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ORIGINALLY INTERRED FORT MCKINLEY



The fall of the Philippines by Louis Morton, chapter XXXII: The End of Resistance, The meeting of Wainwright and Homma, page 568 (photo of and story)

"On the porch was a long table around which chairs had been placed. Homma took a seat in the center, facing the open side, and motioned his officers to sit down. General Wachi, 14th army chief of staff, took the seat on Homma's right, Nakayama the one on his left; the others filling in the spaces beyond. To the rear, between Homma and Nakayama, stood the interpreter. On the American side of the table were five officers, with Wainwright in the center, opposite Homma. To his left were General Beebe and Major Dooley; to his right Colonel Pugh and Major Lawrence. Behind the Japanese were their war correspondents, photographers, and newsreel camera men."

General Wainwright's story by General Jonathan M. Wainwright edited by Robert Considine, page 149 thru 151 (in general Wainwright's own words)

"To strike new dismay upon us in those early days of our captivity, we lost the cheering comfort and the plucky example of Major Lawrence. On May 13, two days after his arrival with Beebe and Carroll from Corregidor with our effects, Lawrence was laid low with a high fever. He had been sick upon his arrival from the rock but we did not consider his condition dangerous until the following day.

On the morning of May 12, when Lawrence's fever rose, I sent word to the commander of the university club billet that we were in immediate need of a doctor. But it was late that evening before a Japanese army doctor sauntered in. He gave Lawrence a cursory inspection and left. With Lawrence delirious, we tried all during the day of May 13 to get the doctor back again. But our increasingly desperate pleas were ignored until 7 p.m. when another doctor arrived. He made the briefest possible inspection of Lawrence, then muttered: "Pneumonia. Both lungs." He shook his head. I begged him to get Lawrence to a hospital, and after a period of maddening deliberation he consented. Lawrence was taken away about eight o'clock, and I sent Sergeant Carroll along to look out for him. Just at midnight Carroll returned. His face told the story. "He died at eleven o'clock," he told us, while we shook with mingled rage and sorrow.

I got up early the next morning with a fear that the Japanese might cremate the body, as is their custom. Lawrence was a Roman Catholic and traditionally opposed to cremation. I asked for an audience with the ranking Japanese officer and pleaded with him to see to it that Lawrence's body was not cremated. But he laughed at me and told it would be done despite my appeal. He added, however that if I cared to bury Lawrence's remains in the military cemetery at Fort McKinley, my old post just outside Manila, it could be arranged.

So I got permission for Johnny Pugh to scout Manila for a Catholic priest and to explain to the priest the circumstances of the cremation. Pugh returned with the priest late in the day and at about six o'clock our little group went to the hospital, under heavy guard, claimed poor Bill's remains, and were driven to Fort McKinley.

Fort McKinley looked bleak and barren. It hurt to see the rising sun fluttering from the same pole where I had staged so many ceremonies under our own flag. The place was jammed with Japanese troops. The cemetery, once neat and well ordered, was forlornly unkempt. The Japanese had dug a great long community grave, like a common pit, and had filled half of it with dead Americans and Filipinos - - buried without identification.

We chose a spot for the urn that held our dear friend. Sergeant Carroll dug its little grave and fashioned a little white cross, while I made a sketch of its location for Bill's wife. The Catholic priest, who shrugged sadly and said that this was war, read the full burial service over the ashes and we said our own little prayers until we were prodded in the backs and told it was time for us to return to our quarters."