

Marine Johnny Squire MM and Marine David Losban

43 RM Commando

Extract from the Norwood News 10 August 1945

M.M. FOR MARINE SQUIRE

A Rescue Under Heavy Gun Fire

MOTHER'S GRATITUDE

Friendship strong enough to withstand withering enemy fire and the risk of life, gave a Selhurst Royal Marine the strength and courage to carry his wounded commando friend three miles to safety, a gallant deed which has earned him the Military Medal.

Marine Johnny Squire (aged 21), younger son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Squire, Charnwood-road, Selhurst, went into yet another commando raid in May with his chum, Marine David Losban.

David was struck in the spine by three bullets, and was immediately paralysed.

Johnny raced to his aid, and saved his life by carrying him away from the battle area under heavy gun-fire.

David's mother, Mrs. Losban, of Prestwick, takes up the story here. In a letter to Mrs. Squire, she writes, "I cannot express my gratitude and thankfulness to your son, who helped in saving my son's life by carrying him nearly three miles under enemy fire and danger to his own life.

"They were very good pals, and I have a photograph of them taken together which I will always treasure.

"The C.O. has sent me a very nice letter, explaining your son's brave deed and how he proved himself a loyal pal.

HOSPITAL'S HOPES

"David is still paralysed in both legs, and looks very weak, but the hospital have hopes of him walking again.

"I thought you would like to know of Johnny's brave deed, as you must be proud of him. I thank God he was near David at the time, as we would have lost him if he had not been immediately taken to a dressing-station. I will never be able to repay that debt of owing David's life to Johnny."

Marine Squire is now at home on twenty-one days' leave, but is not very talkative. Commando raids are now commonplace to him, for, a Marine since 1940, he has taken part in commando raids at Dieppe, North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

His only brother, Alfred, was a Sergt.-Navigator in the R.A.F., and was shot down over France in June, 1942. He is buried on the Continent.

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