



The Baltic Medal

Drunk Marine

At the Salisbury petty session on Tuesday, before the Mayor, Benjamin Gregory, a marine, wearing the Baltic and China medals, was charged with being drunk on the Canal, Salisbury, on Sunday night. He said, in reply to the charge, "I was never drunk, sir, in my life - No!" This statement, however, was rebutted by Superintendent White, who stated that on the defendant being brought into the station, on the information of P.S. Powell, of the county constabulary, he was insensibly drunk. The sum of 8s. 10d was found upon him, and he had evidently been in a clay pit, his clothes being covered with clay up to his waist. It appeared he left Portsmouth on furlough three days ago for Trowbridge, where he had friends, and that he mistook his way and got to Beacon Hill at night, remaining in the open air until the following morning. He took the first road he saw in the morning, and fell into a clay pit near Salisbury on the following night, where it was fortunate he did not sacrifice his life.

The Mayor (to the prisoner): How came you to get into the clay pit?

Prisoner: I don't know; I stepped in there in the dark.

Superintendent White stated on being charged the prisoner said he believed in God, and no doubt God believed in him; otherwise, he wouldn't have been rescued! He wanted to go to the river and wash himself, and on his being refused, he said, "I am too old a soldier for drowning." As he had been locked up all night, he was discharged on promising to go to Trowbridge as soon as possible. He said had three months' furlough.

Southern Times and Dorset County Herald, 1 March 1873