THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pride in awarding the MEDAL of HONOR posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FRANCIS X. McGRAW,
CO. H, 26th INFANTRY, UNITED STATES ARMY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"Private McGraw manned a heavy machine gun emplaced in a foxhole near Schevenhutte, Germany, on 19 November 1944 when the enemy launched a fierce counterattack. Braving an intense, hour-long preparatory barrage, he maintained his stand and poured deadly accurate fire into the advancing foot troops until they faltered and came to a halt. The hostile forces brought up a machine gun in an effort to dislodge him but were frustrated when he lifted his gun to an exposed but advantageous position atop a log, courageously stood up in his foxhole and knocked out the enemy weapon. A rocket blasted his gun from position, but he retrieved it and continued firing. He silenced a second machine gun and then made repeated trips over fire-swept terrain to replenish his ammunition supply. Wounded painfully in this dangerous task, he disregarded his injury and hurried back to his post, where his weapon was showered with mud when another rocket barely missed him. In the midst of the battle, with enemy troops taking advantage of his predicament to press forward, he calmly cleaned the gun, put it back into action and drove off the attackers. He continued to fire until his ammunition was expended, when, with a fierce desire to close with the enemy, he picked up a carbine, killed one enemy soldier, wounded another and engaged in a desperate fire-fight with a third until he was mortally wounded by a burst from a machine pistol. The extraordinary heroism and intrepidity displayed by Private McGraw inspired his comrades to great efforts and was a major factor in repulsing the enemy attack."

Harry Truman