

SANTIAGO HERO DIES IN EL PASO

Man Who Received a Medal From Congress, Passes Away Here.

One of the men who "carried a message to Garcia" during the Spanish war, the particular one who by swimming with a rope from a sinking ship saved the lives of 450 Spaniards and so stirred to admiration two nations, died Friday afternoon in an El Paso hospital. His name was Frank Wertane and he was a sailor.

In the passing of Frank Wertane at the age of 35 years, goes one of the Spanish war's most noted heroes. For his bravery before Santiago he was voted a medal of honor by congress and all Spain and the United States hailed him as a hero. Refugees from the sinking Maria Teresa were saved from a sure death by the American seaman's act. He swam to the shore with a rope between his teeth, and 250 lives were saved when the boat was drawn ashore.

Frank Wertane was a sailor nearly his life long. By birth and rearing he was a Finn, coming to America at an early age. He served two enlistments in the United States navy, and was a gunner on one of admiral Sampson's gunboats at the time of his fame. Besides the Santiago occurrence, Wertane so distinguished himself on other occasions that he possessed a number of bravery decorations, one from president McKinley himself.

Wertane was a saloonkeeper in El Paso, owner of El Popular bar at 924 South El Paso street. He came here a few years ago from Alamogordo, N. M., where he married. Surviving is a widow. He had no relatives in America.

No funeral arrangements have been made by Peak & Lyons, in charge of the body.