

## Colonel Richard Malcolm Cutts

### Passes Away



■ It is with profound regret that the *Association* announces the passing of this popular and distinguished officer. This Soldier-inventor was a native Californian—born at Mare Island November 13, 1878, and raised in the midst of the environment of the old Navy, the son of Lieutenant Commander Richard M. Cutts, U. S. Navy. The Colonel was an ensign in the Navy during the war with Spain. In July, 1899, he was made second lieutenant in the Marine Corps; in 1900 a captain; in 1903 a major; in 1916 and 1917 a lieutenant colonel; and in 1922 a colonel. His career approached what the Marine officer so desires, namely a well-rounded one. His service took him to the Philippine Islands in 1903; to Cuba in 1912; to Honolulu in 1915. He was aide to the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet in 1918, from which assignment he went to command the 10th Regiment at Quantico, Va., and following this assignment he became Fleet Marine Officer of the Atlantic Control Force. In 1923 and 1924 he had the very important assignment of Commandant of the Santo Domingo National Army. It was during this assignment that he organized this defensive arm for the Dominican Government, and such organization is still remaining intact. Colonel Cutts has often said that he considered this special service the best service he has given his country. His last foreign duty was as Brigade Commander in Haiti. Upon his return to the United States in 1931 he was assigned duty at the Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

He remained on the staff of this institution until he was placed on leave, and remained on leave until the time of his death.

Colonel Cutts will be remembered by the fact that he invented and perfected the Cutts Compensator, a device which alleviates the shock transmitted upon firing a gun or rifle. The Cutts Compensator was accepted by our Government, and is also in use by several foreign Governments.

Colonel Cutts' services afforded him the privilege of wearing five campaign medals. He was the proud possessor of two letters of commendation, one from the Secretary of War, and one from the Secretary of the Navy, for his soldierly qualities and administrative ability. He was recommended by the Major General Commandant for advancement to the grade of brigadier general, but his health would not permit him to enjoy this advancement. The passing of Colonel Cutts will be sad news to the many friends he made during his thirty-five years of service.

Colonel Cutts was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, November 30, 1934, his funeral being attended by high ranking officers from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. He leaves behind as his family his wife, a son, Lieutenant Richard M. Cutts, U.S.M.C., a daughter, Mrs. John T. Wainwright, and his own sister, Mrs. John T. Myers, the wife of Major General John T. Myers, U. S. Marine Corps.

The following letter of appreciation from the Major General Commandant to Colonel Cutts voices the entire sentiment of the Association in regard to the long and outstanding service of one of our older and most popular officers.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS  
Washington

4 September, 1934

FROM: THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT.

TO: COLONEL RICHARD M. CUTTS, U. S. M. C.

Subject: *Appreciation of Services.*

1. It was with deep regret that I signed a few days ago formal orders for your transfer to the retired list on December 1, 1934, because of physical disability incident to your long and arduous service in the Marine Corps.

2. For nearly thirty-six years you have faithfully, loyally and efficiently served your country at home, at sea and abroad. During the Spanish-American war you rendered excellent service at sea as an Ensign in the Navy. You were appointed in the Marine Corps July 6, 1899, and with the passage of years duties of increasing importance and responsibility were assigned to you, all of which were performed in a highly excellent and efficient manner. During the World War you served as Fleet Marine Officer on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, and were commended by the Secretary of the Navy for distinguished and meritorious service in that capacity.

3. From 1922 to 1924 you commanded the *Policia Nacional of Santo Domingo*, and rendered distinguished service in reorganizing and training that body of native soldiers. You were highly commended by the Major General Commandant and were decorated with the Medal of Military Merit by the President of the Republic of Santo Domingo. From 1924 to 1928 you performed important duties in the War Plans Division of the Office of Naval Operations, during that time perfecting plans for the development of troop barges for use in landing

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