

AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO FIRST LIEUT. ERNEST C. WILLIAMS,  
U. S. M. C.

The department takes pleasure in announcing to the service the award of a medal of honor to First Lieut. Ernest C. Williams, U. S. M. C., for extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession in the face of the enemy at San Francisco de Macoris, Dominican Republic, November 29, 1916.

The reports in the department show that on November 29, 1916, First Lieut. Ernest C. Williams with 12 men charged a fort (Fortaleza) at San Francisco de Marcoris in the face of a fire from about 40 rifles, hurled himself against the doors just as they were being closed, was the first inside, and, without the loss of a single man, but with 8 of his original detachment of 12 men wounded, succeeded in the capture of the fort.

The Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps in forwarding the reports states:

"It appears that by his conspicuous gallantry, initiative and excellent judgment he solved the problem which might have proved a serious one had the enemy been given time to organize and consolidate, and that First Lieut. Ernest C. Williams in entering and seizing the Fortaleza by its only entrance was most gallant and courageous."

JOSEPHUS DANIELS,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*