

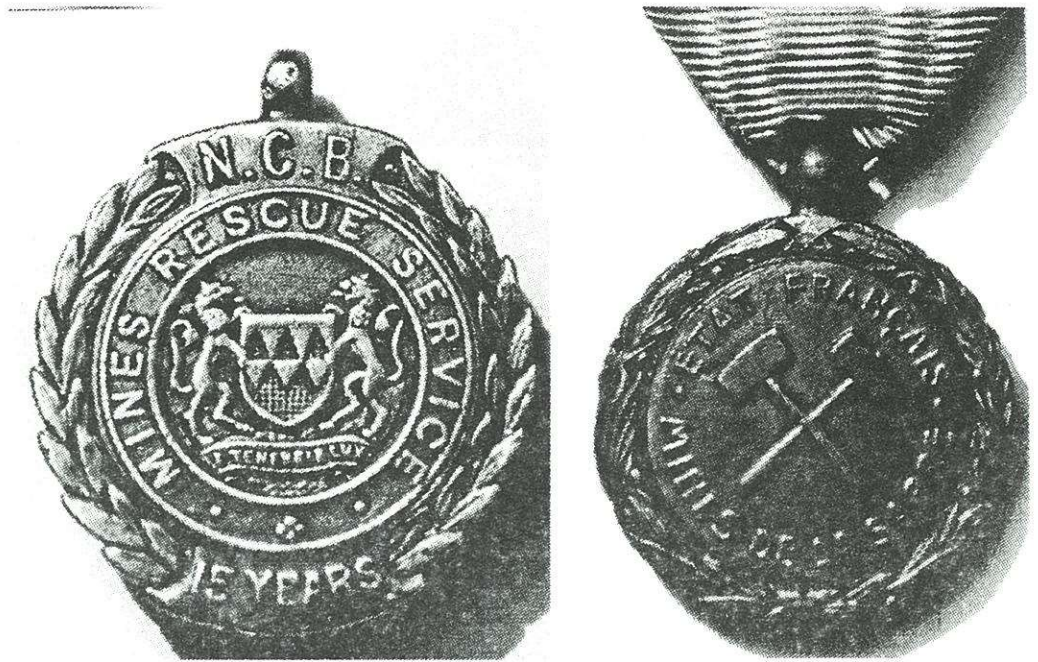
Medals and Coins

Manfred Stutzer

Service Medals

For longevity of service or some other specified extraordinary service, several European governments presented miners with medals.

The first medal (top left) was presented by the National Coal Board of Great Britain to a miner for 15 years of service to the Mines Rescue Service.



The second medal (top right) was by the French Government, in 1927, to a French miner. The Sarre Mining region was principally a coal district acquired by the French as a result of World War I. This region was reoccupied by Germany in 1935 and was known to the German nation as Saarland.

The third medal (bottom) was a silver medal awarded by the French government's Ministère De L' Industrie (Ministry of Industry.)



Commemorative Medals

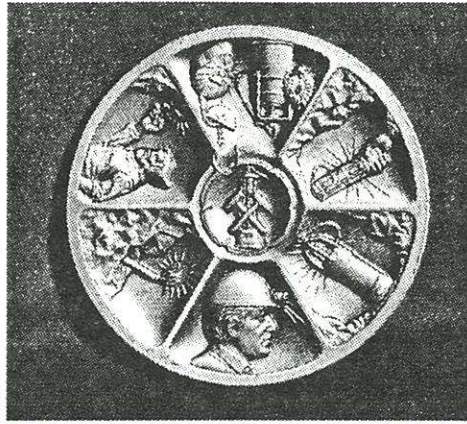
This commemorative medal (right) illustrates the development of the miner's lamp from a torch to the modern electric cap lamp. The obverse illustrates miners being raised or lowered by means of a rope (left), a ladder (center top), and a man engine (right.)

The heading: GRUBENGELEUCHT translates to mining lights. The center translates to: "...and he has his bright light already ignited by night..." This is a line from an old German miner's song - Glück Auf, der Steiger kommt.

This second medal illustrates an early German miner's dress uniform, as would be worn by a mining boss, standing in front of a water powered hoist. The obverse illustrates a miner pushing an ore car and a miner's family. It roughly translates to: "money made in good times protects us from bad times later." This is part of an old proverb.

A Coin

Minted in 1920, this aluminum 50 Pfennig coin illustrates a miner carrying a safety lamp and sledge hammer as he walks in front of mine buildings.



Glück auf, der Steiger kommt

Altes Volksgut, in allen Revieren verbreitet
Bearbeitung: Walter Führer

Glück auf! Glück auf! Der Steiger kommt,
und er hat sein helles Licht bei der Nacht,
und er hat sein helles Licht bei der Nacht
schon angezünd't
schon angezünd't.

Schon angezünd't! Das wirft sein Schein,
und damit so fahren wir bei der Nacht,
und damit so fahren wir bei der Nacht
ins Bergwerk 'nein,
ins Bergwerk 'nein.

Ins Bergwerk 'nein, wo Bergleut' sein,
die da graben das Silber und Gold bei der Nacht,
die da graben das Silber und Gold bei der Nacht
aus Felsenstein,
aus Felsenstein.

Und kehr ich heim zum Liebchen mein,
dann erschallet des Bergmanns Gruß bei
der Nacht,
dann erschallet des Bergmanns Gruß
bei der Nacht:
Glück auf! Glück auf!
Glück auf! Glück auf!

Wir Bergleut' sein kreuzbrave Leut,
denn wir tragen das Leder vor dem Arsch bei
der Nacht,
denn wir tragen das Leder vor dem Arsch bei
der Nacht
und saufen Schnaps,
und saufen Schnaps.

