

Citation: Gallant and daring conduct in the presence of his colonel and other officers and enlisted men of his regiment; was first to scale the wall of the city.

Musician Titus was the first to scale the 30-foot high walls of the sacred city (Peking) and place the American Flag thereon. At 18, he had enlisted in the National Guard at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. That war ended before his unit could be activated. So he enlisted in the regular army and was sent to Manila and then to China. Because of his bravery he was appointed to West Point in 1901 and graduated 43rd in his class, four years later. He was assigned to his old regiment as a lieutenant. Titus served 32 years in the army, six years of which were spent as commandant of the Coe College (Cedar Rapids) R.O.T.C. program. He wrote on the back of the photo used in this issue of *The Palimpsest* that he "was wearing the coat upon which President Teddy Roosevelt pinned the Medal of Honor." It was presented in 1902, his first year at the academy.

Mexican Campaign (Vera Cruz)

Fletcher, Frank Friday

Rear Admiral, United States Navy; Vera Cruz, Mexico; April 21-22, 1914; Iowa residence: Oskaaloosa.

Citation: Under fire, Rear Admiral Fletcher was eminent and conspicuous in the performance of his duties; was senior officer present at Vera Cruz, and the landing and the operations of the landing force were carried out under

his orders and directions. In connection with these operations, he was at times on shore and under fire.

Uncle of Frank J. Fletcher, Frank Friday Fletcher was born in Oskaloosa according to government records. Another source notes that he was born in Jasper County and entered the Naval Academy from Mahaska County. He eventually rose to the rank of admiral.

Fletcher, Frank J.

Lieutenant, United States Navy; Vera Cruz, Mexico; April 21-22, 1914; Iowa residence: Marshalltown.

Citation: Under fire, Lieutenant Fletcher was eminent and conspicuous in performance of his duties. He was in charge of the *Esperanze* and succeeded in getting on board over 350 refugees, many of them after the conflict had commenced. Although the ship was under fire, being struck more than 30 times, he succeeded in getting all the refugees placed in safety. Lieutenant Fletcher was later placed in charge of the train conveying refugees under a flag of truce. This was hazardous duty, as it was believed that the track was mined, and a small error in dealing with the Mexican guard of soldiers might readily have caused a conflict, such a conflict at one time being narrowly averted. It was greatly due to his efforts in establishing friendly relations with the Mexican soldiers that so many refugees succeeded in reaching Vera Cruz from the interior.

Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, a career officer in the Navy, is now retired and living in Maryland. His was the highest rank achieved by an Iowa Medal of Honor recipient. He was born in Mar-

shalltown, graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1902, and entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis two years later. He was graduated with the class of 1906 and was commissioned an ensign in the United States Navy. Continuing in service with the navy, he was flag lieutenant and fleet signal officer of the Atlantic fleet in 1914 and 1915. In turn he commanded the USS *Dale*, *Chauncey*, *Margaret*, *Benham*, *Gridley*, *Whipple*, *Sacramento*, and *New Mexico* of the Pacific fleet. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he also received the Navy cross for his services as commander of the USS *Benham*, a destroyer on patrol and convoy duty in World War I. He was graduated from the Naval War College in 1930 and from the United States War College in 1931. As a captain he became assistant chief of the Bureau of Navigation in 1938, succeeding the then Captain Chester W. Nimitz. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1938 and held that rank at the start of World War II. As second in command to Vice Admiral Halsey in the Marshall and Gilbert Island raids in 1942, Admiral Fletcher led the unit which made the attacks against the islands of Jaluit and Makin. He won worldwide attention for his part in the battle of the Coral Sea and for which he won the Distinguished Service Medal and promotion to the rank of vice admiral. On November 21, 1942, he took over command of the 13th Naval District in Seattle, Wash. As the war wound down in