

evening Mrs. Flanagan came and told Father Kelly that Jim was pretty sick. When Father Kelly arrived Jim was dying. The priest stood by the bedside and gave the last rites of the Church to his dying friend. Just when Jim closed his eyes for the last time Father Kelly thought he heard a sound. Till the day he died the kindly priest swore that he heard a voice at that time saying softly, "Jim, this is Jesus." Captain O'Connell always used to end this story by saying, "that's the way I want to die."

CLARK McAULAY, '47

THE VICTORIA CROSS

The Victoria Cross was instituted in January, 1856, by Queen Victoria. At that time, there were few decorations for bravery under fire available to soldiers and sailors. It was possible before the institution of this award for officers to be awarded a companionship in one or other of the several British Orders, but other ranks who had distinguished themselves in battle could be rewarded only by promotion. The Cross was then created to remedy this unfortunate situation, and also to recognize the many acts of bravery performed during the Crimean War.

It is commonly thought that the Crosses were made from guns taken by the British during the Crimean War. This was done until about the beginning of World War I. But by that time the supply of metal from this source had been exhausted. Chinese guns were then utilized, and metal from these is probably still used by the same manufacturers in England.

It was for bravery witnessed in the Crimea in 1854 that the first awards were made. The first award was made to an Officer of the Royal Navy for bravery at sea, in June, 1854. During an attack on some land batteries, a live shell landed on the deck of his ship; he instantly seized it and, while the fuse was still burning, hurled it into the sea. The Cross was awarded to him in February, 1857.

From 1856 until 1920 there were nearly 1,160 awards of the Victoria Cross made. No fewer than 579 Crosses were merited during the last great war. Canadians received sixty of them. In the present war ninety-five Crosses had been gazetted by July 31, 1944. There exists a provision for the awarding of a bar to the Victoria Cross in the event of its being won a second time by the same person. This has occurred only twice. Martin Laeke, now a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, has the unique distinction of being the only living individual who has been twice awarded the Victoria Cross.

It is not only by members of the three services that the Cross may be won. Civilians may win it and some have actually done so. The four instances on record of civilians winning the Cross took place during the Indian Mutiny.

The appearance of this great award is very deceiving and would not ordinarily attract much attention. A dull bronze cross suspended by a plain crimson ribbon, it is easily the least ornamental of British decoration. Yet, no award ever devised by man has acquired the prestige and significance that may be claimed by the Victoria Cross in the English-speaking world.

JAMES MORRIS, '46

L'ART ORATOIRE

De nos jours, l'art est accueilli par la majorité des gens avec une froideur marquée. La tendance populaire s'en va, non pas vers les oeuvres artistiques, mais bien vers les oeuvres pratiques dont on tire un avantage immédiat. Les hommes n'ont pas perdu l'amour de la beauté sous toutes ses formes; cependant ils ont jugé préférable d'acquérir l'utile avant l'agréable. Qu'un art se présente toutefois, où ces deux qualités soient fondues et il captera l'attention de l'illettré aussi bien que celle du savant. L'art et la parole rassemblent ces deux qualités; c'est à la fois une oeuvre d'art et une oeuvre utile.