

215 Bluebonnet Blvd

CHARLES T. BROWN, M. D. • 832 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING • SAN ANTONIO 5, TEXAS • CApitol 7-6331

15 August 1957

Colonel Edmund J. Lilly, USA
508 Oakridge Avenue
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Dear Colonel Lilly:

Thank you for your nice letter of some days ago, which has been impossible for me to answer inasmuch as I have been out of town. I am indeed sorry that I missed you on your visit to San Antonio last April; however, let us hope that you will again visit us.

I am enclosing a more "generous" piece of the rope for your collection of memorabilia (pleasant and otherwise), of our experiences on Bataan and subsequent imprisonment. I now relate to you the story as it was given to me, and how the piece of rope came into my possession:

Sometime in 1947, I had the occasion to meet a Major Covington who had just returned from occupation duty in the Philippines. He was a member of the Corps of Military Police, and in the course of his duties with the Provost Martial of Manila he had the pleasure, dubious or otherwise, in the participation of hanging of General Yamashita, the erstwhile self-styled "Tiger of Malaya". Following the trial of Yamashita in Manila, he was confined at the New Bilibid Prison at Muntinlupa, to await execution. The night before, he was given the usual privilege of the condemned, of some last favor. He asked for writing materials and a case of American beer, which was granted him. He sat up all night drinking beer and pursuing his correspondence in a rather dilatory fashion, to the end that when daylight came, he had almost finished the beer but had but few letters written. He was taken from his cell protesting that "he must have more time to finish his letters", however, the Americans seemed to prefer to get along with the business at hand. Accordingly, he was marched to a scaffold nearby, clothed in an old suit of G.I. fatigues, and summarily the trap was sprung.

When the old gentleman was cut down, the hanging detail cut up the "one-inch" Manila hemp rope into small sections of approximately six inches each in length and kept them for souvenirs. Apparently, the Major, thought that I having suffered more at the hands of Yamashita than he had, presented me with the piece of rope.

I consider it a most appropriate souvenir for you.

Sincerely your friend,

Charles T. Brown

Charles T. Brown
Lt. Colonel USA (Ret.)





HANGED FOR ATROCITIES — Japanese Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, above, convicted of atrocities in connection with the "rape of Manila" in February, 1945, and other war crimes, was ignobly hanged as a common criminal by American military authorities.

YAMASHITA DIES ON GALLOWS FOR WAR ATROCITIES

**Jap Officer Executed
Under Mandate Of
American Court**

MANILA, Saturday, Feb. 23. (AP)—Beefy Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita—symbol of Japan's power at the conquest of Singapore and of her maniacal desperation in defeat at Manila—was hanged in disgrace today as a war criminal.

The first big name figure to be executed in the Pacific war theater by the allies, the 60-year-old Yamashita died in civilian garb at the end of a rope instead of before a firing squad. The latter form of execution, regarded by Japanese as "honorable," awaits Yamashita's predecessor in the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma.

Height Of Shame

Death on the gallows—regarded

execution, regarded by Japanese as "honorable," awaits Yamashita's predecessor in the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma.

Height Of Shame

Death on the gallows—regarded in Japan as the height of shame—was meted out for the stocky officer for condoning such atrocities by his men in the later days of the war as the February, 1945, rape of Manila.

Two other Japanese were executed with him.

The hanging of Yamashita, stripped of all military appurtenances on orders of General MacArthur, who branded his former foe a disgrace to the military profession, took place southeast of Manila near Los Banos, in Laguna province.

Executed Near Torture Scene

The end for Yamashita thus came not far from the Los Banos camp where his soldiers had held and tortured thousands of allied prisoners.

Death was at dawn.

Final Statement

General Yamashita, whose men fought but failed to stop soldiers of General MacArthur reinvading the Philippines, commented in a final statement:

"As I said in Manila supreme court that I have done with all my capacity. No, I don't ashame in front of God for what I have done when I have died. But if you say to me 'You do not have any ability to command Japanese army,' I should say nothing for it, for it is my own nature."

MacArthur had branded Yamashita, for his condoning of atrocities, as a blot on military history.

Others Executed

He was followed to the scaffold by Lt. Col. Seichi Ohta, former head of the Japanese kempei tai (thought police) in the Philippines, and Takuma Higashigi, Japanese civilian interpreter.

They were convicted of torturing and killing Filipino civilians.

Yamashita's final statement spoke of "good treatment, kindful attitude from your good-natured officers who all the time protect me."

"I never forget for what they have done for me even if I have died," he said.

"I don't blame my executioners. I will pray God bless them."

Three generals of MacArthur's staff came to Manila from Tokyo in connection with the execution. They included Brig. Gen. Legrande Diller, of MacArthur's public relations section.

Stolid Yamashita was one of Japan's ablest field commanders.

His brilliant tactics in Malaya and Singapore in the early days of the war rocketed him from obscurity. His foes called him "The Tiger of Malaya."

When the allied counteroffensive

—Turn to Page Two

had offered the top figure of \$1,200,000 for Churchill's war book in bidding against Henry Luce, publisher of Time, Life and Fortune magazines.

Continued From Page One

YAMASHITA DIES

began rolling north and west in 1944, he was summoned from the self-styled "exile" in Manchuria to defend the Philippines.

He took an awful beating from General MacArthur but the fact remained that he had caught the allies unprepared in his amphibious and jungle warfare during 1941.

Was Obscure In 1938

In 1938, Yamashita was an obscure division commander, operating in North China, coping with guerrillas.

Early in 1941 he was sent to Germany to see how the Nazi war machine operated.

When Japan formally went to war on Dec. 7, 1941, it unleashed Yamashita and sent him against the citadel of British power in the Orient—Singapore.

On that date (Dec. 8 in the Orient) shock troops of Yamashita's fifth infantry division landed at Kota Bharu, on Malaya's eastern coast about 320 miles north of Singapore.

This was a diversion. The main force, reinforced by the Imperial Guards division, swept across the border from Thailand and began advancing the 400-odd miles down the western coast.

Within a week, 40 per cent of British air power in Malaya was knocked out, and unorthodox shore-to-shore operations were bypassing prepared allied defense on the road to Singapore.

Controlled Peninsula

By Jan. 31, 1942, Yamashita controlled all the Malaya peninsula and, on Feb. 15, he accepted the surrender of Singapore from British Lt. Gen. A. E. Percival.

Yamashita testified at his Manila trial that he had long been out of favor with Premier-Dictator Hideki Tojo because he had said war with the United States was "undesirable" and that after Singapore he was "exiled" to Manchuria.

In early October of 1944, he arrived in the Philippines to take over the Japanese 14th army area. Eight days later the Americans invaded Leyte.

He met with one military disaster after another until on Sept. 2, 1945, he came out of his mountain hide-away and surrendered at Baguio.

Japanese troops captured about the same time complained that the general was well supplied with whiskey and had 100 head of cattle to keep himself in beefsteak while they starved.

On Trial Oct. 29

On Oct. 29, 1945, the six-foot, 200-pound bullet-headed general, wearing a green uniform, his decorations and polished brown boots with spurs, went on trial for his life before the American commission.

The prosecution paraded witnesses who testified to the sack of Manila, the rape and murder of thousands of innocents, and the ruthless execution of American prisoners of war.

On the stand, Yamashita asserted he had ordered his own troops

the same time complained that the general was well supplied with whiskey and had 100 head of cattle to keep himself in beefsteak while they starved.

On Trial Oct. 29

On Oct. 29, 1945, the six-foot, 200-pound bullet-headed general, wearing a green uniform, his decorations and polished brown boots with spurs, went on trial for his life before the American commission.

The prosecution paraded witnesses who testified to the sack of Manila, the rape and murder of thousands of innocents, and the ruthless execution of American prisoners of war.

On the stand, Yamashita asserted he had ordered his own troops out of Manila and that it was sacked by naval forces.

Yamashita denied that he had issued orders "to wipe out all Filipinos" or that he had boasted he would drag MacArthur into a room and force him to sign articles of surrender.

On Dec. 7, 1945, the commission condemned him to be hanged.

On Feb. 4 the U. S. supreme court turned down his plea to intervene. Later MacArthur from Tokyo affirmed the death sentence with a scathing denunciation of Yamashita.

MacArthur ordered Yamashita to be hanged in secrecy after being "stripped of uniform, decorations and other appurtenances signifying membership in the military profession." He said the acts of Yamashita's men "are a stain upon civilization and constitute a memory of shame and dishonor that can never be forgotten."

Yamashita's last hope was that President Truman might act, but on Feb. 8 the president sent a secretary to tell newspapermen he would not intervene.

which at least half probably still are in the army. But many would be in demobilization centers, no longer assigned to fighting formation.

There was little fear of trouble with the Indian army. The men mainly are of the hardy, Northern tribes. Technical and administration jobs are held largely by the Southern, non-fighting races. The Northerners regard themselves as professionals and display no interest in politics.

In addition, one battalion of the three in every Indian brigade is British. Also, even in the Indian battalions, one-half to one-fourth of the officers above the rank of platoon commander are British. Three-quarters of the posts above the rank of major are filled by British.

When Michaelangelo painted his "Last Judgment" in the Sistine Chapel, he had a special wall of selected bricks built for it in front of the real structural wall.