

# MANCHU DRAGON TALES



## NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Manchu) Association U.S. Army



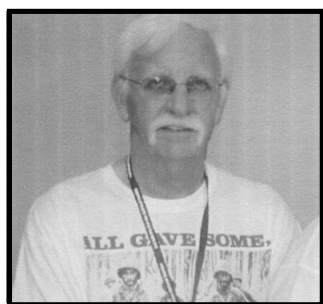
ISSUE NO. 40 JULY, 2011

<http://www.manchu.org/regiment/association.htm>

E-MAIL: [69larryritter70@gmail.com](mailto:69larryritter70@gmail.com)

### COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here it is rapidly coming upon our reunion held in St. Louis, Mo. this August. It seems like yesterday we were just in Boston. I hope you can attend this year. Here in Illinois it was a cold snowy winter. We have been fortunate



not to have all of the rains that the country is having.

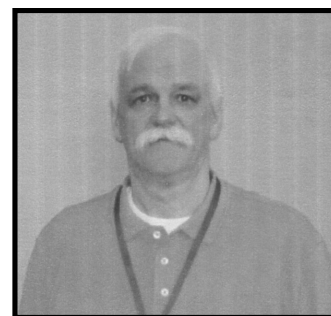
I need a thank you as well. This was the topic around the coffee bunch the day after. I know that one of us made the comment that we could have done the same. Thank God we did not have to do it. For most of us it was some 40 plus years since we were in the MANCHUS. I know I cannot move as fast as I could back then. Yes, we could have come through if we were called upon. Just remember, Once a MANCHU always a MANCHU. A great deal of thought and planning went into fulfilling this operation.

My wife and I are always looking into different places to go on vacation. We get in our motor home and travel to see this great country. We are raising a granddaughter who is 16 and loves to travel and visit our places of history. She does not like the amusement parks or malls. We like to go where there is a great deal of history. Last year we went out west and were fortunate to see Mt. Rushmore [fabulous site], the Crazy Horse monument, Deadwood

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### Comments and Updates From the Secretary

As I start this commentary I would like to thank all of you that have sent in your dues for this year. It has been a pleasure of writing and talking with all who participated. What an honor to be in a regiment that has no equal and a history that will never be matched.



As I was reading Chaplain Obie's devotional, I was reminded of the honor of serving with soldiers that respected this great country and why we did this thing for that cause even when there wasn't a lot of support from the people back home, the sixties was a very emotional time in the z vets life.

On to another subject and that is several of the "z" vets have contracted cancers from Agent Orange exposure and have had to have operations concerning these cancers. If you feel you are in this realm please don't hesitate to take action for waiting is not an option in this matter. Go to your local VA clinic and file at least a claim. To dovetail this read Chuck Groff's article on veteran's benefits and how to get them or call him personally. Again don't put this off. I also want to remind you all of our upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> reunion in St. Louis, MO. In august talking with Bob Haynes it is going to be a good one

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## ORGANIZATION REVISED & OFFICIAL

President .....	Roger Dyson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President .....	Wally Baxendale
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President .....	Charles Groff, Jr.
Sec/Treas .....	Larry Ritter
Chaplain .....	Rev. James L. O'Brien
Sergeant At Arms .....	Mike Ardoin
Parliamentarian .....	Darrell W. Heilinger
Historians	Raymond A. Tarabusi & Rolfe L. Hillman, III
Honorary COL of the Regiment .....	OPEN
Honorary SGM of the Regiment .....	OPEN
4/9 Manchu Liaison .....	Ronald K. Price
Public Information Office .....	Robert (Willy) G. Dixon
Distinguished Member of Regiment.....	CPT Rich Countermarsh

## MANCHU ASSOCIATION

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:** Association President; **Members**, Association 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; **Past Presidents**, Gil Blue, Ken Toeppe, 1SG (Ret), William Ditzhazy; **Past Secretaries/Treasurers**, Dante Degni, CSM Riley Miller, Oscar Fettig, Raymond Tarabusi, Wayne E. Stephens; and the following **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: Constitution and By Laws**, Darrell W. Heiliger; **Membership**: Roger Dyson; **Reunion**, Charles Craig; **Sunshine**, Rev. Charles H. Woods; **Budget**, Dante H. Degni

### MANCHU MISSION STATEMENT

We members of the 9th Inf. Regt. (Manchu) Assoc. United States Army, pledge to preserve the history and name of "The Regiment", and to support the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; to support our Active Ninth Infantry Regiment (Manchu) soldiers and the United States Army Regimental system. We shall promote comradeship and esprit de corps among our members; set examples of unselfish patriotism, and memorialize the patriotic deeds of the members of the 9th Inf. Regt. (Manchu).

## MANCHU DEVOTIONAL

Memorial day began as a commemoration of the valor and sacrifice of those americans who fell in America's deadliest wars. Today, as on Memorial days since, when we visit the graves of those who bore arms on our behalf, we attest that our nation has endured and that our honored did not die in vain.

We owe it to the past to remember what they sacrificed for the present, and with God's blessing on the valor of our nations defenders, a better future will be ours if we "keep up the fire" and keep up the faith. Amen.

KEEP UP THE FAITH!!!

Chaplain James "Obie" O'Brien

### Membership Dues for 2011

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year or \$100.00 for a Life Membership. Payments are now due. Make checks payable to "9th" Inf Regt (Manchu) Association.

Send payments to: 9th Inf. Regt. (MANCHU) Assn.  
Larry Ritter, 125 Maine Rd.  
Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004

### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

For the November 2011 newsletter

All info to the secretary by Oct. 15, 2011

All info to the printer by Oct. 22, 2011

Newsletter mail date - Oct. 31 25, 2011

All information can be transmitted to me by the following:

US Mail: Larry Ritter, 125 Maine Rd.  
Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004

Telephone/Fax: 518-324-4425

E-Mail: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

## DID YOU KNOW

From Chuck Groff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

Hello fellow Manchus, my name is Chuck Groff and I am currently 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president of the 9<sup>th</sup> reg. Manchu Organization. I served in Korea along the DMZ with CO. A, 2/9 as platoon SGT. (E-6) during all of 1969 and Jan. Of '70.

My purpose in writing this column is the same as my job back then, to keep you informed only this time it's about the benefits you have earned and how to get them. Each newsletter I will pass along to you information on burial benefits, updated VA medical benefits etc.

This month I'd like to discuss the one thing we all have in common, no matter when you served, the little piece of paper we received when leaving the military. It is familiar to us as our **DD 214** or to those who served in WW II or the Korean War, your **discharge papers**.

If you are asked to produce them, can you? Does a member of your immediate family know where you keep them? As a past-commander of our village VFW, I still receive calls, many from funeral directors, verifying an individual's veteran status.

These documents are of utmost importance to receive the benefits you have earned. My suggestion is make several copies and give them to members of your immediate family. Do not give out your original. Explain the purpose of the papers and the need for them. To obtain a copy if you have misplaced yours, simply go to:

<http://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 1*

S. Dakota, Little Big Horn [Custer's battlefield]. One could almost feel the presence of Custer and his troopers on the battlefield. Trying to visualize what occurred that day is awesome. They had no chance of survival. Could you just hear the soldiers say "Where did all of these Indians come from"? If you have never visited this area of the country I highly recommend going. On our way home we stopped in Abilene, Kansas to visit the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library. We spent almost 4 hours there. Our Granddaughter was so impressed. It is neat because she studied some of this trip in her history classes. Makes Grandpa feel good knowing she was able to relate to parts of our history. We did stop in Wyoming to visit The Wagon Box Battle Site. They kidded me because it was way off the beaten path but was worth the extra time. Look into this battle because it was one of the 9<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. units attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Calvary. We had to alter our plans this year because of all of the flooding in the south. Vicksburg was on our agenda but we saved it for another trip. Our goal this year is to travel west on the Mother Road US 66. Hopefully we will get our Kicks on 66. Try to see this great country while you still can. You helped defend it so why not see it.

I want to thank Larry Ritter for the great job he is doing as our Sec/Treasure. It is a big job and he is doing super. We are still trying to get our younger Manchu's involved so if you know any, Recruit them. Pay their dues if you have to. We need them in our ranks to help keep this great unit alive in the future.

**KEEP UP THE FIRE!**

Roger Dyson  
PH. 1-309-663-7002  
E-Mail: [dmzmanchu9@frontier.com](mailto:dmzmanchu9@frontier.com)

## Korean DMZ Vets Eligible for Agent Orange Compensation

by Tim Dyhonse

(Reprinted with permission. May 2011, VFW Magazine)

Some 40 years after the fact, VA has acknowledged that even more veterans were exposed to Agent Orange while serving on Korea's demilitarized zone (DMZ).



Second Infantry Division Soldiers - including a KATUSA (fourth from left) - prepare to patrol the DMZ. *photo courtesy of Maj. Daniel Bolger, from his Leavenworth Paper, Scenes from an Unfinished War: Low-intensity Conflict in Korea, 1966-69*

On Jan. 25, 2011, VA announced -via a regulation published in the Federal Register - that it now presumes that veterans who served along the DMZ between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971, were exposed to the herbicide.

Previously, the cutoff date was July 1969. VA and the Pentagon have identified the specific units (see page 4) that qualify for this new ruling. Possibly 30,000 vets who served in Korea's DMZ during the new 3 1/2-year time frame could be eligible for benefits.

VA originally estimated that benefits would cost some \$89 million for vets who served through July 1969. The new ruling could easily double that figure.

Currently, VA counts 15 diseases as being caused by Agent Orange exposure (see "Washington Wire," January 2010 VFW Magazine.) The new ruling means eligible Korea DMZ vets do not have to prove an association

between their illness and their military service.

"This 'presumption' simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that veterans receive the benefits they deserve;" according to VA's statement announcing the new regulation.

VA encourages vets who served in the qualifying units and have medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to submit applications for benefits "as soon as possible" so it can begin processing their claims.

Veterans who want more information about Agent Orange - including diseases and possible birth defects associated with exposure can access [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange).

For more information on filing a VA claim for Agent Orange exposure, access

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm>

I believe the number of KIA.S in Cold War Korea to be about 300!

I suggest that if you served in Korea in the mid 1960's through mid 1970's and suffer from any illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange or any other herbicides, you should file a claim for care and compensation with the Veterans Administration and you should request an Agent Orange Registry Exam.

You should seek out the DAV office at your nearest VA Regional hospital and ask for their assistance in filing your claim.

Do not file your claim direct with a VA office VSO (Veteran Service Officer). The list of presumptive units as detailed in the VFW article should not deter you either. Other areas and units were also exposed.

**Korean DMZ Vets Eligible for Agent Orange  
Compensation**

*Continued from Page 4*

**U.S. Units Exposed to Herbicides in Korea's  
DMZ, 1968-71**

Veterans of the following units who were assigned to them between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971, are eligible to apply for compensation based on exposure to herbicides.

**2nd Infantry Division (Combat Brigade)**

<b>Regiment</b>	<b>Battalions</b>
72nd Armor	1st, 2nd
12th Artillery	1st
15th Artillery	1st
17th Artillery	7th
37th Artillery	6th
38th Artillery	5th
7th Cavalry	4th Sqdn, Counter Agent Co.

9th Infantry	1st, 2nd
23rd Infantry	1st, 2nd, 3rd
31st Infantry	2nd*
32nd Infantry	3rd*
38th Infantry	1st, 2nd

**7th Infantry Division (3rd Brigade)**

<b>Regiment</b>	<b>Battalions</b>
73rd Armor	1st
10th Cavalry	2nd
13th Eng. Combat Bn.	
17th Infantry	1st, 2nd
31st Infantry	1st, 2nd*
32nd Infantry	1st, 2nd, 3rd*

**Other Units**

**U.N. Command Security Battalion-  
Joint Security Area  
Crew of the *USS Pueblo***

*\*Service records may show assignment to either the 2nd or 7th Infantry Division.*

**REUNION**

**Our 90th Reunion will  
be in St. Louis,  
Missouri on  
August 29, 2011.**

**NEW MEMBERS**

WILLIAM H. EVERETT                      B CO. 4/9<sup>th</sup> INF  
1964-66

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

RUDOLPH J SOLTERO                      \$50.00  
IN MEMORY OF                      SGM JOHN COOK

**LAST ROLL CALL**

LEONARD FERRELL  
PASSED AWAY 2-13-11

(RET) SGM GEORGE COEFER  
PASSED AWAY 9-22-10

CHARLEY HEATH  
PASSED AWAY 3-7-11

**SECRETARY/TREASURER***Continued from Page 1*

and if you haven't ever been to one you owe it to yourself to meet up with old friends, there is something about talking of old memories with people you experienced them with. So think about it. Another sad note, someone hacked into my email and I lost all of my address book and some other info, so if you have been trying to reach me via email sorry about that my new one is 69larryritter70@gmail.com try this one and I hope the sob that is doing this gets caught or jammed up  
See you at St. Louis.

Keep Up The Fire!

Larry Ritter

125 Maine Rd., Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004

Ph. 1-518-324-4425

E-mail: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

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**LIFE MEMBER HAS CUSTOM FLAGS AND CRESTS FOR SALE**

The canvas size is 14" x 14" that costs \$100.00. Above that it is additional \$25.00 per inch. The canvasses that I have done are:

4th Bn crest (1 on Hand done)

9th regimental crest (1 on Hand done)

Manchu Dragon (different versions)

9th Regimental Flag (1 on hand done)

General instructions that have to have because am paying for canvas and yarn up front, is money up front. Also they need to know getting canvas framed is their responsibility. Also can do other pictures and or unit logos just have to be clear when artist blows them up to do the picture to canvas.

George C. Messerschmidt

4515 Woodduck Ave

Juneau, AK 99801

Home: 907-789-4764

Cell: 907-321-3522

Email: gcm109@gmail.com

**NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT****(MANCHU) ASSOCIATION U. S. ARMY**

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR SALE BY THE NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (MANCHU) ASSOCIATION. Please mail your order to 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt (MANCHU) Association, 125 Maine Rd. Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004. When writing your check, please add \$7.00 for packing and postage, except for the Membership Roster. Thanks.

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>
_____	#1-Manchu Patch, Blue & Gold, 1 ¾ X 3 .....	\$ 4.80
_____	#2-Gold Plated Belt Buckle, Ring & Hook, 2 ¼ X 2 ½" .....	\$14.00
_____	#3-Manchu Brass Coin, 1 ½" in Diameter .....	\$ 7.00
_____	#4-9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Partial Coat of Arms Patch, 3 X 4" .....	\$ 6.00
_____	#5-9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regulation Size Insignia Pin, 1 X 1" .....	\$ 6.00
_____	#6-9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Coat of Arms Pin .....	\$ 6.00
_____	#7-Manchu Cap, Lt Blue Embroidered w/Brown & Silver Muskets and White Lettering .....	\$12.00
_____	#8-Manchu Tee Shirt , Black w/Insignia on Upper Left Chest M, L, XL,.....\$10.00, XXL ..... \$14.00	
_____	#9-Manchu Brass Belt Buckle, w/Ring & Hook, 1 ½ X 2" .....	\$14.00
_____	#10-Manchu Brass Belt Buckle, w/Clasp Fastener for Web Belt, 1 ½ X 2" .....	\$18.00
_____	#11-9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Pin 9/16" .....	\$2.50
_____	#12 Black Canvas Belt - 45" x 1½" .....	\$5.00
_____	#13-Manchu Insignia Decal, 3 ¾ X 3 ¾", _____ Inside, or _____ Outside .....	\$1.50
_____	#14-9 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt Polo Shirt, Embroidered Crossed Rifles..... L, XL \$23.00, XXL \$29.00	
_____	#15-Manchu Polo Shirt, White w/Red Logo above left pocket (M,L,XL,XXL) .....	\$25.00
_____	POSTAGE.....	\$7.00

Order Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (MANCHU) ASSOCIATION

Current Rank: Specify if Active Duty or Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Full Name (First, Middle & Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Military Status: Specify if Active Duty or Retired \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address, Including your 5 + 4 digit ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Unit(s) Assigned as a Manchu \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Assignment as a Manchu \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Rank as a Manchu \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP TYPES AND**

**CALENDAR YEAR DUES:**

REGULAR-PER YEAR ..... \$15.00  
 ASSOCIATE-PER YEAR ..... \$15.00  
 ACTIVE DUTY-PER YEAR ..... \$10.00  
 LIFE ..... \$100.00\*

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:**

ENROLLMENT FOR ..... YEARS= ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 RE-ENROLLMENT FOR ..... YEARS= ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANNUAL RENEWAL FOR ..... YEARS= ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROCESSING FEE ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER PROCESSING FEE ..... \$4.00\*\* SUB-TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Life Membership may be paid for in a single payment, or up to four annual payments of \$25.00 each.  
 \*\* This fee will cover the costs associated with purchasing, preparing and mailing enrollment documents, as well as the printing and mailing of a Manchu Association Membership Roster.

Credit \_\_\_\_\_ for this New Enrollment

In addition to enrolling me in the national Manchu Association, also sign me up for the Second Indianhead Division Association, as follows:

REGULAR MEMBER ..... \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY ..... \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ..... \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 LIFE MEMBER ..... \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SUB-TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

**M**ake check payable to "9<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt (MANCHU) Association," and mail together with this completed application to:  
 125 Maine Rd. Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004, and Keep Up The Fire!

Return Service Requested

125 Maine Rd.  
 Plattsburgh, NY 12903-4004

**(MANCHU) ASSOCIATION**  
**NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 BALLSTON SPA, NY  
 PERMIT NO. 61