

## **Dangers of the River Arun.**

*West Sussex Gazette* December 20th 1860

Littlehampton: ALARMING ACCIDENT. A private soldier at the fort who had been sent from the barracks, at Chichester, on Friday, in an attempt to come into the river at the mouth of the harbour, and the water being out, fell on rough ground – a depth of 14 feet; but strange to say, received no serious injury, as, under the attention of Dr Candy who was quickly on the spot, he is likely to recover. Had the tide been up, so strong is the current there- no possible effort could have saved him from drowning. The likelihood of an accident of this kind, by the works being on a level ground on the west side, has been long predicted; but more confidently so, we may add, as a caution, an accident by the upsetting of the boat constantly passing to and fro often by soldiers- so unskilled in boating- at the most dangerous part of the river.

***Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle*** Saturday, September 13, 1873.

A SOLDIER DROWNED – On Monday last F.J.Mallin Esq., coroner, held an inquest at the Littlehampton Fort, on the body of John Thornley, a private of the 107<sup>th</sup> Regiment, drowned in the sea on Saturday.-From the evidence given by Private Patrick Callaghan, Lance Corporal John McCarthy, and Private Patrick McGuire, it appeared that the deceased soldier was 34 years of age, and had been 14 years in the service. He had been frequently punished for drinking, and on Friday he was intoxicated; on the Saturday he was in liquor, and he threw a basin of soup over the tables at dinner time. After dinner he slipped off, and, as the party deceased was under orders to march to the station, Callaghan and McCarthy were sent to search for him. An hour after dinner his body was found lying on the beach, naked and dead, with his clothes in a pile on the sand. He had evidently gone to bathe, but how he met his death there was no evidence to show, and the jury returned a verdict of “Accidentally Drowned”.

***Littlehampton News, Saturday*** June 21st 1879.

DROWNING OF A SOLDIER AT THE FORT.- Yesterday morning five or six of the men now stationed at the Fort for ball practice were bathing. It was nearly high water; and among them was a soldier named BATTERY, a single man, belonging to the 35th Regiment, who jumped off the works in the harbour, and swam about for some little time. When he thought he would land he swam towards the harbour end of the west works, but found there a strong eddy which kept him off, and as he was becoming exhausted and was unable to conquer it, he called for help. Another soldier named TANNER, who had been bathing in the same way, went to his assistance; but had to abandon him, and with the greatest difficulty himself got ashore. The coastguard, seeing what was going on made a rush for their boat, and the ferryman, who saw the coastguard running, did the same to his; but they were all too late. When they reached the spot the drowning soldier had sunk for the last time. An effort was made to recover the body by the aid of drags but it was not successful. The unfortunate man- who appeared to be a moderately good swimmer- had almost completed his time of service. Some soldiers were near a boat, while the man was drowning; but they appeared to be dazed. The body was supposed to have been driven by the tide up the river. Dr Candy has been attending assiduously to Turner, who himself was almost drowned.