

Santo Tomas Internment Camp

With a foreword by

GEN. DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

1942-1945

Limited Private Edition

Frederic H. Stevens

THE INTERNEE COMMITTEE

CARROLL CALKINS GRINNELL

CARROLL CALKINS GRINNELL was born at Troy, Bradford county, Pennsylvania on June 13, 1898. He attended the public schools of Elmira, New York, and graduated from the Union College, Schenectady, New York, with degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with the class of 1919 with election to the honorary Delta Upsilon. He entered, the same year, the school for graduate engineers conducted by the General Electric Company and in June, 1920, was employed by that Company as a commercial engineer. He came to Japan in 1922 and was transferred to the Philippines in 1933 as vice-president and general manager of General Electric Company (P.I.) Inc. In May, 1940, was appointed Far East commercial manager of the International General Electric Company, Inc., and president of the Philippine corporation. Mr. Grinnell's new assignment changed his residence, and he moved from Manila to Tokyo. In November, 1940, he was made a director of the Tokyo-Shibaura Denki K. K., Tokyo.

Shortly after entering the employ of the General Electric he married (on October 9, 1920) Ruth Hutchings Belding at Albany, New York. Of this marriage, two children were born, Carroll, Junior, born in Schenectady, N. Y., July 31, 1921, and David B., born in Kobe, Japan, February 12, 1927.

Caught in Manila at the outbreak of the war with Japan, he was interned January 7, 1942, and assigned to Room 32. In January he was with the newly organized Department of Patrol; in February he worked in the Release Department—a very important and humanitarian assignment. For a short while in addition to his other duties he was a member of the Finance and Supplies Committee. On the installation of the newly elected Executive Committee July 28, 1942, Grinnell loomed large in the affairs of the Camp.

After his election to the Executive Committee by the internees, he was appointed chairman by the Commandant. He remained in this position until the Japanese military authorities reorganized the Camp activities February 18, 1944. At which time he was appointed Chairman of the new Internee Committee of three, Earl Carroll and S.L. Lloyd being the other members. This Committee succeeded the former Executive Committee. In that thankless job he continued until he was arrested by the Japanese military police on Dec. 23, 1944. "Thankless" is not exactly the correct word for in the face of much criticism of Mr. Grinnell's policies in running the Camp, a strong minority group, realizing the problems that confronted him, daily gave thanks that a tactful man, a trained executive, a diplomat that kept both feet planted firmly on the ground, was in charge of the multitudinous affairs of Santo Tomas Internment Camp. How uncommonly well did this quiet man serve the Camp! It is true a certain group surrounded him and his followers with a flavor of the well-known, but innocent exhibition, of hero worship and snobbery which induces a malaise in the average man. Their flattery was about as subtle as a kick in the face to the internees who stood on the sidelines. Human nature being what it is, it is not surprising that among the almost four thousand internees, a considerable number criticised Mr. Grinnell's regime severely. It must be admitted that Mr. Grinnell did choose for certain positions, men who were not as capable as he was, men who antagonized the internees. (How easy it was to antagonize internees as the months rolled on)! Mr. Grinnell deserved more cooperation than he received. He was always trying to improve the living conditions of the internees.

What irritates one almost to the point of intemperate statement and even incivility is the malicious, backstairs gossip about Mr. Grinnell's record in running the Camp. Harpy muckrakers vainly dredging the Camp records in the hope of finding some small trace of malfeasance were many. One such internee was swept off his feet by the sheer force of the facts, written and unwritten, unearthed in his own researches, and was by those facts turned into a profound admirer of Grinnell. This internee had hit upon the silent, busy Mr. Grinnell as the scapegoat upon whom he and his friends might vent their sundry, wartime disgruntlements. Checking up the diatribes with the facts and thereby learning how often Grinnell had been thinking and working a mile and a year ahead of his noisiest

critics, checking the good deeds against the ones that might have been mistakes of a "doer of deed," the balance so outweighed the criticisms that the investigator was ready and did say: "Here is a man to whom the internees as a whole should give thanks and be eternally grateful, for the thought, the care, the long hours, the patience, exercised in his work assignment while in Santo Tomas Internment Camp."

The facts spoke for themselves, the written entries showed a record that any man could be proud of; the unwritten records shows the big heart of this quiet, unassuming man; for example, when he bought candy so that the non-internee children would be taken care of at Christmas, when he obligated himself and his firm for large loans so that the Camp might eat, or that some of the old-timers might be able to buy a little fruit to eke out their meager food.

On December 23, 1944, Carroll Grinnell, A. F. Duggleby, and C. Larsen were arrested by the Japanese and placed in the Camp jail. No charges were lodged against them. On January 5, 1945, they were taken from the Camp.

After the occupation of Manila on February 3, 1945, by the United States Army, renewed efforts were made to obtain information relating to Mr. Grinnell, as well as his associates. Many false clues were tracked down but on Feb. 20th Carroll Calkins Grinnell's body was found buried in Harrison Park. Carroll Grinnell had paid the price of being an American, an American who did his duty honestly, fearlessly and conscientiously.

LEMUEL EARL CARROLL

The internees of Santo Tomas owe much to Earl Carroll. The quality of his leadership deserved and received the sincere and favorable appraisal of the majority of this critical group of men and women.

Mr. Carroll's contribution to the Camp life was outstanding. He was the first chairman and executive of the committee of men charged with the management of Santo Tomas Internment Camp under a Japanese Commandant. His appointment was made by the Commandant on the recommendation of those who were interned on the opening day of the Camp. He had been the District Leader in