

Victoria CROSS EXHIBITION.

Opening the Victoria Cross Centenary Exhibition at Marlborough House, the Prime Minister expresses the hope that "the call for gallantry, which is here so bravely shown, may never be sounded in the world again". He meets Commonwealth servicemen before inspecting the exhibition itself, which contains many priceless relics from the history of this most famous of all awards.

Queen Victoria wore this uniform at the first Victoria Cross parade in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny. Lieutenant C.D. Lucas, R.N. won the first V.C. for bravery in the Baltic. Private John Kirk was one of the Indian Mutiny V.Cs. - and this disguise was worn on a dangerous mission by Mr. Thomas Kavanagh, one of the only four civilians to receive the award.

One of the earliest flying V.Cs. was Captain Albert Ball, Royal Flying Corps, who destroyed 43 German Aircraft. And a recent V.C. belongs to Colonel James Carne, of the glorious Gloucesters, who carved this plaque; last man but one to earn the precious medal cast from Crimean guns captured when Victoria was Queen.