

FOR REAL HEROES

Uncle Sam's Great Military Prize, the Medal of Honor.

NOT WON BY MERE BRAVERY.

It Takes a Deed of Almost Superhuman Fearlessness to Gain This Coveted Badge, the Hardest to Win of All National War Decorations.

"Hardest to gain, fewest in numbers, the least known of the military decorations of honor of the world," sums up the medal of honor of the United States, the bit of ribbon and the piece of metal that are so eagerly coveted and highly prized by the soldiers and sailors of Uncle Sam.

When you see a man with the inconspicuous bronze star pinned to his coat by a blue ribbon on which are thirteen white stars you may know that he has done a deed that has placed his life in such jeopardy that escape from it was nearly a miracle.

The medal of honor was first authorized by congress in 1862 and was for noncommissioned officers and privates only. But in the following year the law was changed to extend the award to commissioned officers also. In all about 1,500 of the medals were presented for services in the war between the states, and it is a remarkable fact that 96 per cent of them went to private soldiers.

In its present form the medal of honor is a five pointed star with a medallion in the center bearing the head of Minerva and around it "United States of America" in relief. On each ray of the star is an oak leaf, and the points themselves are trefoll shaped. A laurel wreath in green enamel encircles the whole, and this wreath is surmounted by "Valor" which in turn is surmounted by an eagle that attaches the decoration to its ribbon.

Accompanying this medal there is a badge, or lapel button, hexagonal and made of blue silk with the thirteen original stars in white. The army medal is represented by a small blue button studded with stars, while the navy medal is represented by a small red, white and blue bowknot.

It was not until 1897 that regulations definitely enunciating the conditions under which the medal should be awarded were promulgated. They emphasized the difficulty of winning the decoration and the great honor attaching to its possession.

"Medals of honor authorized by the act of congress approved March 3, 1863," say the regulations, "are awarded to officers and enlisted men in the name of congress for particular deeds of most distinguished gallantry in action. In order that the congressional medal of honor may be deserved, service must have been performed in action of such conspicuous character as to distinguish clearly the man for gallantry and intrepidity above his comrades, service that involved extreme jeopardy of life or the performance of extraordinarily hazardous duty. Recommendations for the decoration will be judged by this standard of extraordinary merit, and incontestible proof of performance of the service will be exacted.

"Soldiers of the Union have ever displayed bravery in battle, else victories could not have been gained. But as courage and self sacrifice are the characteristics of every true soldier, such a badge of distinction as the congressional medal is not to be expected as the reward of conduct that does not clearly distinguish the soldier above other men whose bravery and gallantry have been proved in battle."

In other words, the medal of honor is a medal for superheroes, for men who not only risk their lives in some extraordinary way, but who display such intelligence in the action that it stands out as something apart from conduct in the line of duty. Executive orders prescribe as follows the way in which the medal may be gained:

The recommendations must be presented by some one other than the proposed recipient, one who is personally familiar with all the facts and circumstances claimed as justifying the award, but the application may be made by the one claiming to have earned it, in which case it will be in the form of a deposition reciting a narrative description of the distinguished service performed. Recommendations will be made by the commanding officer at the time of the action or by a soldier or an officer having personal cognizance of the act for which the badge of honor is claimed.

The regulations also provide for exhaustive examination of the circumstances in each case and for an investigation that removes every possibility of fraud. Affidavits from witnesses are required, and the system safeguarding the distinction is hedged about with innumerable restrictions. It may be taken for granted that a man who secures one of the coveted medals has earned it with interest.—New York Sun.

Akron and Rubber.
There are thirty or more rubber factories in and around Akron. Three of them are so vast that the visitor feels a bewilderment that merges into awe as he follows his guide hour after hour through titanic shops. These three colossal plants are said to represent 70 per cent of Akron's life, while Akron itself stands for 60 per cent of the total rubber production of the United States.—Edward Mott Woolley in McClure's.

The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is character.—W. M. Hunt.

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Country Children.
Alice Freeman Palmer, the far famed president of Wellesley college, grew up as a farmer's daughter. In after years it is said that she was always sorry for children who do not grow up with the sights and sounds of the country. "One is very near to all the simple, real things of life on a farm," she used to say. "There is a dewy freshness about the early out of door experiences and a warm wholesomeness about tasks that are a part of the common lot. A country child develops, too, a responsibility—a power to do and to contrive—that the city child, who sees everything come ready to hand from a nearby store, cannot possibly gain. However much some of my friends may deplore my own early struggle with poverty and hard work, I can hardly echo George Elliot's boast: But were another childhood world my share, I would be born a little sister there."
—St. Nicholas.

Origin of Chalk.
Deposits of chalk are found on some shores of the sea. A piece of chalk, such as the teacher uses to illustrate something on the blackboard at school, consists of the remains of thousands of tiny creatures that at one time lived in the sea. All of their bodies except the chalk-called carbonate of lime in scientific language—has disappeared, and the chalk that was left was piled up where it fell at the bottom of the ocean, each particle pressing against the other with the water pressing over it all, until it became almost solid. It took thousands of years to make these chalk deposits of the thickness in which they are found, says the "Book of Wonders." Later on, through changes in the earth's surface, the mountain of chalk was raised until it stood out of the water and thus became accessible to mankind, including schoolteachers.

Guinea Pigs as Food.
The cavy (guinea pig) is typically a pet animal and has no other excuse for existence than the pleasure he gives those who appreciate his good qualities. But it is to the undeniable edibility of the cavy that we owe the existence of the cheerful little squeaker of today.

The Incas of Peru long ago domesticated the wild ancestor of the modern animals—a small, tailless, unicolor member of the genus Cavix, the exact identity of which is a matter of some doubt. These creatures were allowed to run freely about the home of their owners, whose object in breeding them undoubtedly was for their food value.

The time which must undoubtedly have elapsed since this domestication was first begun is evident from the entirely changed color of the present day cavy.—"Pets," by Lee S. Crandall.

Encourage the Workers.
If you have people working for you one way to encourage them to do more and better work is occasionally to pick out instances where they have shown signs of ability and commend them. Any worker, particularly a young worker, is likely to be unable to discriminate always between his good work and his poor work. If you are his boss it is up to you to help him distinguish between the two. It is also up to you to take the young man in hand and explain to him why the good job is good and why the poor job is poor. In the first instance he will be hearing something pleasant and inspiring, and in the second instance he will be in a better mood to listen to you. You can also depend upon it that the man who is intelligently praised for a good piece of work will try to duplicate that work, so that he may earn more praise.—American Magazine.

Sneezing in Persia.
The well known superstition that to sneeze once is a bad omen seriously interferes with many of the duties and pleasures of the Persian. When he is so unfortunate as to sneeze once he quickly says, "Sebar amad" (a time for waiting has come), and for at least two hours thereafter he cannot be persuaded to take medicine, start on a journey or begin any new or important work. A missionary surgeon who has more than once had to postpone an operation because he or the patient sneezed once says, "I have now become an adept at producing double sneezes."
—Los Angeles Times.

KEYSTONE PARAGRAPHS

Deputy United States Marshal N. L. Bogan arrested Otto T. Post, a mechanical engineer for the Rust Engineering company, Pittsburgh. He applied for an enemy alien permit May 17. The application was refused. The order for his arrest came after an investigation by the government authorities. He will be interned for the duration of the war. The nature of the charges against him has not been revealed by the government.

Residents of the Pittsburgh district will have a chance to see nearly 4,000 national guardsmen from Pittsburgh units before the men enroute for the training camp at Augusta, Ga., for, according to present plans of the war department, the Eighteenth Pennsylvania infantry and all other Pittsburgh units will be mobilized in Pittsburgh from guard duty and sent south in five trains, comprising 100 coaches.

A dividend of 10 per cent on the preferred stock of the American Window Glass Machine Co. was declared at a meeting of the directors in Pittsburgh. Payment will be made on Aug. 14 to stockholders of record Aug. 7. This brings the total dividends declared since November, 1915, up to 88 1/2 per cent and reduced the arrearage of the accumulated dividends to about 12 per cent.

Owing to the number of employees to be taken into the draft army of officials of the Homestead steel works have arranged for twelve girls to report for duty at the mills. They will do office work. It was stated, however, that the concern expects to have 1,000 women and girls at work in the mills by next year. They will be employed to operate cranes and light machinery.

Figures issued by the Pennsylvania state department of agriculture show that the state can look forward to a crop of 35,000,000 bushels of potatoes unless the ravages of blight and insects destroy too much. The acreage given as devoted to potatoes on farms alone is 309,331 against 265,000 last year. This does not include the war gardens that have so many potatoes planted.

Center county farmers are harvesting the biggest crops of wheat and hay that have been gathered in that part of the state in years. There are indications of a big corn crop, and as farmers planted a larger acreage than usual the yield in Center county alone should be 50 per cent above the average. A big crop of potatoes is in prospect.

Mystery surrounds the probably fatal shooting of Peter Parich, aged thirty-five, of Monessen, while he lay asleep in bed. It is said he cannot recover, and his wife, Helen Parich, with their two children, is being held. The police say they have information that Mrs. Parich and her husband had quarreled.

At Altoona, Pa., Patrolman D. M. Romberger, aged thirty-eight, was probably fatally shot in the abdomen with his own revolver while attempting to arrest a giant Greek who was suspected of numerous robberies in this city. The Greek escaped and is still at large.

Harry S. McDevitt of Philadelphia has been appointed special deputy auditor general by Auditor General Snyder and will be one of counsel for Snyder in the mandamus suit to compel him to pay the reappointed state officials, rejected by the senate, their salaries.

Mrs. C. W. Forsythe and her son, Charles, of McKeesport, were killed on the Lincoln highway several miles west of Bucktown, when their motorcycle was demolished by an automobile. Charles W. Forsythe, husband of the victim, suffered a broken right leg.

Gross earnings of the Pennsylvania railroad for June, amounting to \$43,562,142, were the highest for any month in the road's history, it was announced. Net earnings of \$10,045,509 were the highest this year, but were slightly less than last June.

She Won Two Prizes

By SADIE OLCOTT

A girl sat before a table in the library of her home studying her lessons, repeating the conjugation of Latin verbs. As children are wont to do when endeavoring to stamp anything on their memories, she beat her breast with her right hand and rocked to and fro.

"Amo, I love. Amas, thou lovest. Amat, he loves. Amamus, we love. Amatis, you love. Amant, they love."

Now, this girl was anything but a child. She was eighteen years and six months old. She was petite, and the fashion for women's dresses was that the skirt should not reach much below the knees. Her father was colonel and quartermaster of the army and stationed in a city where supplies were being collected to be sent to France for the use of the expeditionary force there. A young soldier had come to the colonel's house before office hours on army business and was waiting to see him in the living room, which adjoined the library where the girl was studying. She knew of the young soldier's proximity, but she was pretending that she supposed herself to be alone.

When she conjugated the present tense of the verb "to love" a second time she did it in this wise:

"Amo, I love. Amas, thou lovest. Amat, she loves. Amamus, we love. Amatis, you love. Amant, both love."

Lieutenant Bob Blackstone sat waiting for Colonel Henderson to come downstairs and listened to what he supposed was a little girl studying her lessons. He was of the senior class in university and was one of the large number of graduates who had donned khaki uniforms before graduation. He did not need to be a good Latin scholar to know that the pupil had conjugated the verb wrong. Stepping to the portiere, he raised it and saw the child, as he supposed, studying. She started at seeing him, but the action was feigned.

"I say, little girl," he said, "you're conjugating that verb wrong. Amant doesn't mean both love. It is they love."

"Dear me, how could I have made such a mistake! Are you sure it isn't both love?"

"I ought to know. I took a prize in college for a thesis written in Latin."

Miss Henderson's eyes, which were large and expressive, were brought to bear on Lieutenant Blackstone in a sort of wonderment. Presently she said:

"Didn't the Romans have any expression for both love?"

"I don't see," said the lieutenant.

"What that has to do with your lesson. I take it your task is to learn to conjugate the present tense of the verb to love. You have it right except the last word, amant, which means they love instead of both love."

"What does amat mean?"

"He loves."

"I thought it was she loves."

"It means either he or she loves."

"Doesn't it mean he and she love?"

"Hardly. It means but one person."

"And does amant mean they love each other?"

"No; it means several persons love. It doesn't mean that they love each other. It means that each person loves some one else."

"How do you know that?"

"I can't say I do know it. I confess that I don't remember ever hearing the question brought up. They might love each other, mightn't they?"

"If they were both very nice."

He looked at her searchingly. Her glance was fastened to her grammar. It was beginning to dawn upon him that he was not teaching a schoolgirl, but that a schoolgirl was chaffing him.

"Let me see the text," he said, bending over her shoulder. This brought his face very near hers.

Then a heavy footstep on the stairs betokened the approach of the colonel. Blackstone beat a hasty retreat into the other room, closing the portiere behind him. The child in the library went on conjugating the verb "to love," but when she came to amant she invariably gave it "both love."

When Blackstone had transacted his business with Colonel Henderson he took his departure, receiving at the same time an invitation to dinner the same evening. The little schoolgirl had stung him, and when he returned to camp he had forgotten all the colonel had told him. What nonsense! To be turned topsy turvy by a kid studying the rudiments of Latin!

Bob got himself up in evening dress for the dinner, taking as much pains to beautify himself as if he was to meet a woman instead of a kid. When he was formally presented to "our little Billy" she looked more like Miss Wilhelm Henderson, which she really was. Bob didn't know what to say or what to do. But the colonel led the way to the dining room, and there was nothing for Bob to say or to do till they reached the board, and then Miss Henderson made it very easy for him.

"Have you been graduated this year, Mr. Blackstone?" asked Mrs. Henderson.

"I have—only a few weeks ago."

"Our little girl was graduated last year. She should have remained at school longer, she is so childlike."

"Did she take any honors?" asked Blackstone dryly.

"Only one—a prize in Latin, I believe."

"I have no doubt it was well won." Miss Henderson followed up her advantage with Lieutenant Blackstone and won him as well as the Latin prize.



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