

THE STORY OF SERGEANT LASTAM



From The Grant county Herald June 8, 1910 Vol. 67 No. 15

LIEUT. TED" LOWRY SHOT DURING BATTLE

Ambushed by Hidden Natives in the. Philippines.

Received Charge of Buckshot in Right Arm and Had Narrow Escape From Death.

Eugene Whitmore yesterday received from his son Major Eugene Whitmore, copy of the Manila (P. L) Times dated April 27, which contains an account of a fight in which Lieutenant "Ted" Lowry of the U. S. Constabulary was slightly wounded and two privates killed.

Lieutenant Lowry whose headquarters are on the Island of Bongao, was instructed to go to Cagayan de. Jolo and arrest a murderer Moro, Nuca by name. After an unsuccessful attempt to take him diplomatically he found that the man and certain of his followers were looking for a fight and on the morning of the 11th he left camp with 10 men to investigate conditions.

Because of the treachery of a Moro guide they suddenly ran into a band of Moros who rose from the thick cogon grass and catnip brush,” about fifteen paces to the front. The Moros were ordered to put down their arms but instead they drew their bolos.

The account in the Manila Times which was written by Lieut. Lowry reads in part from this point as follows:

“Being in front of my detachment, I fired with my revolver receiving at the instant of firing a load of buckshot in my upper right arm from my gun bearer behind who immediately fled. The leading Moro at this moment was about twenty feet from me and in the act of throwing his spear at me when Sergeant Lastam sprang suddenly in front of me, receiving the spear in his head, being killed instantly.

Sergeant Almano the second **man** in the line was speared through the back: pulling the spear out himself he commenced firing as quickly as if on the drill ground.

The remainder of the account tells of the bravery of certain other of the men one of whom, Private Mohammed received ten bolo cuts and another, Private Guzman who was killed by being “boloed” through the abdomen to the ribs. Moro Nuca, the murderer was also killed.

Lieutenant Lowry received a Krag Jorgenson bullet through his haversack which fortunately did no further damage. He with others of the wounded was immediately cared for and reinforcements which were later sent to the island were not needed, the island --which ordinarily is peaceable becoming as quiet as it was before the fight.

NOTE: When Lowry returned home and told of the sacrifice of Sgt. Lastam it was decided to erect a small monument in the Episcopal Church Graveyard. That was done, and so it stood for decades. When the Old Church was repaired, this monument was taken from beside the church and thrown into a flowerbed. It remains there.