GENERAL ORDERS No. 9 } DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., *24 January 1952*

The Department of the Army announces with deep regret the tragic death of the Honorable ROBERT PORTER PATTERSON at Elizabeth, New Jersey, on 22 January 1952.

Mr. PATTERSON was born at Glens Falls, New York, on 12 February 1891. Following graduation from Union College and Harvard University, he was admitted to the New York bar in 1915 and entered the practice of law in New York City. His public service began with his appointment as Judge of the United States District Court, Southern New York District, in 1930. In 1939 he was made a member of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and served as such until his selection as Assistant Secretary of War on 31 July 1940.

On 19 December 1940, Mr. PATTERSON was appointed to the newly created office of Under Secretary of War, and served in this capacity until 18 September 1945, on which date he became Secretary of War. He resigned this position on 24 July 1947.

Mr. PATTERSON first entered military service on 21 October 1915 as a member of the New York National Guard. He was mustered into the Federal Service on 26 June 1916 and served on the Mexican Border as a private, Company I, 7th Infantry. Commissioned a second lieutenant, Infantry, at Plattsburg Barracks, New York, 15 May 1917, he served in the American Expeditionary Forces with the 306th Infantry in the Baccarat, Vesle, and Foret-d'Argonne sectors and the Oise-Aisne and Meuse-Argonne offensives. He was wounded 16 August 1918 and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 26 September 1918. Returning to the United States, he was honorably discharged as a major, 27 May 1919.

He was awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross on 8 May 1920 for extraordinary heroism in action on 14 August 1918 and, on 27 September 1945, the Distinguished-Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services in the performance of his duties as Under Secretary of War.

Throughout his entire career, whether in office or in private life, Mr. PATTERSON rendered loyal and notable public service. As modest as he was brilliant, he ever sought to avoid the recognition he merited, and enjoyed the admiration and respect of the military service. In his untimely passing the Army has lost a loyal friend and the country one of its most eminent citizens.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army

OFFICIAL:
WM. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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