



1st Lieutenant Alonzo Hersford Cushing

MEDAL OF HONOR

Civil War

1st Lieutenant Alonzo Hersford Cushing will be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to recognize his 3 July 1863 actions at Gettysburg, Pa.

President Barack Obama approved the award to honor the Civil War veteran. An award ceremony will be held at a future date.

Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. He was killed in action while defending a Union position in the vicinity of Cemetery Ridge on the final day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

On that day, Cushing's battery was decimated by Confederate artillery fire until only one serviceable field piece remained. Cushing was severely wounded in the abdomen and the shoulder but refused to be evacuated. He continued to direct the fire of his lone artillery piece in the face of the Confederate assault known as Pickett's Charge.

Through his actions, Cushing is credited with helping the Union Army successfully prevent the Confederate charge from breaking through the center of Union defenses on Cemetery Ridge at a place later called "The Angle." Cushing was shot in the head and killed during the height of the assault. He was 22 years old.

Cushing is the 64th soldier to receive the Medal of Honor for actions during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Alonzo Cushing was a native of Wisconsin and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He is buried with full honors at West Point. ■



(Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress)

1st Lieutenant Alonzo Hersford Cushing (center, back row, and below).



(Photo courtesy of the Center of Military History)