

# THE STORY OF THE IRON CROSS

## How the Coveted Decoration Came Into Being—A Democratic Distinction.

It is reported that already 38,000 German soldiers have received the Iron Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field. This German decoration, which is similar in design to England's Victoria Cross, is said to be cast out of guns captured in war, and in this connection it carries its resemblance to the latter decoration a little further, inasmuch as it is said that the Victoria Cross is made out of guns captured in the Crimea. The Prussian order was instituted on March 10, 1813, by Frederick William III. Its inception was due to Gneisenau, who in 1811 proposed to the king a general rising against Napoleon, and suggested that all men who served with distinction in the field should be decorated with a black and white scarf or a national cockade. The king, however, favored an emblem in the shape of two pieces of black and white ribbon sewed in the form of a cross on the breast of the coat.

**Instituted in 1813.**  
The designs against Napoleon did not mature until after Moscow in 1813, and in that year the Order of the Iron Cross was instituted, as it was thought that a decoration of metal would be more suitable. On March, 1813, the King of Prussia decreed that "in the present critical state of affairs on which depends everything for the country, the brave spirit which the nation has so grandly shown deserves to be honored and to be commemorated by some special form of recognition. We have therefore resolved specially to distinguish the merit which in the war now about to break out shall be displayed, either in actual fight with the enemy or in the field or at home, in connection with the great struggle for freedom and independence, and after this war not again to bestow this special form of recognition."

**Revived for 1870.**  
By virtue of this decree the Iron Cross of two classes and a Grand Cross were instituted, on the anniversary of the birthday of the late Queen Luise. Fifty-seven years later, on July 19, 1870, the anniversary of the death of Queen Luise, was declared against France, and it is thought that no better recognition could be conferred for valor in this campaign than the order of 1813, although the king in his decree had declared that this distinction would not again be bestowed by King William reintroduced the Order of the Iron Cross. "In view of the serious situation of the Fatherland," he decreed, "and in grateful remembrance of the heroism of our ancestors in the great years of the War of Liberty, I revive in its full meaning and importance the Order of the Iron Cross instituted by my father, now in rest with God. The Iron Cross will be given without distinction of rank or position as a reward for merit, gained either in actual fight with the enemy or at home, in connection with this war for the honor and independence of the beloved country."

**The Two Classes.**  
Both classes of the Iron Cross have a precisely similar black cross of cast iron with silver edging. On the front there is not any inscription. The front face of the cross of 1813 is bare of any insignia. On the reverse of the cross of 1870-71 is a crown and the date of 1870. In the center is a "W," the initial of the Christian name of the then King of Prussia. The cross of 1813 bore the initials "F. W." In the center of the cross are three oak leaves, and the presence on the order today of the dates 1813 and 1870-71 indicates that the soldier upon whom it is conferred participates by right in the honors of the previous wars.

The Grand Cross can only be received by a commander who has been victorious in a decisive battle after which the enemy has evacuated his position, or who has captured an important fortress, or by a commander who has unflinchingly defended a fortress which has not fallen into the enemy's hands. The Iron Cross is borne on the standards and colors of the troops, and, like the Victoria Cross, its bestowal is not confined to any one rank. In the campaign of 1813 331 first class and 6,639 second-class crosses were awarded, and six years later it was worn by 9,130 soldiers, and that were 6,813 inheritors of the decoration. After the Franco-German war of 1870 the number of crosses distributed totalled nearly 50,000. Of this number 3,000 were crosses with the white ribbon with the white ribbon with the black edg-

ing, indicating that they had not been awarded for services against the enemy.

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### U. S. Quarantines Union Stock Yards At Chicago.

Washington, October 31.—The Department of Agriculture to-day quarantined the Union Stock Yards at Chicago to prevent shipment of cattle except for humane slaughter because of foot and mouth disease. This explanation of the government's action was issued at the Department of Agriculture:

"Because of the danger that cattle infected with the foot and mouth disease may have passed through them, the Union Stock Yards in Chicago have been quarantined by the secretary of agriculture immediately.

"Under the provision of this quarantine, no cattle, sheep or swine can be moved from the stock yards in interstate or foreign commerce, except for the purpose of immediate slaughter and under permits issued by federal inspectors. In such cases they must be transported in sealed cars placarded 'For immediate slaughter.' The stock in these cars can only be unloaded into reserve pens, which have been designated for this purpose by the chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Shipments of stock into the yards from uninfected areas must be unloaded through cleaned and disinfected docks and alleyways under the supervision of the federal officials, when reloaded the stock must be placed in cleaned and disinfected cars and the cars officially sealed.

"Up to the present time no case of foot and mouth diseases have been found in the Union yards, but there is some reason to believe that infected stock may have passed through."

Chicago, Ill., October 31.—The quarantine placed on cattle and sheep at the Union Stock Yards by the government today as a precaution because of the prevalence of the foot and mouth disease in Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana, affects only about 10 per cent of the receipts and is for ten days only, according to W. J. O'Connor, assistant general manager of the stock yards company.

"The order affects only those cattle which are sent here to be fattened before slaughter," said O'Connor. "It seems that for ten days we can not ship them out to the feeding farms. Its only effect will be for the time being to reduce this class of receipts. Growers who want their animals fattened before selling to the packers will simply hold them back until the ban is lifted. There has been none of the disease at the yards, nor any symptoms of it."

It was said today that the meat orders from Europe have swamped the capacity of the big packers and that it might be necessary for them to sublet some of their contracts to the so-called independents.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Sugar Industry Hurt—Sugar Higher.

As the result of partisan legislation, the American people must now submit to a most arbitrary and unnecessary tax, which a Democratic Congress insists on forcing on the business men and wage earners of the country, instead of reducing their appropriations by nearly \$100,000,000 for projects which are necessary, if not questionable, or by restoring tariff duties which, on sugar alone would bring in a revenue of over \$50,000,000 per year.

The Underwood Tariff law has resulted in great damage to the business and agricultural interests of my State, but the beet sugar industry has suffered irreparably and will be forced out of existence if the tariff is finally removed, as provided for in the Underwood tariff law. Farmers will not raise beets if the price be reduced, and sugar manufacturers cannot compete with foreign manufacturers without reducing the cost of production. A slight reduction has already been made in the raw material and in wages, and a large reduction in dividends to the stockholders, because of the reduction in dividends to the stockholders, because of the reduction of the price of the beet.

The lumber industry, and the lead mining industry, all of which are important factors in the prosperity of our people, are retrograding because of the disturbed business condition due to the baneful effects of the abandonment of the protective policy of the Republican party, under which this country has always prospered.—Hon Addison T. Smith, Congressman from Idaho.

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Ben F. Rice, Fordsville, Tuesday after 2d Monday in March, Thursday after 2d Monday in May, Thursday after 2d Monday in August, Thursday after 2d Monday in November.

Ben W. Taylor, Ralph, Friday after 2d Monday in March, Friday after 2d Monday in May, Friday after 2d Monday in August, Friday after 2d Monday in November.

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Hartford Lodge No. 675, F. and A. M., meets every first Monday night in each month. W. S. Stevens, W. M.; Owen Hunter, Secretary.

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Court of Claims—Convenes first Tuesday in January and first Tuesday in October.

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