

GENERAL OWEN SUMMERS PASSES

REVERED OREGON SOLDIER
DIES SUDDENLY SATURDAY

Pneumonia Claims Famous Veteran
of Civil and Philippine Wars—
Commanded Second Oregon—Won
High Praise.

Brigadier-General Owen Summers, commander of the famous fighting Second Oregon Volunteers in the Philippine war, for many years United States appraiser for the Port of Portland, one of the youngest veterans of the civil war and one of the early-day merchants of this city, died at his home at Fifteenth and Halsey streets, at 10:15 o'clock Saturday night, after an illness of pneumonia lasting less than two days. He was 60 years of age.

General Summers was in his usual good health and attended regularly to his duties at the customs house until Friday afternoon, when he was stricken with his fatal illness. His condition soon became serious and, although recovery was despaired of, the end was not expected until within a few minutes before he died. Dr. Sanford Whiting, the attending physician, announced yesterday evening that it would have been impossible for General Summers to survive more than 48 hours.

Soldier When But 14.
Although a native of Canada, being born at Brockville, Ont., June 13, 1850, General Summers' early life was spent in the United States. As an infant he came to Chicago with his parents. At the age of 14 he went to La Center, Ill., to attend school and while there he and three companions, of whom he was the youngest, ran away to enlist in the army. He first was rejected because of his youth and his deficiency in weight and height, but securing the consent of an improvised "guardian" he was accepted. He entered the service February 1, 1865, at Dixon, Ill., and was mustered into company H, Third Illinois cavalry. He took part in several important engagements in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and the Carolinas. At the close of the war he was sent on an Indian expedition against the Sioux in Minnesota and Dakota and was mustered out December 11, 1865, after which he returned to Lee county, Illinois, where he resumed farming.

Island Record Notable.
But his most notable war record was that gained during the campaign in the Philippines. As lieutenant-colonel in the First Regiment Oregon National Guard he gained distinction in military affairs and when the Second Oregon volunteers were organized at the opening of the war with Spain he was made colonel.

Philippine's Bullets Faced.
The regiment went into camp May 4, 1898, and three days thereafter the organization of the field and staff was made. On May 24 the men set sail for the Philippines, this being the first expedition to leave the United States for war in a foreign country. Eight days later they arrived at Honolulu. On June 29 they touched at the Island of Guam and the next day two companies disembarked and secured its surrender. On the last day of the same month the ship bearing the troops anchored in Manila bay off Cavite and one the two following days the men landed.

During the first few weeks they saw little service, but took part in the siege around the walled city, receiving the surrender of 15,000 Spanish troops there August 13.—For the remainder of the year the regiment was stationed in the barracks at Cuarterel de Espana. Early in 1899 fighting around the city of Manila started, the insurgents being driven from their trenches by General Summers' men February 5. Skirmishes and battles took place almost daily. General Summers leading his troops into the thickest of the fighting, himself facing the enemies' bullets at times when expediency might have seemed the better part of valor. The fighting continued through the spring of 1899, the Oregon regiment taking part in no less than 56 engagements.

Great Praise Won.
While General Summers always has attributed much of the glory that was won by the Second Oregon to bravery of his men, the correspondence that passed between General Lawton, General Morrill, General Wheaton and others in higher command, reflects great credit upon him as a leader, as a commander and as a patriot. The regiment sailed for home May 23, 1899, and was mustered out the following August 7.

On the eve of his departure from the Philippines, General Morrill wrote General Summers a letter expressing in strong terms his appreciation of the manner in which he and his troops performed the very difficult and delicate duties of acting as provost marshal and provost guard following the capitulation of Manila.

General Lawton wrote in a similar vein at the time the regiment was relieved from his command. It was following the remarkable successful engagements of Mallabon, Masanin,

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Bala Bridge and San Isidro that Colonel Summers was recommended by General Lawton for promotion to the grade of brigadier-general which rank was bestowed upon him by brevet.

Leader's Command Historic.
The men who composed the Second Oregon always spoke with reverence and deep respect of their commander. Their love and esteem continued even after the close of the war.

As an illustration of his loyalty to his men his famous command at the battle of Mallabon, March 25, 1899, is oft repeated:

"Give 'em hell, boys. I can't go ahead of you but I can go with you," he ordered. This was passed down the line and instilled the men with added zeal and ardor. To this day it is often heard at the meetings and reunions.

Upon the return of the regiment to Portland the citizens of Oregon presented General Summers with a beautiful jeweled sword in recognition of his meritorious service at the head of the volunteers. The state legislature passed a resolution commending him and his men.

Stray Notice.

One span of sorrel geldings somewhat old. Weight about 1150 pounds. Any person notifying Chas. Lobaugh, Pilot Rock, or John L. Bartley, 708 Lillie street, Pendleton will be rewarded.

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Notice to Contractors.

Sealed proposals will be received for the erection and completion of St. Mary's R. C. church, Pendleton, Oregon, until Wednesday, March 1st, 1911, at 1 o'clock p. m.

All bids must be addressed to M. P. White, architect, 610 Market street, Pendleton, Oregon.

Plans and specifications may be had from the Rev. J. M. Cataldo, S. J., Pendleton, Oregon, and from M. P. White, architect, 1917 First street, Baker City, Oregon.

Dated January 18, 1911.

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