

His Life For His Men.

Tribute to Dead Luton Officer.

Last July we reported the death of Sec.-Lt. F. G. H. Small, M.M., son of Mr. G. H. Small, of 24, Albion-road, an old Luton cricketer. Lt. Small died of wounds shortly after being taken prisoner in the big offensive on March 24th, but of the circumstances very little was heard. His widow, who lives at 66, Norman-road, Luton, and to whom he was only married the Christmas before, had now received the following letter:—

"On Saturday, 23.3.1918, when our Division was retiring, Lieut. Small volunteered to remain behind in position near Ypres. Later in the same area, about midnight, whilst retiring, we found that the Germans were between us and our own troops. Lieut. Small carried out some very good work during the time I was organising my party, preparatory to an attempt to break through!



"Lieut. Small occupied the foremost gun position, and because there was no cover and a grave possibility of his men being hit, he manned his gun personally, rather than risk his men's lives. He was wounded in the arm and leg about 1 a.m., 24.3.1918, about 200 yards north of Bus (between Ypres and Le Fransloy)—his gun was knocked out, and I carried him back to our party.

"For this work and his invaluable help during the earlier part of the day, it was my intention to put his name before my C.O. for high recognition. I and my men were captured an hour later. Here is a case of an officer giving his life for his men. I last saw him at Fries, in a hospital, being well looked after."—Ernest H. Taylor, Lieut., late O.C., 255 M.G. Company, B.E.F.

The late Lieut. Small was formerly with Messrs. J. C. Kershaw and Co. and Messrs. Gurney and Co., and played for the Amateurs and Luton Town Reserves. He joined the Army in September 1914, was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry while a sergeant, and was commissioned in 1917.