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GENERAL ORDERS

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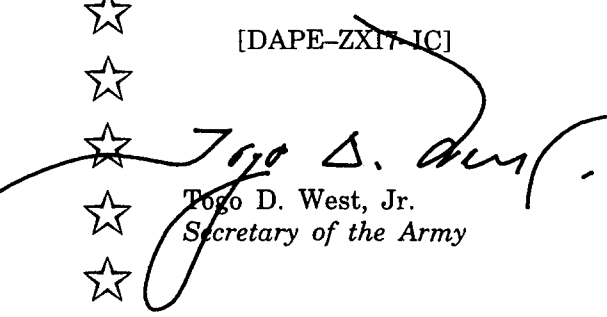
AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918, and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, is awarded (posthumously) by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

First Lieutenant John R. Fox, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 26 December 1944, while serving with Cannon Company, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92d Infantry Division, in the vicinity of Sommocolonia, Italy. On Christmas night, enemy soldiers gradually infiltrated the town of Sommocolonia in civilian clothes, and by early morning the town was largely in hostile hands. Commencing with a heavy barrage of enemy artillery at 0400 hours on 26 December 1944, an organized attack by uniformed German units began. Being greatly outnumbered, most of the United States infantry forces were forced to withdraw from the town, but Lieutenant Fox and some other members of his observer party voluntarily remained on the second floor of a house to direct defensive artillery fire.

At 0800 hours, Lieutenant Fox reported that the Germans were in the streets and attacking in strength. He then called for defensive artillery fire to slow the enemy advance. As the Germans continued to press the attack, Lieutenant Fox adjusted the artillery fire closer and closer to his position. Finally, he was warned that the next adjustment would bring the deadly artillery fire right on top of his position. After acknowledging the danger, Lieutenant Fox insisted that the last adjustment be fired as this was the only way to defeat the attacking enemy soldiers. Later, when a counterattack retook the position from the Germans, Lieutenant Fox's body was found along with the bodies of approximately 100 German soldiers. Lieutenant Fox's gallant and extraordinary actions, at the supreme sacrifice of his own life, exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

[DAPE-ZX17-IC]


Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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