

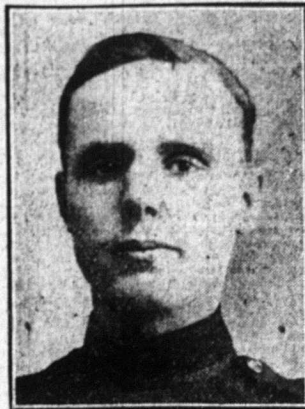
TERRIBLE WOUNDS.

Luton Soldier to be Buried at
Home To-day.

MILITARY HONOURS.

Terrible wounds were the cause of the death in hospital last Saturday of Rifleman Bertie Whitemore, age 25, of the Rifle Brigade, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Whitemore, of 42, King's-road, Luton.

Rifleman Whitemore is an old Surrey-street school boy, and is well known in the town. He worked for some years for Mr. John Bull, Hitchin-road, and afterwards joined the Rifle Brigade. He had been a regular attendant of the Wesleyan Central Mission Brotherhood, and received several first prizes. He served with the Rifle Brigade in India and Egypt for eight years, and his time was up just about the outbreak of



THE LATE RIFLEMAN WHITEMORE.

war. The regiment was at once brought to England and then sent to the front, and after being in the trenches last Christmas, took part in most of the big battles. On May 10th he received his wounds, from shrapnel, and they are too terrible to describe. At that time the regiment suffered severely, only 50 being left. The battalion was literally mown down. Rifleman Whitemore would have been killed outright but for the fact that a tin of cigarettes covered his head, and the tin was smashed by a piece of shrapnel. He was afterwards brought to hospital at Sandgate, Kent, and his death took early last Saturday morning. On learning that he was in hospital his father and one of his brothers went to see him, but Rifleman Whitemore was unable to do anything but whisper, and he was cheerful enough to say that he hoped to be home in two months' time. In his letters from the front he was always cheerful, and in his last letter he spoke of the horror of the machine gun fire. He also declared that the Germans would never reach Calais.

Happily Rifleman Whitemore was a single man. The funeral will take place to-day, and the Mayor has arranged for full military honours, the body being conveyed from the house in King's-road to the Church Cemetery on a gun-carriage at 2.30.

There are four other brothers doing their duty to the country. The first is Pte. Horace aged 20, who has been with the 1st. Beds at the front, and who is now at home, convalescent after wounds. The next is Pte. Ernest Whitemore, aged 22, and the third, Pte. Lee Whitemore, aged 23, who are serving with the 15th Beds. The deceased was at home about Christmas, but the other brothers were away at the time. One of these is Seaman Victor Whitemore, aged 21, who is in the Navy, and who was serving in the North Sea. He would have given much to have got home, for he had not seen the deceased since he was 13 years of age. He was in the action off Heligoland, and is now in barracks having just left H.M.S. Victory.

Mrs. Whitemore has also nine nephews serving in the Army.