

PRISON SHIP MARTYRS BURIED AT FORT GREENE

Secretary Long on the Spirit Animating the Navy.

ITS MEN ITS GLORY AND POWER

Gen. Woodford Tells of the Patriotism of 11,000 Victims of the British Occupation of New York.

The bones of the Revolutionary martyrs found last Winter in the making of excavations in the Brooklyn Navy Yard were buried yesterday at Fort Greene, Brooklyn, with all the ceremony of a military funeral, after a service held in Plymouth Church.

Admission to the main body of the church was by card only. Long before 3 o'clock, the hour set for the service, the street in front of the church was blocked with people anxious to enter. The church was decked with union jacks, naval signal flags, and American flags. One particularly aged and faded flag was stretched across the pipes of the organ. Time and moths and bullets had eaten holes into it; its white was cream colored, and its red was faded to pink. It has been used in the War of the Revolution, and that also is why it was beheld with reverence by the assemblage.

The main body of the church was reserved for delegations from Revolutionary and other societies. Among the organizations represented were the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Society of Old Brooklynites, and the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association. Among the prominent men who were present were Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, Rear Admiral Philip, and Gens. Woodford, Brooks, Sickles, Stryker, and Dalton, and Congressman Amos J. Cummings.

The ceremony began with an organ prelude, the dead march from "Saul." Then the remains were brought in to the accompaniment of a funeral dirge. Four sailors in full uniform carried on their shoulders a polished oak box 5 feet long and 2 feet wide. The box was covered with the Union Jack, the white starred blue field. The box was tenderly borne to the front of the church and deposited. Then six other boxes were brought in, each borne by uniformed sailors.

The services were opened by the reading of a portion of Scripture by the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, a hymn by the Plymouth quartet, a prayer by Dr. Hillis, and an anthem.

Rear Admiral Philip was then introduced. He told briefly how the bones of the prison ship martyrs had been discovered in the Brooklyn Navy Yard while excavations were being made for the foundations of a new building. He told of the care he had taken to secure the remains and to turn them over to the head of the Navy Department.

SECRETARY LONG'S SPEECH.

Secretary John D. Long then arose and in a brief address on behalf of the navy, officially transferred the bones of the martyrs to the custody of the association. He said in part:

"These men whose bones we bury to-day are of the navy of to-day. In the best sense of the word there is no modern navy. The navy is not its organization, efficient as that is; it is not its Naval Academy, though that has become a modern university for the most complete naval education; it is not its ships, powerful and thoroughly equipped as they are; it is still its officers and men, as in the days of Paul Jones and Hull and Decatur and Farragut.

"The navy to-day, as it was at the first, and has been ever since, is a power and a glory because its officers and men are inspired by a high sense of duty and a lofty patriotism. As the man is not the body, but is the spirit which is in him, as life itself is not the physical form which you see, but is the divine spark which animates it; so the American Navy is the American heart and intelligence, whether on the mighty Oregon, with its enormous guns, its revolving turrets, and its hundreds of engines, a masterpiece of mechanical ingenuity, or on the poor old Bon Homme Richard, with its rotten timbers and its bursting carronades and swivels. It is still in either case victory—victory over the waves and over the enemy's batteries because a true hero is behind the guns and at the helm. [Applause.] The fashion of the ship, the machinery, the ordnance may change, but the man is still the same.

"The naval heroes of to-day who are the nation's pride are one with these naval heroes whose martyred bones you so sacredly and tenderly preserve, and to whom you now do these deserved honors. We in this generation have seen men who died that their country might live. We honor to-day the men who died to give their country birth, and with it the birthright of freedom.

"Death for country in one position is as patriotic, though it may not be so glorious, as death in another. These patriot martyrs who would not purchase life even at the cost of treason, who endured unutterable sufferings rather than betray their country's cause, and who, thousands in number, perished in those horrible prison ships, deserve that you make their memory eternal and that you write their story on a monument that shall tell it to this and succeeding generations.

"The wonderful to me in this tremendous age of ours is the spirit of the time, the spirit of the Republic, the spirit of development and growth for all, the spirit of patriotism, the spirit of intelligence universally diffused and tempered by the church, the school, the platform, the press, and all the educating influences of modern life. While this spirit predominates, there may be frictions, there may be convulsions, there will be sporadic instances of crime and fraud and evil; but an underlying, irresistible force is always and surely at work toward the accumulating assurance of good morals, good citizenship, and good government."

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung as a soprano solo, the refrain being sung by the entire audience standing.

THE MARTYRDOM OF PATRIOTS.

On behalf of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association of the United States Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, ex-Minister to Spain, said:

"In the prison hulks in Wallabout Bay, from the disastrous 17th of August, when the battle of Long Island was lost, until hostilities ceased, all privateersmen captured by the British fleet and many soldiers of the Continental Army and many citizens who refused to relinquish the early principles of liberty imbibed from those stirring times were imprisoned in prison ships and ignominiously allowed to perish. To the horrible number of more than 11,000 they starved on these prison ships, and their remains were rudely thrown into the trenches on the shores of Wallabout Bay. This is an indictment on the mother country which time can never efface." At this the speaker was interrupted by applause.

"Thank God," he continued, turning toward Secretary Long, "that when in a late short but gloriously fought war thirteen hundred of the enemy's sailors fell into your custody, Sir, you cared for them as you did for your own men. Humanity thanks you, Sir; humanity thanks you in the name of civilization."

The General then briefly reviewed the history of the attempts made to erect a fitting monument to the Revolutionary martyrs. "And as to these sacred remains," he continued, pointing down at the seven polished oak boxes, "they are those of martyrs, more than heroes. When knives flash and men spring at each other's throats and into death, it is the hour when heroes are born. But when men, silently, patiently, calmly, unwaveringly refuse to leave their prison house, with its lingering death of starvation and privation, then is the hour when martyrs are made. And thus were these martyrs to liberty made over 120 years ago.

"Let them breathe to us their lesson of patriotism, let them breathe to us their lesson of fidelity, and let them breathe to us their lesson of duty. To learn these lessons may God help our people, and may He help you and me."

"America" was then sung by the Plymouth Quartet and the audience, while the sailor pall bearers took their places around the oaken boxes ready to bear them away.

The benediction having been pronounced by Dr. Hillis, the flag-draped boxes were raised to the shoulders of the sailors and borne to the street, where marines, regulars, and sailors, extending three blocks,

presented arms while the boxes were placed in four hearses.

THE PROCESSION TO THE TOMB.

The band struck up a funeral march and a squad of mounted police led the procession, forming a line from curb to curb. The marines, with arms at port, marched by the hearses behind their band to the head of the procession. They were followed by a battalion of sailors.

At the procession turned from Hicks Street into Pierrepont Street, the Twenty-third Regiment, in its gray and white uniforms, was seen lining the curb for blocks ahead. The regiment fell into line behind the sailors, to the accompaniment of the rolling of its muffled drums. Then the black plumes on the helmets of Troop C loomed above the crowd. The troop saluted with its sabres and fell into line behind the Twenty-third. Following the troop were the hearses. The carriages containing Secretary Long, Admiral Philip, and the other visitors, all the officers in full uniform, brought up the rear.

The line of march was from Hicks Street to Pierrepont Street, to Clinton Street, to Selmerhorn Street, to Lafayette Avenue, to Cumberland Street, and by Myrtle Avenue to Fort Greene.

Scarcely was the first helmet of the platoon of mounted police seen from Fort Greene when the minute gun let out its sharp, mournful bang and startled the 10,000 spectators who had assembled to witness the ceremony. Until the boxes had been borne to the tomb the gun boomed at one-minute intervals. Then Dr. Hillis read again from the Scriptures, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Revolution individually strewed flowers on the tomb, and the ceremony was all but over. A single red-coated bugler stood high on the embankment. He raised his bugle to his lips, pointed the bugle heavenward, and sounded "Taps." Thus the last offices of a Nation to the prison ship martyrs were performed.

SECRETARY LONG AT NAVY YARD.

Pays an Official Visit and Inspects Vessels and Docks.

Secretary of the Navy John D. Long paid an official visit to the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday morning before taking part in the ceremonies attending the removal to Fort Greene Park of the bones of the prison ship martyrs. Secretary Long was a guest at the home of S. V. White, at 210 Columbia Heights, and Commander Clifford H. West, senior aide to Rear Admiral John W. Philip, Commandant of the navy yard, called for him there yesterday morning with a carriage.

As the Secretary entered the yard by the Sands Street entrance, the guard at the gate presented arms and a salute of seventeen guns was fired from the receiving ship Vermont. Rear Admiral Philip, with the officers of the yard and of the ships lying there, all in full-dress uniform, greeted the Secretary in front of the Commandant's office, where a battalion of marines was drawn up.

After a brief talk with the Commandant, Secretary Long made a tour of inspection of the yard. Under the guidance of Naval Constructor Bowles and Capt. Kennedy, he inspected the yacht Mayflower, which is being fitted out for the use of Gov. Allen of Porto Rico. Secretary Long was then taken on the Vermont's launch to the torpedo boat Dupont, the damaged bow of which he examined with much interest.

The party continued to Dry Dock No. 2, which is being reconstructed. The Secretary descended to the bottom of the dock and examined the work being done, asking many questions.

After an inspection of the dock, the party, including the Secretary, Rear Admiral Philip, and other officers of the yard, posed for a group picture.

A visit was then paid to the old receiving ship Vermont. From the yard, Secretary Long went to the Naval Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association on Sands Street and looked over the institution, for which Miss Helen Gould is erecting a \$150,000 building on Sands Street near the present quarters.