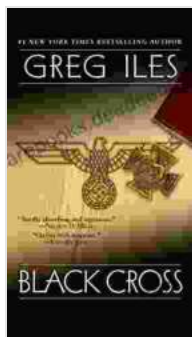


# The Black Cross of World War II: A Symbol of Heroism, Sacrifice, and Controversy

The Black Cross of World War II, also known as the Iron Cross, is one of the most recognizable symbols of the conflict. It was awarded to German military personnel for bravery and merit, and it quickly became a powerful emblem of the war.



## Black Cross (World War Two series Book 1) by Greg Iles

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1483 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 556 pages



The Black Cross has a long and complex history, dating back to the 19th century. It was originally established by King Frederick William III of Prussia in 1813, and it was awarded to soldiers who distinguished themselves in the Napoleonic Wars. The cross was initially made of iron, which was a relatively inexpensive material, but it was later made of other metals, such as bronze and silver.

## The Black Cross in World War II

During World War II, the Black Cross was awarded to German military personnel for a variety of acts of bravery and merit. These acts included:

- Killing an enemy soldier
- Destroying an enemy tank or aircraft
- Capturing an enemy position
- Performing a heroic act under fire

The Black Cross was awarded in different grades, depending on the significance of the act. The highest grade was the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, which was awarded to only a small number of soldiers. The Knight's Cross was often awarded posthumously, to soldiers who had died in action.

### **Controversy Surrounding the Black Cross**

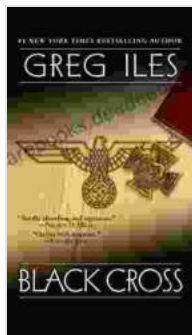
The Black Cross has been the subject of some controversy since the end of World War II. Some people view it as a symbol of Nazi Germany and the atrocities that were committed during the war. Others view it as a symbol of heroism and sacrifice, and they argue that it should not be stigmatized because of its association with the Nazis.

The debate over the Black Cross is likely to continue for many years to come. It is a powerful symbol with a complex history, and it is up to each individual to decide what it means to them.

### **Legacy of the Black Cross**

The Black Cross continues to be a popular symbol of Germany's military history. It is featured on military medals, uniforms, and other items. It is also used by neo-Nazi groups, who see it as a symbol of their ideology.

The Black Cross is a reminder of the horrors of war, but it is also a symbol of heroism and sacrifice. It is a complex symbol with a long and controversial history, and it is likely to continue to be debated for many years to come.



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