

LUTONIAN SAVES LIFE.

Awarded French Marine Medal.



The bravery of a Luton soldier in saving lives on the beach in France has resulted in his being awarded the French Marine Medal. The soldier is Pte. Fredk. Walter Sinfield, formerly of the A.S.C., and now with the 1/5th London Regt. The medal was presented on parade recently by his C.O. on behalf of the French Ministry of Marine.

Pte. Sinfield is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sinfield, 7, Cross-street, the father himself having served for 22 months with a Royal Marine Labour Company. Prior to joining up two years last August, Pte. Sinfield was an attendant at the Public Baths. He was home on leave a fortnight ago.

The following thrilling story of the exploit is taken from a French paper:—

Amongst the good folk sleeping their last sleep in the cemetery at — there lies a British soldier who died neither on the battlefield nor in the hospital, but nevertheless the victim of his duty. His name is L.-Cpl. Barker. On Saturday, the 11th of August, he was on the beach near Quiberville with four of his comrades, Ptes. Driscoll, Jowitt, Young, and Sinfield. It was a quarter to five and a high sea was running at the time. Suddenly cries were heard. Some people who had imprudently ventured too far out were being badly buffeted about by the waves, and feeling their strength declining began shouting for help. Without hesitating an instant, Cpl. Barker and the other four soldiers rushed to the spot from whence the cries arose, and were able to bring off their first rescue. Their task, however, was by no means completed, for two more of the bathers were in grave danger. Although very tired Cpl. Barker and his comrades waded in a second time. By then the sea had got even more rough, and the sense of self-preservation made the bathers act in a way which rendered the work of their rescuers still more hazardous. The latter had the satisfaction of regaining the beach without leaving anyone behind them. They had saved from death four people, one of whom, an officer of the Flying Corps, has come forward and given a written statement of the whole affair. Cpl. Barker, sad to relate, absolutely exhausted, fell unconscious, and a short while after breathed his last in the arms of his comrades. Thus died this gallant fellow who lies in the cemetery of Janval. We found it only meet to comment on so courageous an act in the columns of a Dieppe paper.