



Ministry
of Defence

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THE RT HON THE EARL HOWE PC
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Our ref: D/Min(Lords)/FH MC2019/00642e

4th February 2019

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter of 8 January 2019 enclosing letters from pupils at Vernon Park Primary School regarding the late Lieutenant (Lt) Walter Tull. I was very pleased to read of the children's passion for the subject and would be happy to provide you with some information to help you respond to their comments.

It may help if I explain that it is not possible for the Military Cross to now be awarded to Walter Tull. This is because, although the rules changed in 1979 to allow the Military Cross to be awarded to the deceased, we are still unable to change decisions that were made before then. This policy is applied to all requests for posthumous awarding of the Military Cross and therefore the decision is not linked to Walter Tull's ethnicity.

Lt Tull's Service Record does not contain any information to suggest that he was recommended for a Military Cross when he was alive. When military personnel are recommended for an Honour or Award, they may not be given the one they are originally put forward for; it may be that the recommendation is not supported or it is changed to a different type as it is being considered. Records of the process unfortunately are not kept if they are unsupported, so we cannot confirm whether a recommendation was ever made, or whether it was made and then unsupported, at any stage.

Despite this, it is important to emphasise that Lt Tull's remarkable life has certainly not been forgotten. On the centenary of his death, the Government launched the Tull100 project which champions equality and inclusivity with the support of the Football Association, the Premier League and the English Football League. The project works through football clubs, youth groups, schools and community networks to spread the message of equality and inclusion, regardless of race, gender, sexuality and age.

Ann Coffey MP
House of Commons
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There are also other commemorations to Lt Tull including a statue in Northampton Guildhall; a memorial in a dedicated Garden of Remembrance at Northampton Football Club; a plaque at the place of his birth in Folkestone, Kent; and the renaming by The British Army of the football competition the Infantry Cup the "Walter Tull Cup" in 2014.

I hope this helps you to provide the children with a response to their letters.

Yours ever,

Freddie

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