

**DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY**2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

6 August 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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Laboratory

To: Science Director; Indo-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: FAMILY DISINTERMENT REQUEST FOR UNKNOWN X-618 LEYTE #1 AND
UNKNOWN X-619 LEYTE #1, THE PHILIPPINES

1. Executive Summary

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) received an external family request for the disinterment of Unknown X-618 Leyte #1 (hereafter, X-618), also known as X-2322 Manila Mausoleum, and Unknown X-619 Leyte #1 (hereafter, X-619), also known as X-2323 Manila Mausoleum, for potential association with Brigadier General (Brig Gen) Guy Osborne Fort. Brigadier General Fort is believed to have been executed and buried in the vicinity of Camp Keithley near the town of Dansalan, Lanao del Sur Province, in the southern Philippines on 11 November 1942.

Historical analysis of Unknowns X-618 and X-619 indicates that these sets of remains are improbable matches to Brig Gen Fort due to several factors. The recovery location of X-618 and X-619 is approximately 65 miles away from the likely site where Brig Gen Fort was executed and buried in Dansalan (present-day Marawi) as described by Japanese officers. Furthermore, the association of these two unknowns to Brig Gen Fort in historical documents was based on the assumptions of an informant operating on secondhand information. In addition, there is currently insufficient historical documentation to propose a list of likely candidates for comparison either to X-618 or X-619. Anthropological and dental analyses suggest that Brig Gen Fort is an unlikely candidate for both sets of remains.

Based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. ¹ Therefore, it is recommended that X-618 and X-619 not be exhumed.

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2. Initial Recovery and Assessment

On 11 July 1947 the American Grave Registration Services (AGRS) sent personnel to Cagayan Misamis to interview Father James Edward Haggerty, S.J., rector of Jesuit-run boys' school Ateneo de Cagayan, pertaining to the remains found on school grounds shared with the Religious of the Virgin Mary Sisters-run girls' school Lourdes Academy.² According to Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt) Charles G. Waple of the AGRS, "[Father Haggerty] told us that the remains believed to be that of Gen. Fort were taken up by Governor [Ignacio S.] Cruz but there was a grave next to his that was believed to be an American. That afternoon we came back and dug up that grave and recovered the remains. The skeleton was complete with all the teeth. A belt buckle was also found with a spread eagle and the year 1940."³ The remains were recovered from the following coordinates, 8° 29' N - 124° 38' 30" E (Figure 1).



Figure 1: AGRS map identifying the location of the remains circled in red. Source: Leyte #1 X-619 File.

In addition, the AGRS officers also talked to Mr. Felipe Mabalos, a janitor at Ateneo de Cagayan who had witnessed Japanese soldiers burying someone on school grounds in 1942. According to his 14 July 1947 sworn statement, Mr. Mabalos described what happened on school grounds:

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. . . in the later part of 1942, I noticed that there were two (2) trucks and two (2) cars loaded with Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets entering the College campus. Later I saw some of the Japanese soldiers digging a hole. They were surrounded by another group. Scattered in different places from where the Japanese were digging were also Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets. A few hours later these men left the place. When I found that they had left I came down from my hut which was but seventy (70) meters more or less from the spot where the men had dug a hole. I was curious in approaching the spot because I thought the Japanese had buried some money but to my dismay I saw that they had dug a grave. I found there were two (2) graves near each other. One was newly dug – the other an old grave. When I noticed that the hole they dug was a grave I left the place... That I suspected these two spots were the graves of high-ranking American officers because the Japanese usually kill and bury people they had killed in a place about one (1) kilometer away from my place; besides, only about two or three Japanese soldiers would witness the killing of an ordinary prisoner... That the old grave was dug by some Americans who came to the Ateneo on July 11, 1947; the new grave was dug some months ago by the order of the Provincial Governor of Oriental Misamis [sic].⁴

On 14 July 1947 the AGRS acknowledged receipt of “a box containing the skeleton of General Guy Fort” from Hon. Ignacio S. Cruz, Provincial Governor of Misamis Oriental.⁵ In his 15 July 1947 affidavit, however, Governor Cruz explained how he acquired what he described as “the supposed remains of Gen. Guy O. Fort.” In September 1942 he was contacted by Japanese authorities to serve as an interpreter for an American officer who was being held at the school building of Ateneo de Cagayan in Cagayan Misamis. Later that evening, Governor Cruz received another message that his services were no longer required because the American would soon be executed.

Governor Cruz was neither a witness to the execution nor did he actually meet the American officer. However, he had spoken to those who had information about the circumstances of the unidentified American’s death and burial. Based on an investigation he conducted – interviewing several witnesses and collecting information surrounding the execution – he surmised that the individual who died and was buried on the school grounds could be Brig Gen Fort. Governor Cruz then ordered that the remains be exhumed from the following coordinates, 8° 29’ N - 124° 38’ 30” E, (Figure 2), and turned over the set of remains to 2nd Lt. Charles G. Waple of the AGRS in July 1947. These remains became X-618 Leyte #1, and a second set of remains disinterred from the same burial site became X-619 Leyte #1.⁶

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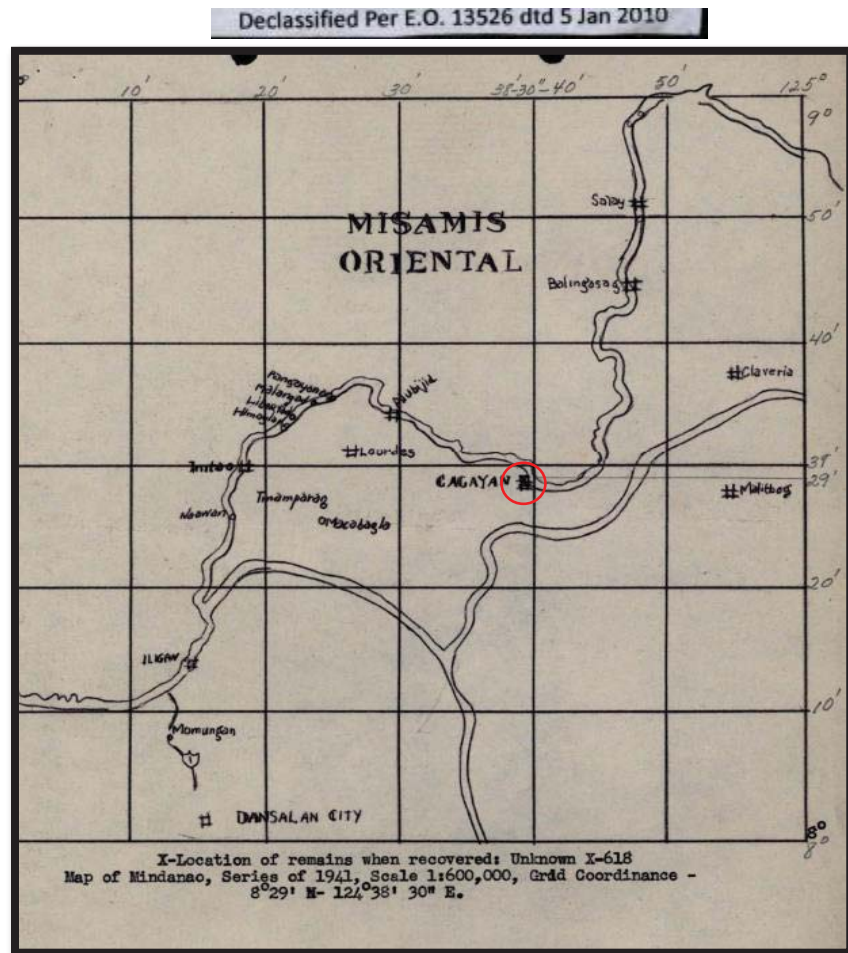


Figure 2: AGRS map identifying the location of the remains circled in red. Source: Leyte #1 X-618 File.

3. Disinterment and Reprocessing

The July 1947 recovery report for X-618 describes skeletal remains with an estimated height of 5' 1 3/8". There is no potential name association in that report. The assessment conducted on arrival at Manila Mausoleum on 1 December 1947 states that the remains "could possibly be of General Guy O. Fort," based on the testimony of Governor Cruz. All subsequent documentation, including the 3 December 1947 interment report at Manila Mausoleum, states that X-618 or X-619 "could be Gen Guy O. Fort."⁷

On 26 September 1949, the Final Determination Section, Office of the Quartermaster General, delayed a finding of non-recoverability for Brig Gen Fort while requesting one final comparison of his records to X-618 and X-619. On 29 September 1949, the Identification Section provided the results of a dental comparison of both X-618 and X-619 to Brig Gen Fort. According to the report, "Dental records of General Fort reveal extractions of teeth, Right and Left 5, whereas neither of the Unknowns in question indicate such extractions."⁸

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A 4 March 1950 assessment of the remains gave an estimated height of 5' 3 1/8", compared Brig Gen Fort's recorded height of 5' 8 1/2", and stated that the race of X-618 was "Very probably Filipino."⁹

4. Historical Investigations and Name Associations

During and after the war, the AGRS, the legal section of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), and other entities attempted to determine the fate of Brig Gen Fort. As late as April 1946, the case of Brig Gen Fort was still being investigated as a mysterious disappearance due to lack of evidence or witnesses who could vouch for a fact that he died in November 1942.¹⁰

Recovery and initial assessment of X-618 and X-619 occurred before the 1948 war crime trial of Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Yoshinari Tanaka, commander of the 31st Independent Infantry Battalion and commanding officer of the POW camp at Camp Keithley in Dansalan (present-day Marawi) on the island of Mindanao. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka was ultimately charged with the execution of Brig Gen Fort, and summarily executed for his war crimes.¹¹

Investigators interviewed Lt Col Tanaka on 28-30 June 1948. He stated that his commander, Maj Gen Ikuta, ordered him to execute General Fort in retaliation for the escape of three POWs. The general suggested that it might be made to appear that General Fort "died in battle while being taken on operations to subdue the Moro tribes." Because he was "afraid to let too many days lapse," Lt Col Tanaka ordered the execution. He stated that Brig Gen Fort was blindfolded, and that two soldiers served on the firing squad. He was buried at the scene, "flowers were placed on his grave and prayers were offered as a final farewell."¹²

On 13 and 15 July 1948, investigators spoke with Lt Col Nobuhiko Jimbo, former adjutant of the 10th Independent Garrison at Davao, on Mindanao. He stated that the original POW camp at Dansalan was closed in July; but after a Japanese defeat at the hands of the Moro guerrillas in September, the Mindanao military governor suggested that General Fort be brought in to tell the Moros to lay down their arms. The next he heard of General Fort was the report to General Ikuda that Lt Col Tanaka had him executed, sometime after September. According to Lt Col Jimbo, once General Ikuta learned of the execution, he flew to Dansalan and reprimanded Lt Col Tanaka for the execution. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka then told General Ikuta that someone in his intelligence section was responsible. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka said that the execution took place close to his headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Jimbo received Brig Gen Fort's belongings, which he shipped to 14th Army Headquarters in Manila with the message that General Fort was shot while trying to escape.¹³

Around the same time, Captain Hifumi Hiramatsu, formerly an intelligence officer under Lt Col Tanaka, testified. Captain Hiramatsu stated that he arrived at Dansalan in September 1942. He was suffering from malaria and not on duty until after General Fort's execution. Captain Hiramatsu recalled that, in September or October while he was ill, an American brigadier general was brought to the Intelligence Office in Dansalan. Another officer, named

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Nakamura, notified him that the general was to be shot for trying to escape. Still sick, Hiramatsu watched the execution from a distance of 50 meters. He stated that Nakamura shot General Fort with a rifle. He also provided a sketch of the location (Figure 3).¹⁴

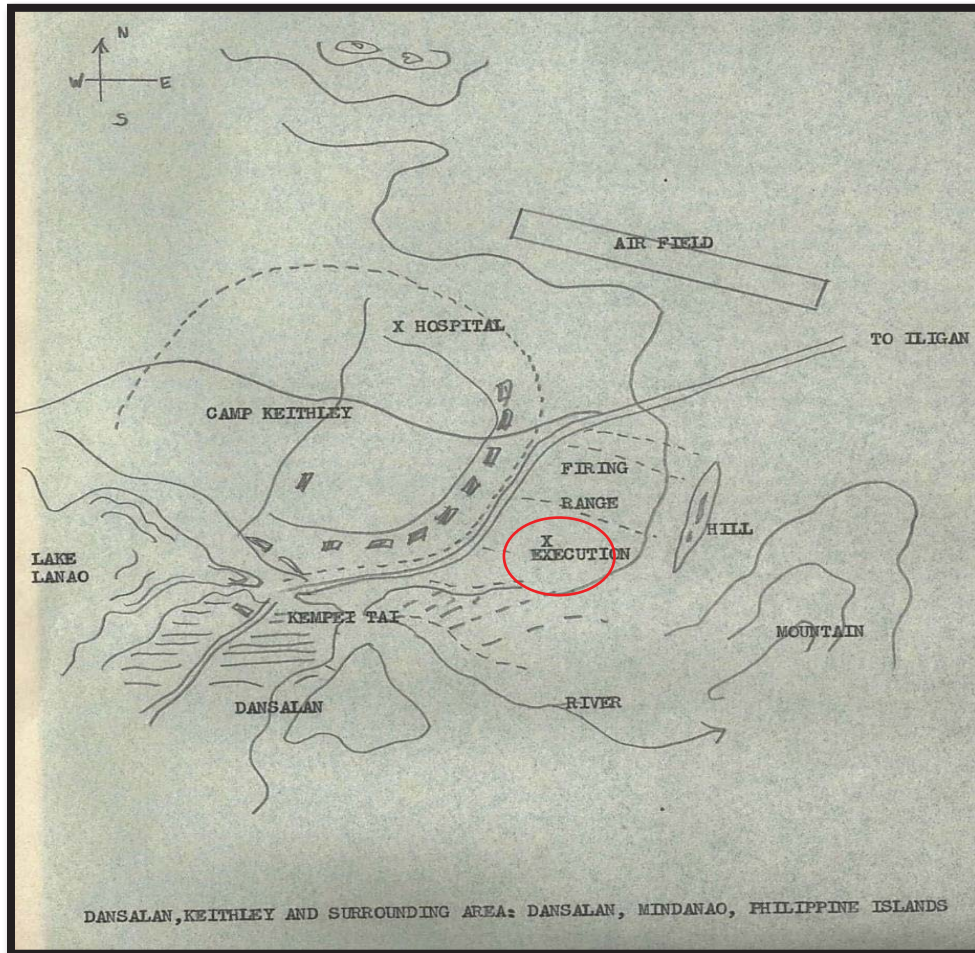


Figure 3: Map of the location of Brig Gen Fort's execution provided by Capt Hifumi Miramatsu during his interrogation on 8-9 July 1948 circled in red. Source: IDPF for Fort.

While none of this information appears in the files for X-618 and X-619, the testimony of the Japanese officers convinced the AGRS that Brig Gen Fort was executed in Dansalan on or around 11 November 1942. Because a 3 July 1948 search in Dansalan failed to provide any remains identifiable as Brig Gen Fort, the AGRS recommended on 4 June 1949 that his remains be declared non-recoverable. After requesting a final comparison to X-618 and X-619 on 26 September 1949 (see above), the Office of the Quartermaster General approved this recommendation on 12 October 1949.¹⁵

Aside from Brig Gen Fort, another individual was potentially associated with X-619 (also known as X-2323). Private First Class (Pfc) Russell W. Davis (16021488) of 14th Bombardment

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Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group, who was erroneously reported a prisoner of war of the Japanese in January 1943,¹⁶ was later confirmed to have been “killed in action” by natives on 30 June 1942 in Mindanao, southern Philippines¹⁷.

In response to the 19 December 1945 inquiry of Pfc Davis’s mother pertaining to the burial location of her son, the AGRS launched an investigation into possible association identification with potential unknowns from Mindanao.¹⁸ The remains of unknown X-619 (X-2323) were considered, so further review was conducted on Pfc Davis’s case evidence to determine whether or not Pfc Davis was a match. Furthermore, the AGRS tried to find Davis’s burial site but was unsuccessful.

On 6 September 1949 further examination yielded negative results “because documentary evidence concerning the place of death and original burial of Pfc. Davis is not sufficient to warrant an identification.”¹⁹

5. Unidentifiable

On 12 October 1949 the AGRS finally considered X-619 “‘Unidentifiable’ by reason of lack of sufficient identifying data.”²⁰ Unknown X-619 was interred in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM), Plot D, Row 12, Grave 216.

As for X-618, on 4 March 1950, the AGRS stated that “insufficient evidence is available to establish the identity” of X-618, and recommended that the remains be declared unidentifiable. The Office of the Quartermaster General approved a finding of unidentifiability on 27 March 1950.²¹ Subsequent to approval, X-618 was also interred as an unknown in MACM Plot L, Row 8, Grave 113.

6. Present Investigation

In determining whether X-618 or X-619 is associated with Brig Gen Fort, DPAA assessed the likely execution and burial site of Brig Gen Fort, as well as available physical evidence.

The establishment of Cagayan (Figure 4), the recovery location of X-618, as the execution and burial site of Brig Gen Fort, is based entirely on the testimony of Governor Ignacio Cruz. The date given by Governor Cruz (September 1942) is inconsistent with the death of Brig Gen Fort because he and other high-ranking officers departed the Malaybalay camp for Manila on 6 September 1942.²² Multiple witness statements place Brig Gen Fort held captive in Fort Santiago in Manila between September and October.²³ Brigadier General Fort passed through Cagayan from 7-18 July 1942, en route to Malaybalay, and again on 6 September en route to Manila, but evidence strongly suggests that he arrived in Manila later in September.

There are numerous accounts that place Brig Gen Fort in Dansalan just before his execution (Figure 3), beginning with Lt Col Tanaka, the Japanese officer who ordered Brig Gen Fort’s execution, as well as Japanese subordinates who either witnessed the execution or heard about it.²⁴ It is important to note that the apparent motivation for bringing Brig Gen Fort to Dansalan was intense guerrilla activity that culminated in an October 1942 ambush outside that city. The

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attack killed over 100 Japanese soldiers and, as a result, “the Japanese never came back, and never again patrolled in the interior of Lanao, although they maintained their garrison at Dansalan by virtue of the highway to Iligan.”²⁵ Under these circumstances, it is unlikely that the Japanese would have taken a prisoner more than 60 miles through territory they did not control to execute him. It is also unlikely that the officers stationed in Dansalan would falsely claim responsibility for his death while being interrogated by war crimes investigators.



Figure 4. Map showing the two reported execution/burial locations for Brig Gen Fort.

Additional corroboration of the Dansalan location exists in an affidavit from 1st Lt Leonard LeCouvre, who served on the staff of Colonel Wendell Fertig, the American guerrilla commander on Mindanao. In the May 1945 affidavit, 1st Lt LeCouvre summarizes intelligence gathered from local Moro guerrillas on Mindanao. According to 1st Lt LeCouvre, Moros “had witnessed the execution. General Forte [sic] was captured in Dansalan, taken to Manila, and then returned to Dansalan. The Japanese ordered him to assist them in controlling the Moros. General Forte [sic] refused to do this, although they worked on him for some time. Finally, he was taken out and forced to dig a grave and was given one last chance to assist the Japanese in controlling the Moros. When he again refused, he was shot and fell into the grave where he was buried.”²⁶ Second Lieutenant Jack Hoffman of the 14th Bombardment Squadron, who resided with Moro guerrillas throughout the war, further stated—albeit secondhand—that the Moros saw Brig Gen Fort bayoneted and shot in Dansalan, after which the Moros stole his remains to bury them.²⁷

Despite this pool of evidence pointing to Dansalan as the execution and burial location, the testimony of Governor Cruz caught the attention of the AGRS and made X-618 the early focus of the search for Brig Gen Fort. After 1948, however, the AGRS shifted its focus to the Dansalan area, while anthropological analysis of X-618 and X-619 continued to examine the possibility of one of those sets of remains being Brig Gen Fort. As noted above, in 1950 the Office of the Quartermaster General found both the height estimate and dental comparisons of X-618 and X-619 with Brig Gen Fort to be negative.

7. Anthropology Summary

Description of X-618 and X-619 Remains

The X-618 file contains multiple skeletal assessments with associated skeletal charts dated 14 July 1947,²⁸ 1 December 1947,²⁹ and 4 March 1950.³⁰ These assessments are generally consistent with minor discrepancies. According to the most recent skeletal chart, the remains are complete aside from the lower ribs, the manubrium, and possibly portions of the hands (Figure 5). No healed fractures were noted. The ribs are noted to be fragmentary in the 1947 skeletal assessments. Stature estimates vary between analyses and include 61.375 inches and 66 inches in the 1947 analyses and 63.125 inches in the 1950 analysis, which lists associated measurements. In the most recent assessment, age was estimated to be between 23 and 28 years, and ancestry was assessed to be “Mongoloid (Very probably Filipino).”³¹

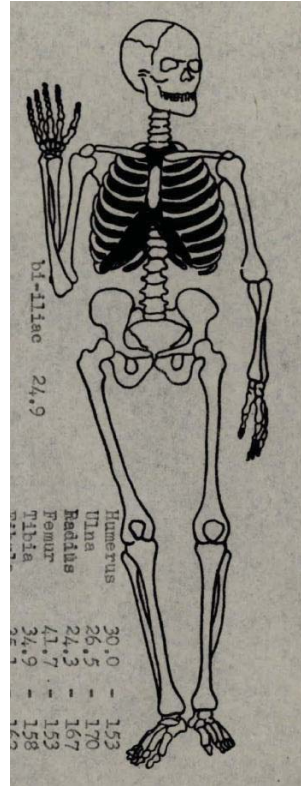


Figure 5. X-618, diagram from historical skeletal assessment, black out parts absent.³²

The X-619 file contains multiple skeletal assessments with associated skeletal charts dated 11 July 1947,³³ 1 December 1947,³⁴ and 27 September 1949.³⁵ These assessments are generally consistent with minor discrepancies. According to the most recent skeletal chart, the remains are complete aside from the lower ribs, both patellae, and portions of the sternum, hands, and feet (Figure 6). The ribs are depicted as fragmentary, and no healed fractures were noted. A perimortem fracture to the cranium is also noted in an earlier skeletal analysis.³⁶ Similar to X-618, stature estimates vary between analyses, with the July 1947 analysis providing a shorter estimate (59 inches) compared to the December 1947 and September 1949 analyses (65 inches). No associated long bone measurements are present in the file, and neither age nor ancestry were assessed for the X-619 remains.

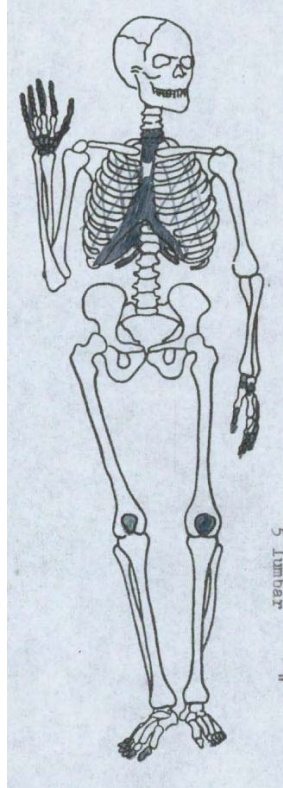


Figure 6. X-619, diagram from historical skeletal assessment, black out parts absent.³⁷

Comparison with Brig Gen Fort

The information in the X-618 file is insufficient to re-evaluate age or ancestry at this time. For X-618, the original age estimate of 23 to 28 years and ancestry assessment of “Mongoloid” (i.e., Asian) will be used for comparison. Stature was reanalyzed for X-618 with *FORDISC 3*³⁸ using the measurements available in the file. Using the Trotter MStats database for “Any” males, the maximum lengths of the femur (417 mm), fibula (351 mm), and humerus (300 mm) provide a point estimate of 63.9 inches with a 95% prediction interval of 61.2 to 66.6 inches. It should be noted that the lengths of the radius and ulna from X-618 provide much taller stature estimates (67.4 inches [63.9–70.9 inches] for the radius; 67.9 inches [64.3–71.5 inches] for the ulna), which may indicate commingling with X-619.

The information in the X-619 file is insufficient to evaluate age or ancestry at this time, and no original assessments of these characteristics were made that can be compared to Brig Gen Fort. However, the most recent estimate provided in the X-619 file (65 inches) was expanded three inches in either direction to provide a more realistic stature range for comparison (62 to 68 inches).³⁹

A comparison of the physical characteristics of the X-618 and X-619 remains with Brig Gen Guy Fort is presented in Table 1. The X-618 remains are inconsistent with Brig Gen Fort in age, stature, and ancestry. Additionally, Brig Gen Fort is just outside the expanded stature range for

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X-619, though the accuracy of this range is not known due to the lack of measurements in the file. There is antemortem trauma noted in the IDPF for Brig Gen Fort that was not noted for either Unknown. However, it is uncertain if healed rib fractures would be apparent in the remains given the age of the reported fractures and the fragmentation of the ribs for both Unknowns, and the arrow wound may not have affected the skeleton. Based on the biological profile information for the remains, Brig Gen Fort is excluded from consideration for X-618 and appears to be an unlikely candidate for X-619.

Name	Age	Stature (inches)	Ancestry	Comments
Fort, Guy O.	63 years, 10 mos*	68.5	European	Three left ribs fractured, 1911; arrow wound in left calf, no date. ⁴⁰
X-618 Leyte	23–28 years	61.2–66.6**	Asian	None.
X-619 Leyte	Unknown	62.0–68.0†	Unknown	None.

Red shade = inconsistent with Brig Gen Fort.

Yellow shade = unlikely but cannot be excluded from Brig Gen Fort.

*Age based on KIA date.

**Stature recalculated in *FORDISC 3*.

†Stature expanded from original estimate in X-619 file.

8. Odontology Summary

X-618

The dental remains were examined on multiple occasions. QMC FORM 1044 (IDENTIFICATION DATA) and QMC FORM 1044a (TOOTH CHART) labeled *UNKNOWN X-2322 (Formerly X-618 Leyte #1)* and dated *4 March 1950* was the most current and was used to develop the postmortem profile.⁴¹ The charted postmortem dental characteristics of the remains were compared to the available antemortem dental evidence for Brig Gen Fort (Table 2). Brigadier General Fort is an unlikely candidate for association with the remains due to an unexplainable extraction pattern discrepancy.

Tooth #	X-618	Brig Gen Fort
1	E	V
2	V	V
3	O-S	V
4	V	V
5	V	X
6	V	V
7	V	V

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8	E	V
9	V	V
10	M-N	V
11	V	V
12	V	V
13	V	X
14	X	V
15	V	V
16	E	V
17	V	V
18	MO-S, O-S, F-S	V
19	X	V
20	V	V
21	V	V
22	V	V
23	V	V
24	V	V
25	V	V
26	V	V
27	V	V
28	V	V
29	V	V
30	X	X
31	O-S	V
32	V	V

KEY: Green shade = similar finding; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red shade = unexplainable discrepancy; M = mesial; O = occlusal; F = facial; S = silver dental amalgam restoration; N = non-metal restoration; V = unrestored tooth; X = missing tooth antemortem; E = missing postmortem or perimortem.

X-619

The dental remains were examined on multiple occasions. QMC FORM 1044 (IDENTIFICATION DATA) and QMC FORM 1044a (TOOTH CHART) labeled *UNKNOWN X-2323 (Formerly X-619 Leyte #1)* and dated 27 Sept. 49 was the most current and was used to develop the postmortem profile.⁴² The charted postmortem dental characteristics of the remains were compared to the available antemortem dental evidence for Brig Gen Fort (Table 3). Brigadier General Fort is an unlikely candidate for association with the remains due to an unexplainable extraction pattern discrepancy.

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Table 3. Dental comparison of X-619 to Brig Gen Fort.		
Tooth #	X-619	Brig Gen Fort
1	V	V
2	V	V
3	V	V
4	V	V
5	V	X
6	V	V
7	V	V
8	V	V
9	V	V
10	V	V
11	V	V
12	V	V
13	V	X
14	V	V
15	V	V
16	E	V
17	V	V
18	V	V
19	E	V
20	V	V
21	V	V
22	V	V
23	V	V
24	V	V
25	V	V
26	V	V
27	V	V
28	V	V
29	V	V
30	E	X
31	V	V
32	V	V

KEY: Green shade = similar finding; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red shade = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored tooth; X = missing tooth antemortem; E = missing postmortem or perimortem.

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Summary

Anthropological and dental analyses suggest that Brig Gen Fort is an unlikely candidate for either sets of remains. Therefore, based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. Furthermore, based on the fact that all prisoners captured around Dansalan, including civilians, moved through Cagayan on the way to Malaybalay POW camp, further research is required to compile a list of potential associations to X-618 and X-619.

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Anthropologist

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Odontologist

Science Director Decision:

Regional Director Decision:

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Other
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Other
(Explanation Attached)

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¹ Following the criterion to "have the scientific and technical ability and capacity to identify personnel in a timely manner" and the threshold, set by the Deputy Secretary for Defense on 14 April 2015, for the likelihood of an individual identification. Robert Work, "Disinterment of Unknowns from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific," 14 April 2015. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

² When founder Fr. James T. G. Hayes SJ became Bishop of Cagayan in 1933, his academic institution St. Augustine School was dissolved and re-established into two separate secondary schools – Ateneo de Cagayan for boys under the Jesuit order and Lourdes Academy for girls under the *Religiosa de la Virgen Maria* (Religious of the Virgin Mary / RVM) Sisters.

³ Search and Recovery Report, n. d., Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁴ Affidavit of Mr. Felipe Mabalos, 14 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁵ Statement of Second Lieutenant Charles G. Waple, Jr., 14 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

⁶ Affidavit of Hon. Ignacio Cruz regarding the death and burial of Brigadier General Guy O. Fort, dated 15 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File; Search and Recovery Report, Trip # 69, Search #2, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁷ Identification Check List, 14 July 1947; Identification Check List, 1 December 1947; Report of Interment, 3 December 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File; Report of Interment, 3 December 1947, Leyte #1 X-619 File. On arrival at Manila Mausoleum in December, the remains were designated X-2322, but for the sake of simplicity will be described hereafter as X-618.

⁸ Intraoffice Reference Sheet, 26 September 1949, IDPF for Fort; Message from Identification Section, 29 September 1949, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

⁹ Identification Data, 4 March 1950; Captain H. B. McNemar, Memorandum, SUBJ: Unidentifiable Remains, 4 March 1950; Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Metz, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of World War II Deceased, 27 March 1950, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

¹⁰ Report No. 286, "Disappearance of Brig Gen. Guy O. Fort" (also known as Case C-88-c), UD 1214 "War Crime Files, 1946-50," Box 1131, SCAP Legal Section, Record Group (RG) 331: Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD.

¹¹ See Tanaka, Y. Trial Record, Case 46-17, Vol. 1, Box 1329, Entry 143, "Case Files, 1944-49," RG 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, NARA, College Park, MD.

¹² Statement of Yoshinari Tanaka, Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Fort, Guy O., Brig Gen, O-952305, RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹³ Statement of Nobuhiko Jimbo, 13-15 July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁴ Statements of Hifumi Hiramatsu, July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁵ Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable, 4 June 1949, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁶ The official military report containing list of individuals taken as prisoners of war after the surrender of 1942 included the name "R. W. Davis," who later turned out to be Private First Class (Pfc) Ray W. Davis (19051350). Refer to 24 November 1945 letter sent to Mrs. Lucy A. Davis (mother of Pfc Russell W. Davis) explaining the error

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Subj: X-618/X-619 Leyte #1

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pertaining the status of her son after the surrender of 1942. IDPF for Pfc Russell W. Davis , National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁷ Report of Death (Special P.I. case), 2 January 1946; Battle Casualty Report, 15 November 1945, IDPF for Davis, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁸ Letter of Mrs. Lucy Davis to Quartermaster General, 19 December 1945, IDPF for Davis, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁹ Memo re: Identification of World War II Deceased, 6 September 1949, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

²⁰ Memo re: Unidentifiable Remains, 12 October 1949, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

²¹ Identification Data, 4 March 1950; Captain H. B. McNemar, Memorandum, SUBJ: Unidentifiable Remains, 4 March 1950; Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Metz, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of World War II Deceased, 27 March 1950, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

²² Victor L. Mapes (with Scott Mills), *The Butchers, The Baker: The World War II Memoir of a United States Army Air Corps Soldier Captured by the Japanese in the Philippines*, p. 171; Statement of Colonel Eugene Mitchell, 1 September 1945, Case File B-21 "Camp Keithley," Entry UD 1211, "Closed Case Files, 1945-46," Box 1061, SCAP Legal Section, RG 331, NARA, College Park, MD.

²³ Statement of Colonel Eugene Mitchell, 1 September 1945, Case File B-21 "Camp Keithley," Entry UD 1211, "Closed Case Files, 1945-46," Box 1061, SCAP Legal Section, RG 331, NARA, College Park, MD.

²⁴ Statement of Nobuhiko Jimbo, 13-15 July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁵ Memo for Lt. Col. Shaftoe, Chief, Guerrilla Affairs Division, AFWESPAC, on Lanao Guerrillas, 9 June 1946, p. 2, Philippine Archives Collection, RG 407: Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, NARA, College Park, MD; Tanaka. Y. Trial Record, Case 46-17, Vol. 1.

²⁶ Statement of Leonard LeCouvre, 24 May 1945, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁷ Statement of Jack Hoffman, 1 March 1945, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁸ A. P. Singson, "Identification Check List," 14 July 1947, X-618 File.

²⁹ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-618 File.

³⁰ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³¹ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³² Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³³ A. P. Singson, "Identification Check List," 11 July 1947, X-619 File.

³⁴ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-619 File.

³⁵ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

³⁶ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-619 File.

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Subj: X-618/X-619 Leyte #1

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³⁷ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

³⁸ Richard Jantz and Stephen Ousley, *FORDISC 3: Computerized Forensic Discriminant Functions*, Version 3.1.312 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 2005).

³⁹ Debra Prince Zinni, "Resolution of Cold Cases: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Identifying Remains Previously Interred as Unknown." *Proceedings of the Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences* 19:405.

⁴⁰ "Data on Remains Not Yet Recovered or Identified," 29 June 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

⁴¹ P. R. Nichols, QMC FORM 1044 and QMC FORM 1044a, 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

⁴² P. R. Nichols, QMC FORM 1044 and QMC FORM 1044a, 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

AUG 14 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR UNKNOWN X-618 LEYTE #1
AND UNKNOWN X-619 LEYTE #2

This memorandum is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5110.10, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), dated January 13, 2017; Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated April 14, 2015; and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness DTM-16-003, dated July 10, 2018.

The family of Army Brigadier General Guy O. Fort has requested the disinterment of World War II Unknown X-618 Leyte #1 (X-618). Historical research confirmed that a second set of remains, X-619 Leyte #1 (X-619), was believed to have been disinterred from the same burial site as X-618. Therefore, both unknowns are included in this request. Both unknowns are currently interred at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM). As detailed in the enclosed Exhumation Memo (TAB A), my staff reviewed the relevant historical, anthropological, and dental evidence, and found insufficient grounds to make an association with Brigadier General Fort. Based on the totality of the evidence, it is unlikely that an identification will be made as a result of disinterment.

Based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. The family disinterment request is included as TAB B. The Department of the Army (TAB C) supports the DPAA recommendation to not disinter.

Based on my review of the relevant information, to include input from the respective service, I have concluded the standards in the stated references have not been met. Accordingly, I recommend that X-618 and X-619 not be exhumed from MACM.

My point of contact in this matter is Ms. Wendy Coble, at telephone (571) 882-4630, or email address: wendy.m.coble.civ@mail.mil.


Kelly McKeague
Director

Attachments:
As stated



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

NOV 28 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: Disinterment Request for Unknowns X-618 and X-619 Leyte

The request to disinter the unknown remains of X-618 and X-619 Leyte, interred in Plot L, Row 8, Grave 113 and Plot D, Row 12, Grave 216, respectively, of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City, Philippines, is disapproved at this time.

After reviewing the attached information provided with this request, I do not believe the Department of Defense threshold standard for disinterment has been met, and therefore, do not provide my consent to this request.

My point of contact for this request is Ms. Lisiane Valentine at (571) 372-5319 or lisiane.m.valentine.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James N. Stewart".

James N. Stewart

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Director, Joint Staff
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Military Personnel and Quality of Life

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL) S.S.
MUNICIPALITY OF CAGAYAN)

A F F I D A V I T

I, Ignacio S. Cruz, of legal age, married, a resident of Cagayan, Misamis Oriental and presently governor of said province, after having been duly sworn in accordance with law, depose and say;

That I was a prisoner of war from the surrender of the United States armed forces in the Philippines up to November 24, 1942, when I escaped from enemy control;

That as a prisoner of war my commanding officer was Capt. Yamada, garrison commander of the Japanese garrison in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental;

That Capt. Yamada related to me that Gen Guy O. Fort arrived in Cagayan sometime in September, 1942;

That Father Isaias X. Edralin, at present parish priest of Cagayan, who was also a war prisoner at that time, saw Gen Guy O. Fort coming down from a boat that arrived from Manila, and that upon arrival Gen. Fort was taken to the provincial jail in Cagayan and then brought to Dansalan by the Japanese.

That in Dansalan, Lanao, according to Capt. Yamada, Gen. Fort was taken around the town under guard and then brought to the landing field in Camp Keithley, Lanao;

That three or four days afterward Gen. Fort arrived in Cagayan by plane from Dansalan at about 5:30 P.M.;

That sometime in the later part of September, 1942, at about 11:30 A.M., I was called up by Lt., Kito of the Japanese Army to the Ateneo de Cagayan and he wanted me to act as interpreter in the investigation of an American officer;

That at midnight of the same day I was again called by Lt., Kito and told me to go home as my services were no longer needed, further telling me that an American would be killed due to reports from Lanao that several Japanese patrols were ambushed by Moros and that only one Japanese officer survived;

That on the following day I went to contact Dr. Vicente Velez of Cagayan whose house was very near the Lourdes Academy of Cagayan and I was told by him that he actually heard the Japanese singing that evening and that such a ritual was usually performed whenever an important officer was being killed, he be of the enemy or of their own army;

That I was further told by Dr. Vicente Velez that he actually heard the noise produced by the use of shovels at about 4:00 at dawn of the following day;

That I was further told personally by a Filipino soldier whose name I cannot now remember and who was utilized as guard in the premises of the Lourdes Academy that he saw personally Gen. Guy O. Fort bayoneted and killed at the back of the Lourdes Academy;

That this guard also informed me that while the Japanese were torturing the General he heard the General shout: "You may get me but you will never get the United States of America".;

-2-

That I was further informed by a Filipino cook named "Bartolome Aka", of the Kempei-tai is at the Lourdes Academy that he saw the body of a big American loaded in a truck and brought out from the Lourdes Academy:

That I also investigated one "Felipe Dabalos", a caretaker of the Ateneo de Cagayan ground whose house was located close to the supposed grave of Gen. Guy O. Fort, and I was told by him that he saw a big American being buried by Japanese soldiers under the mango tree in the Ateneo de Cagayan grounds near his house;

That as a result of communication received from Philippine Army Headquarters I had the grave dug up by prisoners which grave was indicated by Felipe Dabalos, and found the supposed remains of Gen Guy O. Fort which were turned over to 2d Lieutenant Charles G. Waple, Jr. of the American Grave Registration Service, on this 14th day of July 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature below this 14th day of July, 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

/s/ Ignacio S. Cruz
/t/ IGNACIO S. CRUZ

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 15th day of July 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

G. T. Gamboa
G. T. GAMBOA
2d Lt., MSC

STATEMENT OF 2nd. LIEUTENANT JACK W. HOFFMAN

CITY OF WASHINGTON)
(SS:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)

My name, rank and serial number is Jack W. Hoffman, 2nd Lt., 02007294. My home address is 1053 E. Market Street, Adron, Ohio. My home was formerly in Townsend, Georgia.

On 8 December 1941, I was serving with the 14th Bombardment Squadron at Clark Field, Luzon. I later went to Bataan and thence to Mindanao by an inter-island boat, "The Mayon". On May 2, 1942, I went to a military hospital at Dansalan, Lenas, with pneumonia, but six hours later it was bombed and as the Japs had nearly surrounded us, it was necessary to escape into the hills, which I did. I spent much time moving around to avoid the Japs, being cared for by Moros when ill and one time living 3½ months in a cave in Bukidnon Province. About 30 October 1944, I arrived 109th Division Headquarters at Talakag in Bukidnon and remained there being treated, in quarters, for various illnesses, until 1 December 1944, when I went to Dipolog, Zamboanga, and thence by plane to Morotai. Here I went to the 155th Station Hospital and on 16 January 1945 I was flown to Tacloban, Leyte and reported to the 4th Replacement Depot. From Leyte I was shipped back to the United States. While on Mindanao I served with the guerrilla forces.

I have been informed by others about the following killings: A 1st Sgt. Chandler, a PW, about the last of May 1942 was killed by the Japs at Dansalan because of the escape of some other prisoners, Bill Knortz and several more. I was informed of these by Antonio Reyes and Hosea Cania. Reyes was a Filipino lieutenant. When prisoners from Dansalan, about May 1943, were sent on a forced march from Dansalan to Iligan, Captain Price and Major Nevins became exhausted and were bayoneted to death by the Japs. I was informed about these cases by Moros.

Antonio Reyes gave me one version of the death of General Fort. The Moros were fighting the Japs and the Japs brought General Fort to Cagayan, where Reyes saw him sometime in June or July 1942. The Japs wanted him to help pacify the Moros but he would not. We saw the Japs take him out of town to a nearby hill and saw the truck return without him. We thought he had been killed. About a year after Reyes told me this, however, I was at a corps C.P. in December 1944 and saw Colonel Bowler and Major Thomas, his chief of staff. Major Thomas told me the Moros, who were devoted to General Fort, reported the general was bayoneted and shot at Camp Keithley. The Moros succeeded in getting his body for burial. Major Thomas had General Fort's uniform. When I saw Major Thomas he showed me some service ribbons. He asked me if I recognized them, and I told him they looked like General Fort's. He then told me they were. Major Thomas has certificates from the Moros stating the details of General Fort's death, including the dates which I do not remember. We had several "inside men" working for us who went back and

forth among the Japs getting information for us. Among these Jose Gonzales Jr., who lives at Dankagan, Bukidnon, raised chickens at Maramag, Bukidnon, as a blind. He had access to the Jap Quartermaster stores and reported that they had many supplies that had been sent in by the American Red Cross in 1942 for prisoners of war, but which the Japs kept. He saw American flour in bags with American trade names, cans of Quaker Oats and American canned salmon. These stores come from Malaybalay when the Japs moved to Maramag. He gave me some cans of salmon.

Antonio Reyes was held as a prisoner at Malaybalay until I got him out in February 1943. He told me there were two post exchanges, one for Filipinos and one for Americans, but that there was nothing much in the American P. S. The Red Cross articles, ciragettes and other supplies intended for American prisoners were taken by the Japs and sold in the Filipino P. S. and also in Malaybalay stores. He gave me three packs of cigarettes and I have had other packs at other times.

One of the Japs responsible for many of the atrocities was Captain Taraka. About the 10th or 15th of February 1944, near Palma, Bukidnon, I saw the bodies of three girls from Valencia who had been turned over to the Jap garrison by Captain Taraka. They had been raped until they died.

At Katipuan, in Cotabato, one guerilla officer's wife was caught by the Japs. When she would not tell where her husband was they tied her to a tree, cut her open with bayonets and removed her unborn baby. They forced the natives to bury her, still alive, in a fox hole with the baby. I do not remember the officer's name but he was serving with Matas.

At Tudila, Misamis, in December 1943 (or possibly 1944), the Japs massacred 40-60 men, women and children, killing small children by swinging them against trees by the heels. This was a common thing and I know of at least 20 or more such massacres in the area of Misamis, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Lanao and Zamboanga. My information is not direct but from natives and my "inside men".

All of the time that I was with the guerrillas I had a large price set on my head by the Japs but was well cared for, especially when sick, by loyal Moros and Manobos.

/s/ Jack W. Hoffman, 2nd Lt.
/t/ Jack W. Hoffman, 2nd Lt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of March 1945.

/s/ Philip L. Smith
1st Lt. JAGD

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/p/ ANGEL G MIRANDA
2nd Lt., Inf

C O N F I D E N T I A L

AFFIDAVIT

9SC-WC-2826

STATE OF CALIFORNIA :
 : SS.
City and County of San Francisco:

JACKSON HARVE MERCER, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am 17 years of age and at the present time a student at Commerce High School, San Francisco, California. I am living with an uncle, E. LeGuardia, 1818 Post Street, San Francisco, California.

I was going to school in Manila, P. I. when the city was captured by the Imperial Japanese Government. My mother and I were held in custody in Dansalan, Lano Province, and subsequently, through the aid of friends, we were able to escape. I joined the guerilla forces and, until the end of the war, took an active part in guerilla warfare.

While I was a guerilla, a Filipino guerilla by the name of Jimenez, told me that Brigadier General Fort, who was the commanding officer of the American forces at Dansalan, was killed by the Japs. He said that it was common knowledge in Dansalan that General Fort had been paraded through the town and then taken to Signal Hill, which overlooks the town of Dansalan. His arms were then bound and the Japs forced him to bend over and then chopped off his head. I believe this was supposed to have occurred in June or July 1942. I do not remember definitely whether Jimenez had seen this killing and suggest that you contact Vincente Adeva who lives in Dansalan and will know all the full particulars, if this killing did take place. Jimenez lived in Misamis, Mindanao the last time I saw him. I do not know his first name. While I was held in custody in Dansalan, I saw the commanding officer of the Japanese forces. I cannot give you a very good description, as I only saw him once or twice, but I do remember he was a colonel, very short, weighed about 120 pounds, wore glasses and was in his late 50's. I might state that it was common practice of the Japs to spread rumors that high army officers and also GI's who were active in assisting guerilla forces were killed, when many times we did not know what

(1)
~~RESTRICTED~~
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
15-1830 WK 10-7-44

C O P Y

had happened to them. They would spread the stories to discourage the activities of the guerillas. I do not know for sure if Brigadier General Fort was killed in Dansalan, but think that if you talk to Vincente Adeva he would know for sure.

This information covers all the pertinent details of this incident which I am now able to remember.

Jackson Harve Mercer
February 6

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 day of ~~October~~ 1945 at
San Francisco, California

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/p/ ANGEL G MIRANDA
2d Lt., Inf

(1)

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
15-1830 WK 10-7-49

COPY

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Department --- War Department
United States of America

* * * * *
In the matter of the execution of * Perpetuation of Testimony of Leonard
Brigadier General Forte at Dansalan, * LeCouvre, 1st Lt., ASN O-2007413.
Lanao Province, Philippines in the *
fall of 1942. *
* * * * *

Taken at: Bulger, Pennsylvania.
Date: 18 May 1945.
In the presence of: Philip Lee Lotz, Special Agent, Security Intelligence
Corps, Third Service Command.
Reporter: Marguerite W. Shoberg, 506 New Federal Building,
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania.
Questions by: Philip Lee Lotz, Special Agent, Security Intelligence
Corps, Third Service Command.

- Q. State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.
- A. Leonard LeCouvre, 1st Lt., ASN O-2007413, Bulger, Pennsylvania.
- Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?
- A. Yes. I arrived in the United States on 16 March 1945.
- Q. How long were you in the Philippine Islands and in what capacity did you serve?
- A. When the Philippines fell to the Japanese, I eluded capture and from the summer of 1942 to January 1943, I hid out in Lanao Province. From January 1943 until the American troops reconquered the Philippines, I served as an officer on the staff of Colonel Wendell Fertig, guerrilla commander for Mindanao Island, Philippines.
- Q. Do you have any firsthand information regarding the execution of General Forte?
- A. No.
- Q. Who told you about this execution and what did you hear?
- A. Information regarding the execution was furnished to Colonel Fertig by a number of Moros. I heard them say that they had witnesses the execution. General Forte was captured in Dansalan, taken to Manila and then returned to Dansalan. The Japanese ordered him to assist them in controlling the Moros. He was to talk to the Moros and tell them what fine people the Japanese were and how well they would be treated by the Japanese with the idea of having them cooperate fully with the Japanese fully and assist them in rounding up guerrillas. General Fort refused to do this, although they worked on him for some time. Finally he was taken out and forced to dig a grave and was given one last chance to assist the Japanese in controlling the Moros. When he again refused, he was shot and fell into the grave where he was buried.
- Q. Do you know the identity of anyone connected with this execution?
- A. I do not know the identity of anyone connected with it. I do know that at the time of the execution there was a Japanese full colonel in charge

of the garrison at Dansalan, but I do not recall his name.

/s/ Leonard LeCouvre
Leonard LeCouvre, 1st Lt.

State of: Pennsylvania)
) SS
County of: Allegheny)

I, Leonard LeCouvre, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Leonard LeCouvre
Leonard LeCouvre, 1st Lt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of May 1945.

/s/ Arthur P. Gray, 3rd
ARTHUR P. GRAY, 3d
Capt., M.I., Summary Court

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Philip Lee Lotz, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, certify that on 18 May 1945, personally appeared before me Leonard LeCouvre, First Lieutenant, ASN O-2007413, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Leonard LeCouvre read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

/s/ Philip Lee Lotz

Date: 24 ¹May 1945

Special Agent, SIC, Pgh Fld Ofc

behind the cab, I saw General Fort, tied to the sides of the truck. His wrists were also bind together.

I knew that the vehicles were not going to any place outside Camp Keithley, because it was quite late and they usually won't risk going out on the dangerous highway unless they were out in a convoy of trucks and with heavy guard. Guerillas were at that time harrasing the Japs on the road.

It was showering, and about an hour later as it was getting darker, the two vehicles returned. The kempetai soldiers jumped off the truck and went to their stations. The General was not with them. The car stopped in front of the cottage where I was, and the Jap officers stepped off but the General was missing. I noticed that the Jap officers were wet altho they have been in the car. I wondered how they got wet.

That on the following morning, the Sergeant in the Jap office, commanded me to pick up kapoc from the abandoned Moro houses in sitio Sadoc which is about half a kilometer from the camp. I was guarded by a Jap soldier. The Jap soldier kept on yawning. Before we could collect the desired material for making cushion, the soldier urged me that we were going home, and advised me not to tell the officer that we failed to search all the houses. He told me that he was sleepy. He told me that he didn't sleep a wink that night, because he was scared by the sigh of blood and a dying person he used to imagine. After a moment of conversation, he told me that the evening before, they killed an American Officer - a General. He further revealed that first, the General was blindfolded. The Colonel (TANAKA) read something, after which he was shot twice by two soldiers. The General fell to the ground but not to the previously digged grave. Blood gushed out as he shivered and grasped for breath. Then the Jap Major (HIRAMATSU) got his saber and stabbed the General causing his immediate death.

That after returning to the camp, telling the Jap officer that we found none of what he commanded us to get, the Jap soldier really did sleep. On the following night, I secretly informed the other POWs which I could trust. A week later a group of POWs successfully escaped with machineguns and rifles, and joined the Guerrilla movement.

The Jap left the typewriter and went to a room. I peered at the stencil and saw a sort of a propaganda, which, as far as I can recall, read as follows: "To the Filipino People". The United States Forces in the Philippines has been defeated. The US Asiatic fleet has been overwhelmed. Filipinos, America has lost her Asiatic hope, surrender and follow the guidance of Nippon for the sake of peace". Below it, about three spaces, was a line and immediately below it was typewritten, "G. O. FORT", and below, "Brigadier General". About ten minutes later, the Jap went out of the room, took the stencil and went downstairs. I saw him go to the Kempetai station.

That about an hour later, he returned. That night several copies of the stenciled matter were reproduced. I happened to get one and saw that it bore the genuine signature of the General, the same signature which I often saw in orders issued by the 81st Div, Hqs prior to the surrender.

That at about 5:00 that afternoon, I saw two Jap officers, Nakao and FURUTA, conversing on the balcony of the cottage (Joho Office). I was inside the room, and by their actions, I deduced they were choosing the better from two sabers which they held in hand. Then, a car came and parked in front of the cottage, bearing a red banner which meant that the Garrison Commander and Major HIRAMATSU, also in the car. The car rolled to the Kempetai station. A truck followed the car and also parked in front of the station. Several soldiers approached the truck and tossed something to the truck, after which, they got on the truck.

The two vehicles started immediately down to the Agus bridge and up the low grade. Since the Kempetai station was within sight from the cottage where I was, I was able to observe this. Amazed by this unusual incident, I dashed to the gateway near the grade where the vehicles would pass. I reached the gateway just as the vehicles passed by. The car which was ahead of the truck, bore the same banner. I saw the same officers in the car. In the cab of the truck, I saw NINOMA, incharge of the kenpetai station in Dansalan. On the truck, I saw about seven kenpetai soldiers all armed with rifles and bayonets affixed. In front of them and immediately

Since that time I tried my best to locate the scene of the execution but failed due to our limited movements. I failed to ask the soldier because it might arise their suspicion on my motive. Especially because at that time I was already in contact with operatives of the Guerrilla who designated me as their inside agent.

I could still remember the appearances of the Japs involved in this cimre. They are also the same persons who killed other American and Filipino POWs in this province.

Before the liberation of the Philippines, the Jap Colonel was assigned in Chosen. The Jap Major and CNO incharge of the kempetal were sent to Nagoya, the others were in the island of Mindanao.

Very respectfully.

/s/ Petronio C. Encabo
/t/ PETRONIO C. ENCABO

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/p/ ANGEL G. MIRANDA
2d Lt., Inf

C O P Y

8940

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
PHILCOM ZONE

APO 900
4 June 1949

CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED NON-RECOVERABLE

FORT, Guy O.
Brig. Gen., O-952 305
81st Division, (P.A.)

BASIS FOR DECLARING REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE

1. According to available information, Brig. Gen. Guy O. Fort, SN O-952 205, was executed by the Japanese on 11 November 1942, in or around the vicinity of the City of Danzalan, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands.
2. All available information pertaining to the case is attached to substantiate the circumstances, date and place of death of the subject officer.
3. The final area search of the City of Danzalan was completed 3 July 1948 with negative results relative to the recovery of the remains of the subject decedent.
4. Identification data of all practicable unknowns recovered from this area has been checked against those of the subject decedent with negative results.
5. No record of burial is on file for subject decedent.
6. Findings and recommendations are based on all presently available information.
7. It is recommended that the remains of Brig. Gen. Guy O. Fort be considered non-recoverable, and that all records pertaining to search and recovery of his remains be closed.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED: 4 June 1949

Dominick A. Gray
DOMINICK A. GRAY
1st Lt., AF
AO-812 979
Member

Wilbur G. Hobbs
WILBUR G. HOBBS
1st Lt., Inf
O-887 555
Member



Harold B. McNemar
HAROLD B. McNEMAR
Captain, QMC
O-507 074
Member

Incl 4

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OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
2	Ident Sec Ident Br	Final Det Section Ident Br Mem Div	29 Sep 1949	<p>1. A thorough review of the two Unknowns referred to in preceding comment has been made with the following results:</p> <p>"Dental records of General Fort reveal extractions of teeth, Right and Left 5, whereas neither of the Unknowns in question indicate such extractions."</p> <p>2. In view of the above, subject case is returned, no action having been taken by this Section with reference to the suggestions as set forth in paragraph 3a, b, c and d, preceding comment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  BERRY 2462 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">  SALSER 75969 </p> <p>2 Incls n/c</p>
ccs				

THIS FORM WILL REMAIN PART OF THE OFFICIAL FILE

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