

**Annie Fox:**

**A Profile of Strengths, Sacrifices, and Legacies**



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<sup>1</sup> "Honoring the American Heroine: The Story of Lt. Annie G. Fox." *Purple Heart Foundation*, 15 Mar. 2017, [purpleheartfoundation.wordpress.com/2017/03/15/honoring-the-american-heroine-the-story-of-lt-annie-g-fox/](https://purpleheartfoundation.wordpress.com/2017/03/15/honoring-the-american-heroine-the-story-of-lt-annie-g-fox/).

Annie Fox's story during World War II exemplified the bravery, sacrifice, and resilience of many others who served in World War II. As a nurse working at Hickam Field Hospital during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Fox's actions demonstrated her loyalty and compassion to her duties.<sup>2</sup> Among the chaos and uncertainty of war, her dedication to her to tend to the wounded made an impactful mark on history, as well as the future generations.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Annie Fox found herself unexpectedly in chaos and worry as Japanese planes descended upon Pearl Harbor and dropped bombs, harming many.<sup>3</sup> Despite the perilous circumstances around her, Fox remained steadfast in her duties as a lieutenant and chief nurse at Hickam Field Hospital. Throughout the chaos of the attack, Fox's actions stood out as symbolic of the selflessness and sacrifice of those who served in the war. Despite sustaining injuries herself, she continued to administer aid to comfort the wounded and directed other staff members to their duties, embodying the highest ideals of duty and service.<sup>4</sup> Fox's refusal to retreat in the face of adversity earned her the distinction of being the first woman to receive the Purple Heart, a prestigious military decoration awarded for wounds received in combat.<sup>1</sup>

The Purple Heart award awarded to Annie Fox symbolizes not only her courage and sacrifice but also the bravery of those who served during World War II. It acts as a

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<sup>2</sup> "Annie Fox ~ Head Nurse at Pearl Harbor." *Heroes, Heroines, and History*, 14 Dec. 2021, [www.hhhistory.com/2021/12/annie-fox-head-nurse-at-pearl-harbor.html](http://www.hhhistory.com/2021/12/annie-fox-head-nurse-at-pearl-harbor.html). Accessed 2 May 2024.

<sup>3</sup> "Pearl Harbor Attack." *Naval History and Heritage Command*, 5 Apr. 2024, [www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1941/pearl-harbor.html](http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1941/pearl-harbor.html). Accessed 19 Apr. 2024.

<sup>4</sup> "Major Annie Gayton Fox." *Wartime Heritage Association*, [www.wartimeheritage.com/storyarchive2/story\\_annie\\_fox\\_us\\_army\\_nurse.htm](http://www.wartimeheritage.com/storyarchive2/story_annie_fox_us_army_nurse.htm). Accessed 19 Apr. 2024

testament to Fox's commitment and willingness to prioritize others in times of chaos and danger. Her actions on that fateful day at Pearl Harbor represent the best of the human spirit, demonstrating resilience, compassion, and selflessness.

Annie Fox's sacrifices and strengths extended beyond her actions on December 7th, 1941. As a pioneering female military nurse part of the Army Nurse Corps, she defied societal norms and gender stereotypes to serve her country in a time of need.<sup>5,4</sup> Her legacy serves as a symbol of women's contributions to the war and the struggle they face to earn equality and recognition in the military. Her courage continues to inspire future generations, ensuring that her memory will be honored forever.

In conclusion, Annie Fox's sacrifices, strengths, and legacies serve as an example of the resilience and courage of the veterans in times of war. Her relentless devotion to duty and service, symbolized by her Purple Heart award, continues to inspire and encourage others. Annie Fox's story expresses to many the profound impact that one individual can have in shaping the course of history.

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<sup>5</sup> Sullivan, Gordon R. "The Army Nurse Corps in World War II." *U.S. Army Center of Military History*, United States Government, [www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/72-14/72-14.HTM#](http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/72-14/72-14.HTM#). Accessed 2 May 2024.

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# Nurse Is First Woman To Get Purple Heart

By BETTY MacDONALD

First woman in the United States to win the coveted Purple Heart award, Lt. Anne G. Fox of Schofield Barracks now modestly wears the medal on her starched white nurses' uniform.

Nurse Fox doesn't say much about the work she did when bombs were falling at Hickam field December 7, but the medal speaks eloquently for her actions.

The citation, read Wednesday by Col. William Boyd, post commander at Hickam field, also tells the full story of the Hickam nurses' devotion to duty in the face of enemy attack.

It says:

"Lt. Anne G. Fox, ANC, of the station hospital at Hickam field, has been awarded the Purple Heart for outstanding performance of duty and meritorious acts of extraordinary fidelity and essential service during the attack on Hickam field by the Japanese forces (in aircraft) on December 7.

"During the attack Lt. Fox, in an exemplary manner, performed her duties as head nurse of the station hospital at Hickam field.

"In addition, she administered anaesthesia to patients during the heaviest part of the bombardment, assisted in dressing the wounded, taught civilian nurses to make and wrap dressings and worked ceaselessly with coolness and efficiency.

"Her fine example of calmness, courage and leadership was of great benefit to the morale of all with whom she came in contact.

"The loyalty and devotion to duty displayed by Lt. Fox on this occasion reflected great credit upon herself and the military service."

The citation was signed by Brig. Gen. William E. Farthing, Col. L. P.



**Lt. Fox**

Turner, air corps executive, and Lt. Col. E. W. Fox of the adjutant general's office.

Lt. Fox served during the first World war, and has been in Hawaii since May 7, 1940. She is from Beverly, Mass.

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