

= Antonio Luna =

Antonio Luna de San Pedro y Novicio San Ignacio (29 October 1866 ? 5 June 1899) , an Ilocano born in Manila , was a Filipino general who fought in the Philippine ? American War .

Regarded as one of the fiercest generals of his time , he succeeded Artemio Ricarte as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines . He sought to apply his background in military science to the fledgling army . A sharpshooter himself , he organized professional guerrilla soldiers later to be known as the " Luna Sharpshooters " and the " Black Guard " . His three @-@ tier defense , now known as the Luna Defense Line , gave the American troops a hard campaign in the provinces north of Manila . This defense line culminated in the creation of a military base in the Cordillera .

Despite his commitment to discipline the army and serve the Republic which attracted the admiration of people , his temper caused some to abhor him . His efforts were not without recognition during his time , for he was awarded the Philippine Republic Medal in 1899 . He was also a member of the Malolos Congress . Besides his military studies , Luna also studied pharmacy , literature and chemistry .

= = Family background = =

Antonio Luna was born on 29 October 1866 in Calle Urbiztondo (Barraca Street) , Binondo (now part of San Nicolas) , Manila . He was the youngest of seven children of Joaquín Luna de San Pedro y Posadas (1829 ? 1891) , from Badoc , Ilocos Norte , and Spanish mestiza Laureana Novicio San Ignacio y Ancheta (1836 ? 1906 , from Luna , La Union (formerly Namacpacan) . His father was a traveling salesman of the government tobacco monopoly . The tobacco monopoly was formally established in 1782 . After their family moved to Manila in 1861 , his father became a merchant in Binondo .

= = = Siblings = = =

His older brother , Juan , was an accomplished painter who studied in the Madrid Escuela de Bellas Artes de San Fernando . His Spoliarium garnered one of the three gold medals awarded in the Madrid Exposición Nacional de Bellas Artes in 1884 . Another brother , José , became a doctor . Yet another brother , Joaquín , fought with Antonio in the Philippine @-@ American War , and later served as governor of La Union from 1904 to 1907 . Joaquín would also serve as senator from 1916 to 1919 . His three other siblings were Numeriana , Manuel , and Remedios .

= = Education = =

At the age of six , Luna initially learned reading , writing , and arithmetic from a teacher known as Maestro Intong . He also memorized the Doctrina Christiana , believed to be the first book printed in the Philippines . The title of the work literally means " Christian Doctrine " , and thus the primary goal of the book was to propagate Christian teaching across the Philippine archipelago . The book consists of 38 leaves and 74 pages of text in Spanish , Tagalog transliterated into roman letters , and Tagalog in its original Baybayin script , under a woodcut of Saint Dominic , with the verso originally blank , although in contemporary versions bears the manuscript inscription , " Tassada en dos reales " , signed by Juan de Cuellar . After a syllabary comes the basic prayers : the Lord 's Prayer , Hail Mary , Credo , and the Salve Regina . Following these are Articles of Faith , the Ten Commandments , Commandments of the Holy Church , Sacraments of the Holy Church , Seven Mortal Sins , Fourteen Works of Charity , and points on Confession and Catechism .

After his education under Maestro Intong , he studied at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila , where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1885 . He went on to study literature and chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas , where he won first prize for a paper in chemistry titled Two Fundamental Bodies of Chemistry (Dos Cuerpos Fundamentales de la Quimica) . He also studied pharmacy . Meanwhile , his background on swordsmanship , fencing , and military tactics came from

his studies under Don Martin Cartagena , a major in the Spanish Army . In addition , he acquired skill to become a sharpshooter . Upon the invitation of his elder brother Juan in 1890 , Antonio was sent by his parents to Spain . There he acquired a licentiate (at Universidad de Barcelona) and doctorate (at Universidad Central de Madrid) .

= = = Scientific achievements = = =

Luna was active as a researcher in the scientific community . After receiving his doctorate in 1893 , he published a scientific treatise on malaria entitled On Malarial Pathology (El Hematozoario del Paludismo) , which was favorably received in the scientific community . He then went to Belgium and France , and worked as assistant to Dr. Latteaux at the Pasteur Institute and to Dr. Laffen . In recognition of his ability , he was commissioned by the Spanish government to study tropical and communicable diseases . In 1894 , he returned to the Philippines where he took part in an examination to determine who would become the chief chemist of the Municipal Laboratory of Manila . Luna came in first and won the position .

= = Propaganda Movement = =

In Spain , he became one of the Filipino expatriates who mounted the Propaganda Movement and wrote for La Solidaridad , headed by Galicano Apacible . He wrote a piece titled Impressions which dealt with Spanish customs and idiosyncrasies under the pen @-@ name " Taga @-@ ilog " . Also , like many of the Filipino liberals in Spain , Luna joined the Masonry where he rose to being Master Mason .

He and his brother Juan also opened the Sala de Armas , a fencing club , in Manila . When he learned of the underground societies that were planning a revolution and was asked to join , he scoffed at the idea and turned down the offer . Like other Filipino émigrés involved in the Reform Movement , he was in favor of reform rather than revolution as the way towards independence . Besides affecting their property , the proponents of the Reform Movement saw that no revolution would succeed without the necessary preparations . Nevertheless , after the existence of the Katipunan was leaked in August 1896 , the Luna brothers were arrested and jailed in Fort Santiago for " participating " in the revolution . His statement concerning the revolution was one of the many statements used to abet the laying down of death sentence for José Rizal . Months later , José and Juan were freed but Antonio was exiled to Spain in 1897 , where he was imprisoned at the Cárcel Modelo de Madrid .

His more famous and yet controversial brother , Juan , who had been pardoned by the Spanish Queen Regent Maria Christina of Austria herself , left for Spain to use his influence to intercede for Antonio in August 1897 . Soon enough , Antonio 's case was dismissed by the Military Supreme Court and he was released .

Luna , repenting for his blunder during the end of the first phase during Philippine Revolution , which ended at the Pact of Biak @-@ na @-@ Bato , then prepared himself for the second phase . Upon his release in December 1897 , Luna studied field fortifications , guerrilla warfare , organization , and other aspects of military science under Gerard Leman , who would later be the commanding general of the fortress at Liège . He also read extensively about the discipline when he was at the Ateneo de Madrid . The second phase of the revolution began with the return of Emilio Aguinaldo to Cavite in 1898 . Upon arriving in Hong Kong , he was given a letter of recommendation to Aguinaldo and a revolver by Felipe Agoncillo . He returned to the Philippines in July 1898 .

= = Personal life = =

Luna courted Nellie Boustead , a woman who was also courted by José Rizal , in the period between 1889 ? 1891 . Boustead was reportedly infatuated with Rizal . In a party held by Filipinos , a drunk Antonio Luna made unsavory remarks against Nellie Boustead . This prompted Rizal to challenge Luna into a duel . However , Luna apologized to Rizal , thus averting a duel between the

compatriots .

There are urban legends that persist to the present concerning Luna diverting millions of pesos from the Republic 's treasury , particularly from Ilocos and Pampanga , to the hometown of his alleged sweetheart , Ysidra Cojuangco . Ysidra was the aunt of Jose Cojuangco , father of Corazon Aquino . Luna 's wealth was rumored to have been entrusted to Ysidra , resulting in the latter becoming one of the richest women in the Philippines by 1900 . However , there were no recorded comments or printed insinuations of Luna 's financial impropriety from anti @-@ Luna figures of the Aguinaldo government during and immediately after the Philippine ? American War .

= = Philippine ? American War = =

= = = Prior to the war = = =

Luna was one of the first to see action in Manila on 13 August 1898 , when the Americans landed troops in Intramuros . Since June 1898 , Manila had been completely surrounded by the revolutionary troops . Colonel Luciano San Miguel occupied Mandaluyong ; General Pío del Pilar , Makati ; General Mariano Noriel , Parañaque ; Colonel Enrique Pacheco , Navotas , Tambobong , and Caloocan . General Gregorio del Pilar marched through Sampaloc , taking Tondo , Divisoria , and Azcárraga ; Noriel cleared Singalong and Paco , and held Ermita and Malate . Luna thought the Filipinos should enter Intramuros to have joint occupation of the walled city . But Aguinaldo , heeding the advice of General Wesley Merritt and Commodore (later Admiral) George Dewey , whose fleet had moored in Manila Bay , sent Luna to the trenches where he ordered his troops to fire on the Americans . After the chaos following the American occupation , at a meeting in Ermita , Luna tried to complain to American officers about the disorderly conduct of their soldiers .

To silence Luna , Aguinaldo appointed him as Chief of War Operations on 26 September 1898 , and assigned the rank of brigadier general . In quick succession , he was made the Director or Assistant Secretary of War and Supreme Chief of the Republican Army on 28 September , arousing the envy of the other generals who were fighting since the first phase of the Revolution . Meanwhile , Luna felt that bureaucratic placebos were being thrown his way , when all he wanted was to organize and discipline the enthusiastic but ill @-@ fed and ill @-@ trained troops into a real army .

On 15 September 1898 , the Malolos Congress , the constituent assembly of the First Philippine Republic , was convened in Barasoain Church . Luna would be one of the elected representatives , and was narrowly defeated by Pedro Paterno as President of the Congress with a vote of 24 ? 23 .

Seeing the need for a military school , in October 1898 , Luna established a military academy at Malolos , known as the Academia Militar , which was the precursor of the present Philippine Military Academy . He appointed Colonel Manuel Bernal Sityar , a mestizo who was formerly lieutenant serving the Civil Guard , as superintendent . He recruited other mestizos and Spaniards who had fought in the Spanish army during the 1896 Revolution for training . However , the academy had to be suspended indefinitely by March 1899 due to the outbreak of the Philippine ? American War .

A score of veteran officers became teachers at his military school . Luna devised two courses of instruction , planned the reorganization , with a battalion of tiradores and a cavalry squadron , set up an inventory of guns and ammunition , arsenals , using convents and town halls , quartermasters , lookouts and communication systems . He built trenches with the help of his chief engineer , General Jose Alejandrino , and had his brother Juan design the school 's uniforms (the Filipino rayadillo) . He also insisted on strict discipline over and above clan armies and regional loyalties , which prevented coordination between various military units . Envisioning one united army for the Republic , clan armies and regional loyalties presented a lack of national consciousness . It was also a condition that the Spanish utilized to keep the native contingent of their armed forces within check . Soldiers of one region were used to fight revolts in other regions .

Convinced that the fate of the infant Republic should be a contest for the minds of Filipinos , Luna turned to journalism to strengthen Filipino minds with the ideas of nationhood and the need to fight the Americans . He decided to publish a newspaper , " La Independencia . " This four @-@ page

daily was filled with articles , short stories , patriotic songs and poems . The staff was installed in one of the coaches of the train that ran from Manila to Pangasinan . The paper came out in September 1898 , and was an instant success . A movable feast of information , humor , and good writing , 4 @, @ 000 copies were printed , which was more than all the other newspapers in circulation put together .

When the Treaty of Paris , under which Spain was to cede the Philippines to the United States , was made public in December 1898 , Luna quickly decided to take military action . He proposed a strategy that was designed to trap the Americans in Manila before more of their troops could land by executing surprise attacks (guerrilla warfare) while building up strength in the north . If the American forces penetrated his lines , Luna determined that he would wage a series of delaying battles and prepare a fortress in northern Luzon , particularly the Cordillera . This , however , was turned down by the High Command , who still believed that the Americans would grant full independence .

= = = Outbreak of the war = = =

The Americans gained the time and the opportunity to start hostilities with the Filipinos at the place and time of their choice . On the night of 4 February 1899 , when most of the Filipino generals were at a ball in Malolos to celebrate the success of the American anti @-@ imperialists delaying the ratification of the Treaty of Paris , the Americans staged an incident along the concrete blockhouses in Santa Mesa near the Balsahan Bridge . An American patrol fired on Filipino troops , claiming afterwards that the Filipinos had started shooting first . The whole Filipino line from Pasay to Caloocan returned fire and the first battle of the Filipino @-@ American War ensued . Two days later , in response to the incident , the US Senate voted for annexation . In doing so , the conflict became the war of conquest , occupation and annexation that Luna , Mabini , and others had predicted and about which they had warned Aguinaldo and his generals previously .

Luna , after receiving orders from Aguinaldo , rushed to the front lines from his headquarters at Polo (present @-@ day Valenzuela City) and led three companies to La Loma to engage General Arthur MacArthur 's forces . Fighting took place at Marikina , Caloocan , Santa Ana , and Paco . The Filipinos were subjected to a carefully planned attack with naval artillery , with Dewey 's US fleet firing from the Manila Bay . Filipino casualties were high , amounting to around 2 @, @ 000 killed and wounded . Luna personally had to carry wounded officers and men to safety ; of these rescues , the most dramatic was that of Commander José Torres Bugallón . After being hit by an American bullet , Bugallón had managed to advance another fifty meters before he was seen by Luna to collapse by the side of the road . As the Americans kept up their fire on the road , Luna had to gather an escort of around 25 men to save Bugallón , who Luna declared was equivalent to 500 men . Surviving the encounter , Luna tried to encourage Bugallón to live and gave the latter an instant promotion to lieutenant colonel . However , Bugallón died thereafter .

On 7 February , Luna issued a detailed order to the field officers of the territorial militia . Containing five specific objects , it began " by virtue of the barbarous attack upon our army on February 4 , " and ended with " war without quarter to false Americans who wish to enslave us . Independence or death ! " The order labeled the US forces " an army of drunkards and thieves " in response to the continued bombardment of the towns around Manila , the burning and looting of whole districts , and the raping of Filipino women by US troops .

When Luna saw that the American advance had halted , mainly to stabilize their lines , he again mobilized his troops to attack La Loma on February 10 . Fierce fighting ensued but the Filipinos were forced to withdraw thereafter . Caloocan was left with American forces in control of the southern terminus of the Manila to Dagupan railway , along with five engines , fifty passenger coaches , and a hundred freight cars . After consolidating control of Caloocan , the obvious next objective for American forces would be the Republic capital at Malolos . However , General Otis delayed for almost a month in hopes that Filipino forces would be deployed in its defense .

Nevertheless , with their superior firepower and newly arrived reinforcements , the Americans had not expected such resistance . They were so surprised that an urgent cable was sent to General

Lawton who was in Colombo , Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) , with his troops . Illustrating the concern that the Americans had , the telegram stated , " Situation critical in Manila . Your early arrival great importance . "

= = = Luna Sharpshooters and the Black Guard = = =

The Luna Sharpshooters was a short @-@ lived unit formed by Luna to serve under the Philippine Revolutionary Army . On 11 February , eight infantrymen , formerly under Captains Márquez and Jaro , were sent by then Secretary of War Baldomero Aguinaldo to Luna , then Assistant Secretary of War . The infantrymen were disarmed by the Americans . So , they journeyed to be commissioned in the regular Filipino army . Seeing their desire to serve in the army , Luna took them in and from their group grew and emerged as the Luna Sharpshooters . The sharpshooters became famous for their fierce fighting and proved their worth by being the usual spearheading unit in every major battle in the Philippine @-@ American War . After the Battle of Calumpit on 25 ? 27 April 1899 , only seven or eight of them remained in the regular Filipino army . In the Battle of Paye on 18 December 1899 , an unknown Filipino sharpshooter under the command of General Licerio Gerónimo killed General Henry Ware Lawton , making the latter the highest ranking casualty during the course of the war .

Luna also formed other units similar to the sharpshooters . One would be the unit , which would later be named after Bugallón , commanded by Rosendo Simón de Pajarillo . The unit emerged from a group of ten men wanting to volunteer in the regular Filipino army . Luna , still thinking of the defeat at the Battle of Caloocan , sent the men away at first . However , he soon changed his mind and decided to give the men an initiation . After taking breakfast , he ordered a subordinate , Colonel Queri , to prepare arms and ammunition for the ten men . Then , the men boarded a train destined towards Malinta , which was American @-@ held territory . After giving orders to the men , he let them go and watched them with his telescope . The men , succeeding their mission , eventually returned unharmed . Admiring their bravery , he organized them into a guerrilla unit of around 50 members . This unit would see action in the Second Battle of Caloocan .

Another unit would be the Black Guard , a 25 @-@ man guerrilla unit under a certain Lieutenant García . García , one of Luna 's favorites , was a modest but brave soldier . His unit was tasked to approach the enemy by surprise and quickly return to camp . Luna had admired García 's unit very much that he wanted to increase their size . However , García declined the offer . He believed that a larger force might undermine the efficiency of their work . Jose Alejandrino , the chief army engineer and one of Luna 's aides , stated that he never heard of García and his unit again after Luna 's resignation on February 28 .

= = = Further operations during the war = = =

A Filipino counterattack began at dawn on 23 February . The plan was to employ a pincer movement , using the battalions from the North and South , with the sharpshooters (the only professionally trained troops) at crucial points . The sandatahanes or bolomen inside Manila would start a great fire to signal the start of the assault . Troops directly under Luna 's command were divided into three : the West Brigade under General Pantaleon García , the Center Brigade under General Mariano Llanera , and the East Brigade under General Licerio Gerónimo . Luna even requested the battle @-@ hardened Tinio Brigade from Northern Luzon , under the command of General Manuel Tinio . It had more than 1 @, @ 900 soldiers . However , Aguinaldo gave only ambiguous answers and the Tinio Brigade was unable to participate in the battle . It was only partly successful because of two main reasons . Firstly , some of the successful Filipino sectors ran low on ammunition and food , and were thus forced to withdraw to Polo . Secondly , Luna failed to relieve the Kapampangan militia , already past their prime , when the battalion from Kawit , Cavite , refused to replace the former , saying that they had orders to obey only instructions directly from Aguinaldo . Such insubordination had become quite common among the Filipino forces at that time as most of the troops owed their loyalty to the officers from their provinces , towns or districts and not to the

central command . As a result , the counterattack soon collapsed , and Luna placated himself by disarming the Kawit Battalion .

Luna , however , proved to be a strict disciplinarian and his temper alienated many in the ranks of the common soldiers . An example of this occurred during the Battle of Calumpit , wherein Luna ordered General Tomás Mascardo to send troops from Guagua to strengthen the former 's defenses . However , Mascardo ignored orders by Luna insisting that he was going to Arayat to undertake an " inspection of troops " . Another version of Mascardo 's reasoning emerged and it was probably that which reached Luna . This version was that Mascardo had left to visit his girlfriend . Luna , infuriated by Mascardo 's actions , had decided to detain him . However , Major Hernando , one of Luna 's aides , tried to placate the general 's anger by convincing Luna to push the case to President Aguinaldo . Aguinaldo complied to detain Mascardo for twenty @-@ four hours . Upon returning to the field , however , the Americans had broken through his defenses at the Bagbag River , forcing Luna to withdraw despite his heroic action to defend the remaining sectors .

Luna resigned on 1 March , mainly in resentment for the rearmament of the Kawit Battalion as the Presidential Guard . Aguinaldo hesitantly accepted the resignation . As a result , Luna was absent from the field for three weeks , during which the Filipino forces suffered several defeats and setbacks . One such defeat would be at the Battle of Marilao River on 27 March . Receiving the depressing reports from the field through his La Independencia correspondents , Luna went to Aguinaldo and asked to be reinstated with more powers over all the military heads , and Aguinaldo promoted him to Lieutenant General and agreed making him Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of all the Filipino forces in Central Luzon (Bulacan , Tarlac , Pampanga , Nueva Ecija , Bataan , Zambales) .

The Luna Defense Line was planned to create a series of delaying battles from Caloocan to Angeles , Pampanga , as the Republic was constructing a guerrilla base in the Mountain Province . The base was planned to be the last stand headquarters of the Republic in the case the Americans broke through the Defense Line . American military observers were astonished by the Defense Line , which they described as consisting of numerous bamboo trenches stretching from town to town . The series of trenches allowed the Filipinos to withdraw gradually , firing from cover at the advancing Americans . As the American troops occupied each new position , they were subjected to a series of traps that had been set in the trenches , which included bamboo spikes and poisonous reptiles .

Earlier in the month of May 1899 , Luna almost fell in the field at the Battle of Santo Tomas . Mounted on his horse , Luna then charged into the battlefield leading his main force in a counterattack . As they advanced , the American forces began firing upon them . Luna 's horse was hit and he fell to the ground . As he recovered , Luna realized that he had been shot in the stomach , and he attempted to kill himself with his revolver to avoid capture . He was saved , though , by the actions of a Filipino colonel named Alejandro Avecilla who , having seen Luna fall , rode towards the general to save him . Despite being heavily wounded in one of his legs and an arm , with his remaining strength Avecilla carried Luna away from battle to the Filipino rear . Upon reaching safety , Luna realized that his wound was not very deep as most of the impact of the bullet had been taken by a silk belt full of gold coins that his parents had given him , which he had been wearing . As he left the field to have his wounds tended , Luna turned over the command to General Venacio Concepción , the Filipino commander of the nearby town of Angeles . Meanwhile , in recognition of his work , Luna was awarded with the Philippine Republic Medal . By the end of May 1899 , Colonel Joaquín Luna , one of Antonio 's brothers , warned him that a plot had been concocted by " old elements " or the autonomists of the Republic (who were bent on accepting American sovereignty over the country) and a clique of army officers whom Luna had disarmed , arrested , and / or insulted . Luna shrugged off all these threats , reiterating his trust for Aguinaldo , and continued building defenses at Pangasinan where the Americans were planning a landing .

= = Assassination and the aftermath = =

On 2 June 1899 , Luna received two telegrams ? one asked for help in launching a counterattack in

San Fernando , Pampanga ; and the other said to be signed by Aguinaldo himself , ordered him to go to the new capital at Cabanatuan , Nueva Ecija to form a new cabinet . In his jubilation , Luna wrote Arcadio Maxilom , military commander of Cebu , to stand firm in the war . Luna set off from Bayambang , Pangasinan ; first by train , then on horseback , and eventually in three carriages to Nueva Ecija with 25 of his men . During the journey , two of the carriages broke down , so he proceeded with just one carriage with Colonel Francisco Román and Captain Eduardo Rusca , having earlier shed his cavalry escort . On 4 June , Luna sent a telegram to Aguinaldo confirming his arrival . Upon arriving at Cabanatuan on 5 June , Luna alone , proceeded to the headquarters to communicate with the President . As he went up the stairs , he ran into an officer whom he had previously disarmed for insubordination , and an old enemy whom he had once threatened with arrest for favoring American autonomy . The former was Captain Pedro Janolino , commander of the Kawit Battalion . The latter was Felipe Buencamino , Minister of Foreign Affairs and a member of the Cabinet . He was told that Aguinaldo had left for San Isidro in Tarlac . Enraged , Luna asked why he had not been told the meeting was cancelled .

Both exchanged heated words as he was about to depart , a rifle shot in the plaza rang out . Still outraged and furious , Luna rushed down the stairs and met Janolino , accompanied by some elements of the Kawit Battalion . Janolino swung his bolo at Luna , wounding him in the head . Janolino 's men fired at Luna , while others started stabbing him , even as he tried to fire his revolver at one of his attackers . He staggered out into the plaza where Román and Rusca were rushing to his aid , but they too were set upon and shot , with Román being killed and Rusca severely wounded . As he lay dying , Luna uttered " Cowards ! Assassins ! " . Luna received more than 30 wounds . He was hurriedly buried in the churchyard , after which Aguinaldo relieved Luna 's officers and men from the field , including General Venacio Concepción , whose headquarters in Angeles , Pampanga Aguinaldo besieged the same day Luna was assassinated .

Immediately after Luna 's death , confusion reigned on both sides . The Americans even thought Luna had taken over to replace Aguinaldo . Luna 's death was publicly declared only by 8 June , and a circular providing details of the event released by 13 June . While investigations were supposedly made concerning Luna 's death , not one person was convicted . Later , General Pantaleon García said that it was he who was verbally ordered by Aguinaldo to conduct the assassination of Luna at Cabanatuan . His sickness at the time prevented his participation in the assassination . Aguinaldo would be firm in his stand that he had nothing to do with the assassination of Luna .

The death of Luna , the most brilliant and capable of the Filipino generals at the time , was a decisive factor in the fight against the American forces . Despite mixed reactions on both the Filipino and American sides on the death of Luna , there are people from both sides who nevertheless developed an admiration for him . General Frederick Funston , who received the credit of capturing Aguinaldo at Palanan , Isabela , stated that Luna was the " ablest and most aggressive leader of the Filipino Republic . " For General James Franklin Bell , Luna " was the only general the Filipino army had . " General Robert Hughes remarked that " with the death of General Luna , the Filipino army lost the only General it had . " Meanwhile , Apolinario Mabini , former Prime Minister and Secretary of Foreign Affairs , had this to say : " If he was sometimes hasty and even cruel in his resolution , it was because the army had been brought to a desperate situation by the demoralization of the soldiers and the lack of ammunitions : nothing but action of rash courage and extraordinary energy could hinder its dissolution . " Of the Filipino armed forces organized during Luna 's service in the army , Major General Henry Ware Lawton commented , " Filipinos are a very fine set of soldiers , far better than the Indians ... Inferior in every particular equipment and supplies , they are the bravest men I have ever seen ... I 'm very well impressed with the Filipinos ! " This statement Lawton later recanted .

Subsequently , Aguinaldo suffered successive , disastrous losses in the field , as he retreated northwards . On 13 November 1899 , Aguinaldo decided to disperse his army and begin conducting a guerrilla war . General José Alejandrino , one of Luna 's remaining aides , stated in his memoirs that if Luna had been able to finish the planned military camp in the Mountain Province and had shifted to guerrilla warfare earlier as Luna had suggested , Aguinaldo might have avoided having to run for his life in the Cordillera Mountains . For historian Teodoro Agoncillo , however , Luna 's death

did not directly contribute to the resulting fall of the Republic . In his book , Malolos : The Crisis of the Republic , Agoncillo stated that the loss of Luna showed the existence of a lack of discipline among the regular Filipino soldiers and it was a major weakness that was never remedied during the course of the war . Also , soldiers connected with Luna were demoralized and as a result eventually surrendered to the Americans . On 23 March 1901 , Aguinaldo was captured in Palanan , Isabela , by American forces . He was later brought to Manila , and made to pledge allegiance to the United States on 1 April .

= = Commemoration = =

The famous University of the Philippines Diliman Sunken Garden was named as General Antonio Luna Parade Grounds .

The municipalities of General Luna , Quezon and General Luna , Surigao del Norte are named after Luna .

General Antonio Luna Avenue , a two @-@ lane national road in San Mateo , Rizal , was named after Luna .

General Luna Street , stretching from Intramuros to Paco in the Manila , was named after Luna . Formerly Calle Real del Palacio (Intramuros) and Calle Nozaleda (Ermita @-@ Paco) , the whole stretch was integrated into one and was renamed Calle Gen. Luna during the American period .

General Antonio Luna , a barrio in Mayorga , Leyte , is named after Luna .

In 1951 , the first postwar Philippine fifty peso bill featured a portrait of Luna until it was replaced in 1969 by a portrait of Sergio Osmeña .

In 1958 , a stamp featuring Luna was released on his 92nd birth anniversary .

After the 102nd anniversary of Luna 's birth (1968) , former President Ferdinand Marcos delivered a speech about the general . He said that Luna 's guerrilla tactics preceded that of China 's Mao Zedong and Vietnam 's Vo Nguyen Giap and Ho Chi Minh .

In 1999 , the second and last of the General Emilio Aguinaldo @-@ class patrol vessels was commissioned by the Philippine Navy . It was named BRP Gen. Antonio Luna (PG @-@ 141) , after the general of the same name .

A monument of Luna was erected at Plaza Lucero in Cabanatuan , Nueva Ecija .

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim led a commemorative program on Luna 's 144th birth anniversary (2010) .

A Philippine military base , Camp Antonio Luna in Limay , Bataan , was named after the general . It is currently the Office of the Director of the Government Arsenal .

General Luna is a Filipino rock band named after Luna .

= = In popular culture = =

Portrayed by Christopher de Leon in the 2012 film , El Presidente .

Portrayed by JC Tiuseco in the 2014 TV series , Ilustrado .

Portrayed by Marc Abaya and John Arcilla in the 2015 film , Heneral Luna (Lead Role) .

= = = Books = = =

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