

1. The department takes pleasure in announcing to the service the award of a medal of honor and gratuity of \$100 to Albert Joseph Smith, private, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism displayed in the line of his profession on the morning of 11 February, 1921.

2. At about 7.30 a. m. on the above date, Smith, while on duty as sentry, rescued Plen M. Phelps, late machinist's mate, second class, United States Navy, #2672213, from a burning seaplane, H-16, No. 848, which had fallen near his post, Gate No. 1, marine barracks, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. Despite the explosion of the gravity gasoline tank, with total disregard for personal safety, he pushed himself to a position where he could reach Machinist's Mate Phelps, who was pinned beneath the burning wreckage, and rescued him from the burning plane, in the performance of which he sustained painful burns about the head, neck, and both hands.

EDWIN DENBY,
Secretary of the Navy.

Department Distribution: I, II, III, IV (for VI, VII, VIII), V, IX, X.