

Fulham Chronicle 14th July, 1950.

Unveiling of school memorial to V.C.

Old boys of Fulham Secondary Central School, Childerley Street, joined with the parents and widow of a V.C. to pay tribute to his memory at the unveiling of a memorial tablet in the school hall.

The bronze tablet is in memory of Lt. George Cairns, who was posthumously awarded the V.C. for supreme bravery in Burma in 1944. While leading his men in an attack on a Japanese position, Lt. Cairns had his arm severed by a sword. He seized the sword from his assailant, a Japanese officer, killed him, and, despite his grave injury, led his men on to the capture of a vital point. He died of his wound.

Lt. Cairns attended Fulham Secondary School for five years. His parents then lived at Branksea Street.

The tablet was unveiled by Mr. R. McKinnon Wood, ~~xxxx~~ chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee. The Chairman of the Governors, Cllr. J.T. Horton, presided, and the tablet was dedicated by the Rev. W.S. Allan, rector of All Saints, Bpw, another old boy of the school.

The singing of the hymns 'For all the Saints' 'Behold the Mountain' and Psalm 23 was led by the school choir.

Cllr. Horton said the mayor (Cllr. H.J. Rickards), an old boy of the school, had sent his regrets at inability to attend.

Mr. McKinnon Wood drew aside the Union Jack covering the tablet and wreaths were placed at the foot of the memorial, which bore the inscription "In glorious memory of Lt. George Cairns, V.C., Somerset Light Infantry, attached to South Staffordshire Regt., scholar of this school from 1925-30. Posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for supreme bravery while leading his men at Henu Block, Burma, March 1944."

Wreaths were laid on behalf on the V.C.'s parents and the widow, and on behalf of the school by 16-year-old Arthur Weeden of Rosaville Road, a prefect.

Mr. McKinnon Wood said the memorial would be an inspiration to the boys of the school. No-one in this life was without fear, but heroes were those who overcame their fears in situations requiring the utmost bravery.