. The Curtain closes with tone of "God of Truth Keep Your Promise")



ACT 4 SCENE 2

Narrator

Now that Walter Tull's death has been confirmed, Officers are sent to Edward's house to tell him and his family the tragic news of his brother's death. Meanwhile, at the Trenches, Walter's are despondent, lost and totally dejected.

Commander: You two, Benson, Robinson come here.

Officers Benson and Robinson: **(Together)** Yes, sir!

Commander: Deliver this letter to Walter Tull's family

Benson: Yes, sir!

(Benson and Robinson march off the stage with letter).

Narrator

At Edward Tull's residence, Clara and Edward have not heard from Walter and are already becoming worried! They are sat in the living room, waiting for news.

Clara: I hope our Walter is alright, Edward. It has been too long since we last heard from him.

Edward: I'm sure he is fine mother. He is probably extremely busy on the front.

(Enters Officers Benson and Robinson, ringing the front door bell. Edward goes to answer it. He shows them into the room. The two officers enter the room, taking off their hats and tucking them between their armpits)

Edward: (Panicky) What's happened Officers? Is my brother, is Walter okay? What news do you have for us? Come in and sit down.

Officer Robinson: Sir, I suggest you and your family be seated.

Officer Benson: I'm afraid we have some sad news for you. (He hands a letter to Edward)

Edward: (Takes the letter and reads it slowly, with hands shaking and blinking his eyes. Shocked and devastation on his face) I...it's Walter...I can't believe it!

Clara: (Gasping, with her hands to her face) No, no... not my son. My poor boy.

(The family huddles together sobbing. Officers Benson and Robinson exit and the curtain close).



ACT 4 SCENE 3

Narrator

A group of soldiers are sitting together in a Trench, drinking tea and discussing events of the war and what has just happened.

Soldier 1: **(Shocked and upset)** I can't believe Tull is dead. He was such a good leader. You know, he even gave me some of his food once.

Soldier 2: I know! It doesn't seem real... He was brave too. He deserves a medal for his gallantry. He saved a lot of lives.

Soldier 3: He was braver than all of us, and stronger. We'll all miss him.

(Commander approaches)

Commander: **(To the troop)** I know it's a tragedy that Tull is dead, but we need to stay positive. I'm putting him forward for a commendation for his bravery and impressive service to the country. But for now, we must keep going. Come on boys, up to it.

(They all nod in agreement, rising to their feet)

Soldier 1: Tull would want us to carry on as normal! He'd want us to be brave!

Soldier 2: For Walter Tull!

All: For Walter Tull!

(All clap each other on the back and gear each other on. They all exit the stage)



ACT 4 SCENE 4

Narrator

The Head Teacher in a school has instructed her staff to bring the students together for a special assembly remember Walter Tull and all his accomplishments in the First World War.

(Students and Staff enter the hall and sit down. They are sitting quietly and ready to listen).

Head Teacher: Good morning Students, today our Member of Parliament and a Campaigner on behalf of Walter Tull's 'Must Get His Medal Group', are visiting us. Can we give them a huge welcome please?

(Students applaud politely)

Campaigner: (Cheerily) Hello students. Have you ever heard of Walter Tull, or seen his picture?

(Students shake their heads, puzzled and begin to murmur to one another that they do not know who he is.)

Child 1: (Puts up hand)

Head Teacher: (Points to child) Yes!

Child 1: (Confused) I have not heard of him. Who is he? Is he someone important?

Campaigner: (Picks up papers) That's what I'm here for - to tell you all about him so you know how important he is. 100 years ago, Walter, a Black soldier from right here in Kent, was killed defending his men against the Germans at the Somme. He was only 29 years old. He showed incredible bravery and leadership - all the requirements for a very special medal in World War One. However, he was never given this medal. What do you think? Should he get the medal he rightly deserves?

Child 1: (Calling out) Yes, he should, because I would hate it if I didn't get a medal that I earned.

Child 2: (Also calling out) |He absolutely should if he was fighting for our country and other men were honoured in the same way!

(Murmurs of agreement from other children)

Member of Parliament: So, we have your support! We must take this to Parliament to ensure that Walter Tull gets the medal he so rightly deserves!

Campaigner: Thank you students for your support

All Students: (Clapping and cheering)

(Curtain closes all actors line up)

(Curtain opens with actors lining up. Somebody from Diversity House makes a final speech)

Diversity House Representative: Society at large probably did not consider the untimely death of a black working class orphan a loss worthy of permanent commemoration, and he passed from the public mind. Walter's true legacy is the influence and example he is for everyone today. Not just young footballers, not just young black people. Everyone! It took a very special person to surmount the barriers of class and colour and to establish themselves at the highest level in early twentieth century Britain. Let us do the right thing as a nation that preaches the equality and diversity of all peoples by giving Walter his medal. Let us not be held back by manmade policy of 'no retrospective honour award. Let this Centenary of WWI see us remembering all those who had been hitherto unremembered, unrecognised, and excluded in our society.

Play ends with the music - "God of Truth Keep Your Promise"