

AFTER MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Officers of Old Texas Navy Reburied in State Cemetery

AUSTIN, Texas (P).—To the sound of taps and the crack of gunshot from a military firing party the remains of three officers of the Texas Navy were given a final resting place in the State Cemetery Saturday.

The bodies of Capt. Robert Oliver of the Texas Marines and Lt. Charles F. Fuller and Midshipman Fielding R. Culp were reburied here after having lain in a New Orleans, La., cemetery for over a hundred years.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas sponsored the move, and conducted the ceremony.

James Maverick, San Antonio, state president of the SRT said that it was fitting that these men "should find a final resting place in the bosom of the land of their choice."

Maverick described Culp as Texas' unknown soldier, a man almost unknown to us but "who

gave us the priceless heritage of freedom and free enterprise."

The three officers all died in 1842 and were buried in Girod Cemetery in New Orleans.

Oliver, a native of North Berwick, Scotland, joined the Texas forces in 1836, when he was 20. He died of malaria fever on Oct. 11, 1842, while serving on the Texas Navy sloop Austin.

Fuller was killed Feb. 11, 1842, while trying to suppress a mutiny on board the schooner San Antonio. All the other officers had gone ashore in New Orleans, leaving Fuller to command a ship full of discontented crewmen. Several crewmen were hanged to the yard-arm of the ship as a result of the mutiny.

Culp was serving on the Texas brig Wharton at the time of his death. Little more is known about him.

None of the men are believed to

have living descendants in Texas.

The Rev. Arthur G. Elley of Caldwell, chaplain of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, conducted the services.

Capt. Richard F. Noble of the Austin Marine reserve and recruiting center, directed the military escort. The firing party was commanded by Marine Sgt. Elbert Goodall.

Vernor Stohl, Austin American Legionnaire, sounded taps to the memory of the three Texas heroes.

The move to bring the bodies back to Texas developed when it was learned the Girod Cemetery in New Orleans had been condemned to permit widening of a street and construction of a federal building.

Arrangements for the reburial program were worked out by Maverick and Mrs. Barclay Megarity of Waco, executive secretary of SRT.