

Major Charles C. De Rudlo, U. S. A., retired, died yesterday at his home in Los Angeles, Cal., at the age of 78. An emperor and an empress quarreled on his account. Once he was led to the guillotine and his clothing stripped from his neck and shoulders ready for his execution, but a minute before the knife was to fall he was reprieved. For a long time he was a prisoner in a dungeon but he escaped and after a series of remarkable adventures, reached America. Born in Italy in 1832, Major De Rudlo began a turbulent career by allying himself with Garibaldi while still hardly more than a boy. From Italy he went with three companions to Paris, where the four attempted to kill Napoleon II and Empress Eugenie with bombs. For this three of them were sentenced to be guillotined. As a last favor De Rudlo asked that he be allowed to smoke a pipeful of tobacco. The executioner filled the pipe for the doomed man, placed it in his mouth and furnished a light. Then came the reprieve. When Napoleon III learned of De Rudlo's escape from death he was furious. He and the empress had a violent quarrel. De Rudlo was tried once more and again was condemned to die. By this time the emperor's wrath had cooled and the tears of the empress were too much for him, so he commuted the sentence to life imprisonment in one of France's penal settlements. There De Rudlo spent more than five years and then managed to escape and make his way to America. He joined the New York volunteers as a private, fought under Grant and other great commanders and when he was mustered out in 1865 he was second lieutenant of the United States infantry. He joined the regular army and was appointed second lieutenant of infantry. Two years later he was assigned to the Seventh cavalry and under Custer saw much Indian fighting. In 1876 De Rudlo was with the Custer command that was massacred at the Little Big Horn.