



# Frank Anderson

Northampton Saints' first mixed-race player



1878-1921  
Saints number #166

Frank Anderson was born in 1878 to his father Charles and mother Eliza. They lived together, with Frank's younger brother Harry at Spring Lane Yard in Northampton.

Frank worked in the Cook & Co shoe factory in Long Buckby and made his Northampton Saints debut, making nine first-team appearances and was vice-captain and secretary of the club's reserves.

When he was 37, he volunteered to fight in the First World War in the 17th Middlesex Battalion, known as the Footballers' Battalion serving alongside Walter Tull, Northampton Town Football Clubs' first black player.

Frank was wounded in Delville Wood, during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, and awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field three months later.

Frank's time at war came to an end in November 1917, when he was crushed by some timbers he was helping to move, breaking a couple of ribs. He stayed with the army until 1919, but back in England where he reunited with his wife and three children.

After the war, Frank returned to life spending time in London looking for work. In the summer of 1921 he contracted acute military tuberculosis, an illness sadly too common amongst the poor at the time. He died in the London Temperance Hospital on 4 July 1921 at the age of 42.

1 Which street did Frank live on as a child?

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2 What Battalion did he join and what were they known as?

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3 Who did Frank serve in the army with?

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4 What award did he receive?

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5 Why did Frank leave the army?

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