

BARNFATHER	Percy
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<i>Date of Birth</i>	17.12.1879	<i>Place of Birth</i>	Byker, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	
<i>Date of Death</i>	18.12.1951	<i>Place of Death</i>	Westminster Hospital, London	
<i>Height</i>	5ft 2in - 5ft 6in (depending on source quoted)		<i>Position</i>	Winger
<i>Weight</i>	8st 7lb - 10st 10lb (depending on source quoted)			

<i>Club</i>	<i>Joined</i>	<i>Season</i>	F L		F A		S L		U L		S E		W L		L L		S F		L C		TOTALS		
			A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	
Throckley																							
Wallsend Park Villa	20.9.1900																						
Barnsley	15.4.1903	1903-04	25	4	?	?															25	4	
New Brompton	28.6.1904	1904-05			2	0	17	4													19	4	
		1905-06			2	0	22	0													24	0	
Southampton	5.1906																						
West Stanley	1.8.1906	1906-07																					
Croydon Common	7.8.1907	1907-08			1	0	13	2	7	0	26	13									47	15	
		1908-09			9	1	12	14	4	2	25	6	10	5							60	28	
Norwich City	1.5.1909	1909-10			2	0	32	4													34	4	
Croydon Common	cs1910	1910-11			2	3	15	10			20	5			6	1					43	19	
West Stanley	9.1911	1911-12																					
Croydon Common	cs1912	1912-13			4	0	15	4									11	3			30	7	
		1913-14			1	0	30	8									15	2			46	10	
		1914-15			2	0	36	6													38	6	
		1915-16																	1	0	1	0	
Footballers' Battalion	WW1																						
Chelsea	11.1917	1917-18																		1	0	1	0
Merthyr Town	10.1919	1919-20					4	0													4	0	
		TOTALS	25	4	25	4	196	52	11	2	71	24	10	5	6	1	26	5	2	0	372	97	

<i>Internationals</i>	None	<i>F.A. Cup Finals</i>	None	<i>Cigarette/Trade Cards</i>	None
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References in London Gazette

1.1.1918 - Awarded the Military Cross: T /Lt. (A./Capt) Percy Barnfather, Midd'r R.
14.9.1918 - Temp. Lt. P. Barnfather, M.C., relinquishes the actg.. rank of Capt. on ceasing to be empld. with a Bn. on transfer to Midd'x R. (attd.). 14 May 1918.
31.1.1919 - Temp. Lt. P. Barnfather, M.C., to be actg. Capt. (addtl.). 26 Oct. 1918.
20.9.1919 - Temp. Lt. P. Barnfather, M.C., relinquishes the actg. rank of Capt. on ceasing to comd. a Co. 23 Aug. 1919.
24.9.1919 - Temp. Lt. P. Barnfather, M.C., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 25 Aug. 1919, and is granted the rank of Capt.

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<i>Jottings</i>
The son of an umbrella maker, he was reputedly a plumber by trade and a good amateur singer
Attended Welleck Road School in Newcastle
The 1881 Census recorded him as living with his mother Margaret (26) at an umbrella shop at 204 Scotswood Road, Elswick (in Northumberland), along with William Douglass (50 - his grandfather, an engine fitter), Jane Douglass (50 - his grandmother, an umbrella dealer), Elizabeth Gray (28 - his mother's sister) and her two daughters Jane Gray (10) and Mary Gray (7) - but there was no mention of his father or Mr Gray
<i>A restless and sensitive bantam</i>
Scored on his Football League debut for Barnsley
Was at Southampton on trial only - no first team appearances
Played in the professional Croydon Common club's first competitive match
Played in Croydon Common's first F.A. Cup match
One of the only two players to appear on merit in Croydon Common's first and last professional seasons; the other was George Hunter
Played in West Stanley's first North Eastern League match, a 3-1 away win against Sunderland's 3rd XI on 1.9.1906 - the club's first season with the "West" prefix
Held the Croydon Common record for total league appearances (246), total league goals (81), total F.A. Cup appearances (19), total appearances (276) and total goals (88)
Appeared for Croydon Common in 11 minor cup matches, scoring 3 goals
His four appearances for Merthyr Town, under the managership of former Croydon Common team mate HARRY HADLEY, were against Brentford (H), Watford (A), Plymouth (A) and Newport County (A)
Gained two Southern League Division 2 and one Southern Football Alliance championship medals with Croydon Common
Selected for the South v. North, but illness robbed him of the honour
May have owned a motor cycle business in Croydon as an advertisement appears in the club handbook for 1909-10 for "Barnfather, Bale & Co" showing several motorbikes with sidecars, one of which appears to have Dave Gardner on board - although Percy had moved to Norwich City by this time.
The 1911 Census records him living in The Leslie Arms, 62 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon along with fellow Commoner John Christie
At the time of his enlistment, he quoted his occupation as "engineer" and gave his home address as 25 Kenilworth Rd, Newcastle; although it would appear that, in December 1914, he was still living at The Leslie Arms and he also gave that address when he married in 1918
On enlistment, was recorded as 5ft 3¼ in height, weighing 9st 0lb and with a chest measurement of 36 inches - and he gave his next-of-kin as Mistress Graham, his cousin
In WW1, rose from Private (F/43) to Captain in the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Footballers' Battalion) and won the Military Cross
On 2 December 1916, a dinner was held at the Greyhound Hotel in Croydon to honour his elevation from the ranks to an officer and local dignitaries presented him with a silver cigarette case, an amber mouthpiece and a silver mounted briar pipe
Appeared at outside left for Chelsea (along with former Commoner, Robert Thomson) in the club's 1-0 home defeat to Crystal Palace in the London Combination on 10 .11.1917
The award of his Military Cross was announced on Page 30 of the London Gazette of 1.1.1918, which was published on 28.12.1917
In March 1918, married Evelyn Harris, the daughter of one of the Croydon Common directors (and lied about his age on the certificate, saying he was 35 and not 39!)
Had three children - Donald P. (b.1919), Evelyn Muriel (b.1920/d.2002) and Cyril (b.1928/d.2008)
From 1938 to 1951, lived very close to The Nest in a house that once belonged to Richard Whiting, a Croydon Common director
Worked as a clerical officer for the Ministry of Supply before retirement
Died of stomach cancer and is buried in Croydon Cemetery, just around the corner from the site of the foundation of the amateur Croydon Common club

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Footballers' Battalion - Known Appearances

<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Royal Naval Division	14.04.1915	Crystal Palace	8-0	
23rd Royal Fusiliers	26.04.1915	Craven Cottage	2-0	
Reading	04.09.1915	Elm Park	1-0	
Bath City	??.09.1915	Bath	3-2	
Cardiff City	02.10.1915	Ninian Park	1-0	
Birmingham	30.10.1915	St Andrews	3-1	
13th Essex	07.01.1916	?	9-0	Divisional Cup - Round 2
34th Brigade RFA	11.04.1916	Hersin	11-0	Divisional Cup - Final
34th Brigade RFA	27.12.1916	France	2-1	Divisional Football Competition - Final

On 1 May 1915, Percy and four other Robins serving with the Footballers' Battalion, played for the Common against the Battalion at the Nest, winning 2-1

(With thanks to Andrew Riddoch & John Kemp, the authors of an excellent history of the Footballers' Battalion entitled "When the Whistle Blows")

BARNFATHER

Percy



Footballers' Battalion 1914



Footballers' Battalion



Footballers' Battalion 1916