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Impressive Service for Maj Lufbery

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IMPRESSIVE SERVICE FOR MAJ LUFBERY

Americans and French Honor Dead Airman

Aviators Drop Roses on Coffin at the Grave

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Monday, May 20, by The Associated Press--Before the body of Maj Raoul Lufbery was placed in a grave near a certain French village, it lay in state in a room of a small frame building.

Around it were hundreds of wreaths of flowers sent by American comrades, French aviators who had known him in the French Army and by French Army Corps.

Atop all the handsome wreaths was a little bunch of wild roses and daisies, to which was attached a piece of paper saying it came from Maj Lufbery's orderly, and mentioning many kindnesses. With tears the orderly reverently placed the flowers on the casket.

Official confirmation is still lacking to the report that the German airplane responsible for the death of Maj Lufbery has been brought down by a French aviator.

The funeral of Maj Lufbery was most impressive. The pallbearers, three American and three French aviators, carried the flag-draped coffin from the little frame building to a motor car for the trip to the grave.

The procession was led by an American band, a company of American infantry just from the trenches, and a company of French infantry. Following the coffin were 200 American and French officers, including all of Maj Lufbery's companions in the air service, the American General commanding the sector northwest of Toul, and a French General commanding an army corps.

The party drew up at the grave, and while the service was being held one American aviator after another planed down from the sky, his motor shut off, until he was just overhead. Each threw out great bunches of red roses, which floated down on the coffin and the bared heads of officers and caps of the soldiers, who were drawn up at attention.

At the conclusion of the services the French General stepped forward and said:

"On behalf of my comrades of the French Army I wish to pay respectful fraternal tribute to one of the heroes of the air, who was victorious 18 times; a son of the noble and generous republic, which came to our assistance to save the liberties of the world.

"Rest peacefully, Maj Lufberry, close by the martyrs to our great cause. Your glorious example will inspire in us the spirit of sacrifice, till the day when humanity's enemy shall be finally vanquished. Goodby."

The American General, under whom Maj. Lufbery once served as a private soldier, and the chief of the aerial service, each paid homage to the dead aviator.

The firing squad fired three volleys across the grave, a bugler sounded taps and another bugler, hidden in a nearby wood, echoed it.

As the sound of the bugles died away all was silence except for the droning of the machines of Maj Lufbery's comrades patrolling the line high in the air, and occasionally the dull booming of distant guns.