GENERAL ORDERS
No. 17

HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., *26 May 1958*

The Department of the Army announces with deep regret the death of the Honorable WILLIAM H. FRANCIS, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Personnel and Reserve), which occurred at Washington, D. C., on 24 May 1958.

Mr. FRANCIS was born in Fort Worth, Texas on 11 November 1914. He received his B. A. degree in 1935 from Rice Institute and then entered the University of Texas Law School. After receiving his L. L. B. degree in 1938 he entered the practice of law with the Houston firm of Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis. Except for the period from 1941 to 1945 he was associated with this firm until 1 January 1951. He then engaged in the private practice of law and the management of personal business affairs, primarily oil, ranching and real estate.

On 14 March 1957, Mr. FRANCIS was nominated to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Personnel and Reserve) and was sworn into office on 19 April 1957.

Mr. FRANCIS first entered military service on 22 May 1941 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He served in Panama from March 1942 to October 1942 and upon his return to the United States attended the Infantry Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army of the United States on 8 March 1943 and was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. He was promoted to first lieutenant on 22 February 1944 and to captain on 16 February 1945. He served overseas from February 1944 to November 1945 with the Intelligence Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces. During this time, he served as staff officer in the Military Security Section and in this capacity was vested with counter-intelligence staff responsibilities during the extremely critical period prior to the launching of the Allied invasion of Europe. He was relieved from active duty on 20 February 1946. His appointment as Captain in the Infantry Section of the Officers' Reserve Corps terminated on 1 April 1953.

Mr. FRANCIS was decorated for meritorious service with the Bronze Star Medal and Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Throughout his entire career, Mr. FRANCIS rendered loyal, faithful and notable public service. In his untimely passing, the country has lost an eminent citizen and the Army a loyal friend.

By Order of *Wilber M. Brucker*, Secretary of the Army:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

HERBERT M. JONES,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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