

LAST OF CIVIL WAR NAVAL HEROES TO GO

Rear Admiral Southerland Retires Automatically Friday Under the Age Limit.

WON HIS WAY FROM RANKS

Served as a Jackie When Only 14 and Rose to Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

Rear Admiral William H. H. Southerland, the last officer of the United States Navy now on the active list who served in the civil war, will be retired on Friday of this week, when he becomes 62 years old. That is the age fixed by Congress for relegation to the retired list of all officers of the navy of and below the rank of Rear Admiral.

In addition to being the very last of the civil war veterans to leave the active service, Admiral Southerland also enjoys the distinction of being one of the very few officers the navy has had who reached flag rank after beginning at the bottom of the ladder as a blue-jacket, for it was as an enlisted man in the United States Volunteer Navy that he gained his earliest naval experience.

Admiral Southerland was born in New York City on July 10, 1852, and by the time he was 14 years old had served a brief term in the volunteer navy during the latter part of the civil war. In 1867 he again enlisted in the service, this time as a naval apprentice, and had served one year and seven months, when in June, 1868, he received an appointment to Annapolis as the midshipman representative from one of the New York City Congressional districts. He was graduated from Annapolis in 1872, his first service as an officer being on the old frigate Tuscarora of the Pacific fleet.

When the war with Spain began Southerland was in command of the little gunboat Eagle, and as the commander of that vessel fought the first naval engagement of that war. It may be mentioned that the Eagle is now in Vera Cruz Harbor, where she is one of the principal units in the mosquito division of Admiral Winslow's special service squadron.

In 1906 Southerland was promoted to the rank of Captain, and four years later was nominated by President Taft for flag rank and placed in command of the first division of the Pacific fleet. Subsequently he was made Commander in Chief of that organization. In March, 1911, he commanded the expedition that invaded Nicaragua and re-established order in that Central American State.

Admiral Southerland is now a member of the General Board of the Navy, of which Admiral Dewey is the President, and is also the President of the Naval Retiring Board, which a few days ago was brought prominently before the public as the result of the annual "plucking" of naval officers.

The retirement of Admiral Southerland will promote Capt. Charles A. Gove, commandant of the Naval Training Station at San Francisco, to flag rank. Capt. Gove, who is a native of New Hampshire, is a former commander of the dreadnought Delaware and a son of the late Capt. J. A. Gove, U. S. A., who was killed at the battle of Gaines's Mill, Va., in 1862.