

Football and the First World War

True or False activity



1. Football was the first sport to have a large number of players sign up to fight in the First World War.

True False

2. England's leading scorer in 1914 gave up football to enlist, specialising in unexploded bomb clearance. Sadly he was injured and never played for his country again.

True False

3. The British Army held football games around the UK, featuring famous players of the day, and asked men in the stands to sign up for the war there and then.

True False

4. Every Christmas Day throughout the First World War the British soldiers would play the German soldiers in a friendly football match.

True False

5. There were two battalions of soldiers known as the Footballers' Battalions in the First World War.

True False

6. Walter Tull is famous for being the first black officer in the British Army.

True False





7. In 1916, as the Battle of the Somme approached, many of the British Army battalions played each other in a major football competition, just a few miles behind the front line.

True False

8. The generals operated a red and yellow card system in the trenches, as the volunteer soldiers were more familiar with the laws of football than with the laws of the British Army.

True False

9. Before the soldiers went over the top (advanced from the trenches) and into no man's land at the Battle of the Somme, some officers would go first and kick a football ahead of them and suggest the other men join them and chase it towards the enemy.

True False

10. With so many men fighting overseas, there were no football matches to watch and no one to watch them.

True False

