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Tribute Paid Maj. Lufbery at Funeral

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Daily

DAY, MAY 21, 1918

TRIBUTE PAID MAJ. LUFBERY AT FUNERAL

Full Military Honors For Wallingford Avi- ator, Laid To Rest in Sunny Field of France

COMRADES WEEP

Fellow Aviators, Offi- cers and Privates Mourn Death of Gal- lant Flier, Killed in Air Combat.

"In behalf of my comrades in the French army, I wish here to pay respectful and fraternal tribute to the body of one of the heroes of the air, a victor eighteen times," said the French corps commander present at the funeral services conducted yesterday for Major Raoul Lufbery. "He was the son of a noble, generous republic which came to our assistance to save the liberties of the world. Rest peacefully, Major Lufbery. Close to the martyrs of our great cause your glorious example will communicate to us the desire and spirit of sacrifice until the day when humanity's enemy shall be finally vanquished forever. Au revoir."

With the American Army in France, (May 20.—6 p. m.)—While American and French aeroplanes droned overhead, Major Raoul Lufbery was buried with full military honors this afternoon in a sunny field of buttercups near Toul. The commander of a French army corps and an American major general under whom Lufbery served as a private in the American army years ago, scores of American and French aviators and many others paid homage to America's premier airman.

The funeral procession started from the American hospital where Lufbery's body had reposed since he fell yesterday. A band, with muffled drums, led the way. Behind came the casket, draped with American flags. The pall bearers, Major

(deleted), Captain Marr, Captain Peterson and three other fliers, walked beside the casket.

The casket was taken to the burying ground on a truck which was laden with huge wreaths of flowers sent by American and French officers and also civilian admirers. The truck was far too small to carry all the wreaths, so behind came several sturdy Moroccans with their red fezes, carrying other pieces. The French corps commander and the American major general led the procession with the American and French officers following.

As the procession made its way slowly along the road to the cemetery a little French boy darted from the throng of French civilians and handed the driver of the truck carrying the casket a huge bouquet with a card subscribed "From his little French friends." White robed nurses were drawn up alongside the road as the head of the procession reached the spot where several other American heroes are buried. The band softly played "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and it was drowned out part of the time by the roar of the nearby artillery.

Aviators circling around overhead dropped roses as the funeral procession lined up beside the grave. The infantry was drawn up on the north side of the grave and the aviators on the opposite as the little chaplain read the burial service. When it was concluded the French corps commander stepped forward.

"In behalf of my comrades in the French army I wish to pay here respectful and fraternal tribute to the body of one of the heroes of the air, a victor eighteen times," he said. "He was a son of a noble, generous republic, which came to our assistance to save the liberties of the world. Rest peacefully, Major Lufbery. Close to the martyrs of our great cause your glorious example will communicate to us the desire and spirit of sacrifice until the day when humanity's enemy shall be finally vanquished forever. Au revoir."

The American major general and an American aviation corps colonel then paid brief tributes, following which the body was lowered into the grave.

Lufbery's comrades were weeping as were the assembled nurses as the firing squad fired three volleys above the open grave. The bugler sounded taps to which came faint responding taps from a bugler stationed in woods across the way.

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The procession reformed and the band struck up a lively march, according to military custom and the aviators hastened back to their duties.

Though the French morning newspapers in this region carried no news of Lufbery's death, it spread rapidly by word of mouth and was the sole topic of conversation in the restaurants of Nancy and Toul.