



Private Percy Slatter MM



17th (Service) Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1st Football) and The London Regiment

Private Percy Slatter won the Military Medal serving with 17th (Service) Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1st Football).



This was a 'Pals' Battalion formed in December 1914 with a core of 180 professional footballers. Within a few weeks of formation the 17th Battalion had its full complement of 600. However, most of the recruits were men who wanted to serve with their football heroes.

The Battalion took part in some of the most ferocious actions fought during the First World War and suffered terrible

casualties. By the end of the war, more than 1000 of the men who joined had been killed. Many others had won gallantry awards.

Unfortunately, no complete Military Service Records could be traced for Percy Slatter, except for his Medal Record Card.

This shows he also served for a time in The London Regiment (although which of the numerous Battalions is not known).

At a later stage he also served in the 3/18th (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). This was a Home Service Battalion.

Percy may have been transferred between units after suffering wounds or illness and being evacuated to England to recover.

Whatever the reason, Percy Slatter survived the Great War was married in Basingstoke in 1919 and lived in Alton where he eventually died in 1966 at the age of 74.

The Gazette date for Percy's Military Medal is 14th Sept 1916 and although no citation could be traced, it is likely this was awarded after the Battalion's engagements either at Delville Wood or near Guillemont in July/August 1916.



Gareth Ainsworth (left) and Phil Stant at the Footballers' Battalions memorial, Longueval, France October 2010

In addition to the Military Medal Pte Percy Slatter was awarded The 1915 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Percy Slatter was born on 30th December 1892 in Chelsea, London, but came to live with his Grandmother Jane Rogers in Greywell, after the death of his mother.

He is recorded as starting at Greywell Council School on 12 May 1896 and at the 1901 census he was eight years of age, living at the Rogers' home in the Street (along with Ada Mary Rogers who later married Albert Pink). At the 1911 census he was a single 18 year old still at home and employed as an 'Under Gardener- Domestic'.



18th (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (London Irish Rifles) march through London from Buckingham Palace in May 1919