

# Tribute well won for Valorous Deeds



**V**OLUNTEERS returning from the Philippines have described the soldiers of the First California as brave men, bravely led. No better characterization could have been given of the soldiers of the Golden State. California could ask for no more brilliant leaders to guide into battle more valiant men. Both performed their part well, and each contributed to the honor of the State they represented. To the officers of the First California and of the two battalions of heavy artillery the highest praise is due, because it has been splendidly won on many a field. These men were drawn from every walk of life. They permitted no thought of self-interest to deter them when the call for volunteers was made. They sacrificed their ambitions, left their homes and families, gave up their employment and every hope of personal advancement in peaceful walks of life and answered with willing enthusiasm to the call of their country.

These are the men who led the Californians into battle and into the maze of new situations and new duties to which the war in the Philippines gave birth. Clerks, physicians, artisans and lawyers became soldiers of acknowledged ability, unquestioned bravery and perfect judgment. When the first test came the officers of the California troops were not found wanting. They led wherever their leadership was a factor. Two months after they left their occupations in this city they were in the midst of one of the most trying battles of the Spanish war in the Philippines, and in this they won their first spurs.

It was in this engagement that one of the most gallant captains of the regiment, Reinhold Richter, fell mortally wounded while leading his men in a desperate charge at the night battle of July 31, 1898. He showed the character of the California captains. He was no braver than they, but it was the fortune of war that death sought him from out of the darkness of night and not them. Not alone in military operations did the commanders of the California Regiment and the California Batteries win distinction. In civil as well as in military merit they excelled. From their ranks came men who were qualified to look beyond the war, to see the meaning and the profit of the strife and to tell the national authorities, by whom they were delegated, the character and the value of the lands that were being bought with the blood of American soldiers.

In this field the officers of the California Regiment did a service of national moment. While defending the flag of their country and forcing its victorious march into the jungles of the Philippines they sounded a warning cry to those that might have been charmed by the glamor of distance to follow the flag into fields of death. And then came new honors to the State and to the regiment. Colonel James F. Smith was elevated to the rank of brigadier general and was created first military Governor and then civil Governor of the island of Negros. The Californians had won a double distinction. In becoming soldiers they had not ceased to be citizens, and in the citizen the soldier was not lost.

The commanders of the regiment return now to their homes to lay down their arms, doff their trappings of war and resume the peaceful occupations which were interrupted when the call to arms summoned them into the field.

CAPT. CO. B.  
GEORGE FILMER

MAJOR  
HUGH T. SIME.

CAPT. CO. D.  
THOS. J. MCCREAGH.

CAPT.  
J. F. EGERT. CO. V.

CAPT. CO. G.  
THOS. W. SPARROWE.

CAPT. CO. A.  
JOHN F. CONNOLLY.

REV. W. D. MCKINNON  
CAPTAIN AND CHAPLAIN.

BRIG. GEN.  
JAMES F. SMITH

CAPT. EDWIN  
F. DAVIS.  
CO. H.

CAPT. CO. M.  
THOS. F. O'NEIL.

W. D. MCCARTHY  
MAJOR & SURGEON.

CAPT. CO. C.  
J. W. DUMBRELL.

CAPT. CO. I.  
OTTO F. HUBER.

CAPT. CO. F.  
JOHN A. MILLER.

CAPT. CO. K.  
THOS. J. CUNNINGHAM.

COLONEL VICTOR D. DUBOCE.

LIEUT. COL. C. BOXTON.

CAPT. DENNIS GEARY  
BATTERY A.

CAPT. H. STEERE  
BATTERY D.

CAPT. CO. E.  
WM. R. ROBERTSON