

The Department takes great pleasure in awarding a medal of honor and a gratuity of \$100 to John Fitzgerald, former private, U. S. Marine Corps, for meritorious conduct in the engagement at Cuzco, Cuba, June 14, 1898.

Through inadvertence no report of Fitzgerald's conduct was made at the time, but the report made in the case of Sergeant (now Sergeant-Major) John H. Quick, U. S. Marine Corps, will describe as well the action of Fitzgerald.

The report in the case of Quick sets forth that on June 14, 1898, two companies and a half, under the command of Capt. G. F. Elliott, U. S. Marine Corps, were engaged in an offensive fight at Cuzco, Cuba, some 5 miles from the main camp. The entire firing line was engaged, kneeling or lying down, occupying the sharp crest of a steep hill, the enemy being in the valley below concealed by bushes. It was deemed advisable to signal the U. S. S. *Dolphin* asking her to throw shells into the valley in order to make the enemy move from their shelter. Sergeant Quick volunteered to signal, using a dark-blue flag belonging to the Cubans. After a trial of twenty minutes, it was found impossible for the U. S. S. *Dolphin* to read the signal against the background, and it was necessary to make it from the crest of the hill. Sergeant Quick stood fairly on the crest, his back to the enemy, and made his signal as coolly as if on the parade ground; bullets drifted by him and cut the dust near his feet. When the signal was ended the sergeant remained on the same ground and took up the fire.

It was necessary to communicate several times with the *Dolphin* in the manner described above, and Quick and Fitzgerald were the signalmen who performed the duty.

G. v. L. MEYER,
Secretary of the Navy.