

## A Sacrificial Call for Bombs

Second Lt. John Robert Fox was an African-American artillery officer who served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In December 1944, the day after Christmas, he and his unit were assigned to patrol an area of Tuscany in Italy that had been overrun by Nazi soldiers. Fox and a handful of his men joined a small troop of Italian soldiers in a small Tuscan village. All the residents of that village had already fled.

Fox and his small band of soldiers hid in an abandoned house in the village and reported to their fellow soldiers back in base camp on the movement of Nazi troops through the town.

Imagine the surprise of Fox's fellow soldiers at the base camp when he radioed a set of bombing coordinates to them and ordered them to begin shelling a certain neighborhood in that village. Here's why they were surprised: The coordinates were very close to where Fox and his men were hiding.



The gunner who received the order deliberately changed the coordinates slightly to protect the American soldiers. A second time, Fox radioed in and ordered the gunner to bomb the coordinates he had sent them. The gunner argued with Fox. It was too close to his hiding place. He was putting himself and his men in danger.

Fox radioed back a third time. He made it clear to the gunner that he knew what he was doing. The house they were hiding in was surrounded by Nazi soldiers. John Robert Fox's last words were, "Fire it! There's more of them than there are us." Fox and his men were laying down their own lives to defeat the Nazi troops.

The gunner ordered the bombing strike. More than 100 Nazi soldiers were killed in the strike, along with Fox and his men. Their sacrifice gave the American troops time to regroup and launch a successful counterattack. The Allied forces regained the village and drove out the Nazi forces.

In 1997, John Robert Fox was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his "gallant and courageous actions, at the supreme sacrifice of his own life."

To give up your own life to ensure that others could live – is there any greater love than this?

(more)

God loves us enough that He gave His one and only Son. But why?

You know the answer: *That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life* (John 3:16 NKJV).

Let's make it personal. Jesus did it so that *you* might have eternal life; so that *I* might have eternal life.

Consideration of such love is overwhelming, and draws us into a relationship with Him.

– Beecher Hunter