

HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF KARA GEORGE GOLD CROSS (1ST CLASS)



King Peter I of Serbia instituted the Order on 1 January 1904, to commemorate his own accession to the Serbian Throne and the centenary of the First Serbian Uprising against the Ottoman Turks, led by the Founder of the Dynasty, Djordje Petrovic, called Black George (or Kara-George) owing to his dark complexion. The National Assembly voted Kara-George the Hereditary Supreme Leader of the Serbs, and the Sultan of Turkey eventually recognized him as vassal Prince status.

During the Balkan Wars,(two conflicts that took place in the [Balkan Peninsula](#) in south-eastern Europe in 1912 and 1913) a War Merit Division (with crossed swords through center of the cross) was introduced, to reward conspicuous gallantry of the commissioned officers in the field, as well as (in higher classes) senior officers successful troop command. The insignia of this Division were worn suspended from the plain red watered silk ribbon.

It was awarded in four degrees. The military version was established 1912 (Order of the Karađorđe's Star with Swords) and have it four decrees and fifth decree was established on 28 May 1915.

The Order of the Star of Kara George came in two categories:
For Officers.

The "Order of the Star of Kara George with Swords", was an enameled award, for Officers in the following Classes and the total numbers awarded are indicated against each:

Grand Cross Badge with Swords (1st Class)	- 4,	Grand Cross Star with Swords (1st Class)	-Nil
Grand Officers Badge with Swords (2nd Class)	- 5,	Grand Officers Star with Swords (2nd Class)	-Nil
Commander's Badge with Swords (3rd Class)	- 11,	Officer's Badge with Swords (4th Class)	- 39

For Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers.

Soldier's Order of the Star of Kara George, an un-enameled award, was instituted in June 1915 in two divisions being divided into Gold Cross(First Class) and Silver Cross(Second class), awarded for bravery performed by non-commissioned officers and men on the field of battle.

The badge design was the same as that of the Order with the exception that both crosses are without enamel and have crossed swords. They also carry different inscriptions on the circlets to that appearing on the four senior classes. Obverse medallion circlet reads "FOR BRAVERY". The total numbers awarded are indicated against each:

Gold Cross (1st Class) - 78 Silver Cross (2nd Class) -87

During the Great War, the Allied Countries, such as France, Belgium, Russia, Serbia and Italy, exchanged numbers of Medals to be awarded to worthy recipients. Serbia gave awards such as the Order of the White Eagle; the Cross of Karageorge; The Obilich Medal in gold (gilt) and Obilich Medal in silver. **These were then issued by the British to deserving recipients for actions/service which was, possibly, not sufficient to meet the requirements of a British award.**