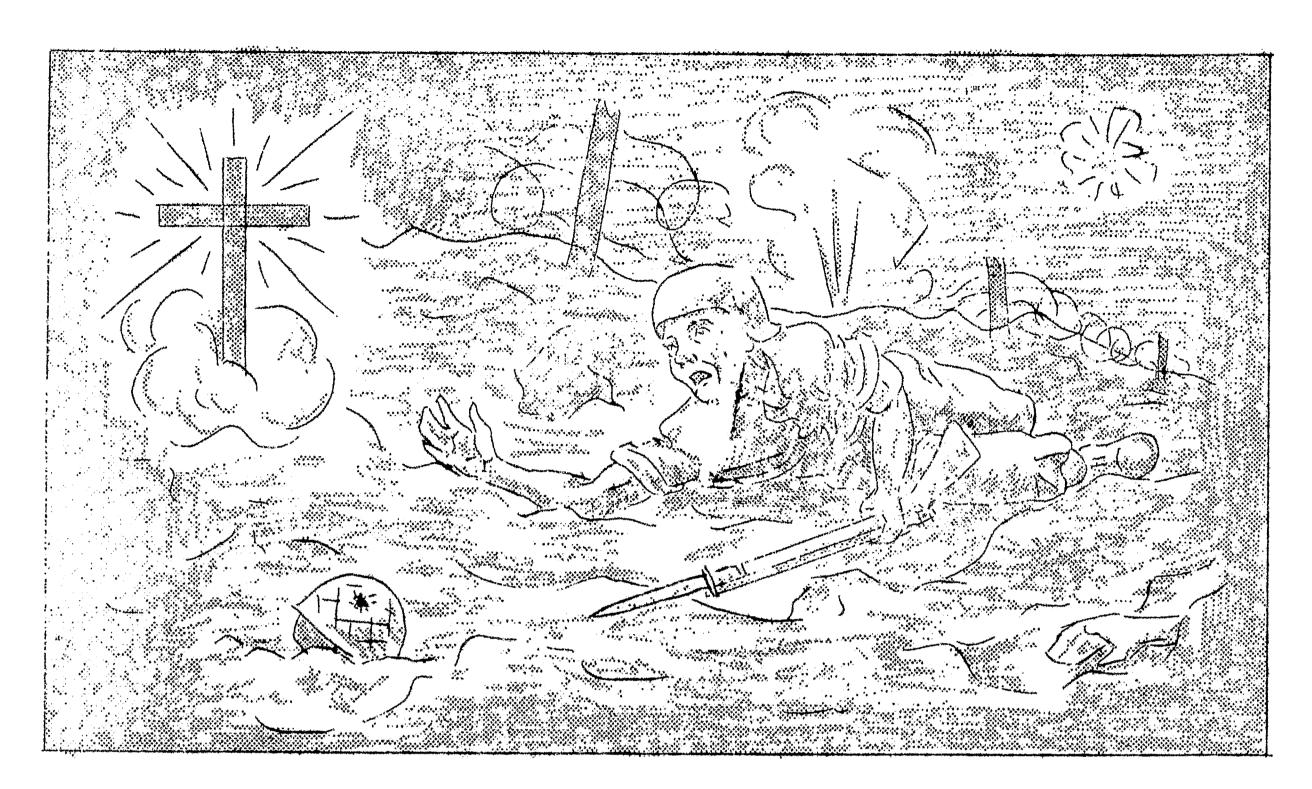
Only 19 Days left before exams, before the Army, or navy.



To Die For One's Country Is Charity.

"I was asked lately by a staff officer whether a soldier falling in a righteous cause -- and our cause is such, to demonstration -- is not veritably a martyr. Well, he is not a martyr in the rigorous theological meaning of the word, inasmuch as he dies in arms, whereas the martyr delivers himself, undefended and unarmed, into the hands of the executioner.

"But if I am asked what I think of the eternal salvation of a brave man who had consciously given his life in defence of his country's honor, and in vindication of violated justice, I shall not hesitate to reply that without any doubt whatever Christ crowns his military valour, and that death accepted in this Christian spirit assures the safety of that man's soul.

"Greater love than this no man hath,' said Our Savior, 'that a man lay down his life for his friends.' And the soldier who dies to save his brothers, and to defend the hearts and altars of his country, reaches this highest of all degrees of charity.

"He may not have made a close analysis of the value of his sacrifice; but must we suppose that God requires of the plain soldier in the excitement of battle the methodical precision of the moralist or the theologian? Can we who revere his heroism doubt that his God welcomes him with love?

"Christian mothers, be proud of your sons. Of all griefs, of all our human sorrows, yours is perhaps the most worthy of veneration. I think I behold you in your affliction, but erect, standing at the side of the Mother of Sorrows, at the foot of the Cross. Suffer us to offer you not only our confidence but our congratulation.

"Not all our heroes obtain temporal honors, but for all we expect the immortal crown of the elect. For this is the virtue of a single act of perfect charity: it cancels a whole lifetime of sins. It transforms a sinful man into a saint."

(From Cardinal Mercier's pastoral letter "Patriotism and Endurance", written in 1914.)
PRAYERS: (deceased) Sister M. Eleanor (St. Mary's of the Yoods); father of Julian Quinn '34; mother of Thomas R Bulger '39; (Til) father of John Patriotism and Endurance", written in 1914.)