

MANCHU DRAGON TALES

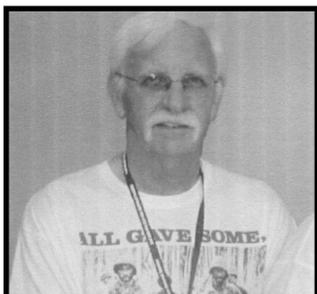


NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Manchu) Association U.S. Army



ISSUE NO. 41 NOVEMBER, 2011 <http://www.manchu.org/regiment/association.htm> E-MAIL: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to express my feelings to you and hope you have a great reunion. It is always good to reunite with friends and men you have served with. The bonding that was made years ago has a place in our hearts today. The comradery among vets is always so strong. I know

that there will be laughter, rehashing of patrols and guard duty, and a few tears. Over the years the hurt is still there but most of us have moved on but memories are not forgotten. Just remember that the time that you served in Viet Nam was another page in your book of life. Take time to remember your fallen comrades and lift a glass in memory of them.

As you know, the MANCHUS are one of the greatest fighting units in the history of the USA. They are one of the oldest active units today. I am proud to have served with such a prestigious Regiment. Whenever it got rough, they sent in the 9th, because they knew they would get the job done. I hope you are as proud, too.

I was planning on attending your reunion but other commitments kept me from this. Hopefully our separate units can become 1 major MANCHU unit. Regardless where you served we are still MANCHUS.

I would like to thank Willy for his website with all of the history that is provided. Keep up the good work. Ron Price is the 4/9 liaison. We will be working together to try to achieve a closer relationship between the groups. If you have any ideas or thoughts get them to Ron.

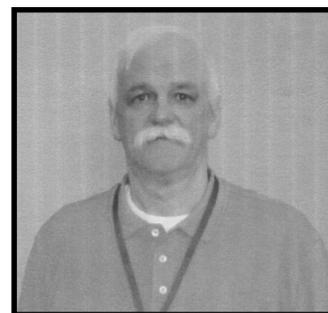
As President of the MANCHU Association, I hope that you have a great time in D.C. Enjoy the time you have together. As Veterans we need this bonding. My thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one of you. Have a MANCHU time!

I will leave you with a famous quote from the late Col. Liscum, KEEP UP THE FIRE!

Roger Dyson
PH. 1-309-663-7002
E-Mail: dmzmanchu9@frontier.com

Comments and Updates From the Secretary

First off I would like to extend my apologies to all members if you couldn't get a hold of me or things got all fouled up. I had a couple of surgeries and was out of commission for a while then went out of state after that and didn't have my computer to keep in touch and then I have moved on top of everything so you can see that things have been



hectic to say the least and regrettably I had to miss the reunion, so a thousand apologies if you were affected by all of this.

I did have the pleasure of visiting (which I think is the holy grail of the MANCHUS) MADISON BARRACKS IN SACKETS HARBOR NEW YORK we were stationed there from 1810 until we were attached to the 2nd Division in WWI there is so much of our history there, we have 5 monuments commemorating several conflicts that have been there even the bell from the Balangiga conflict which was taken by the 2nd Division and swept away to Korea which should be returned to its former resting place where it was intended to be. The 9th also has a Military Cemetery where a lot of 9th Inf soldiers are buried. I also got to meet the town historians Robert and Jeannie Brennan who have an amazing collection of artifacts and articles of the ninth and let me peruse all of it.

One of the admin things to talk about is every newsletter we put out on the average 30 come back with no forwarding address. It is a simple fact that if you do not notify us with a new address change you will not receive a newsletter so don't complain to the Chaplain because it is entirely YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to let us know you have moved. Enough said about this subject.

We are moving in another dimension and era of the MANCHUS we would like to go Electronic with the newsletters so we are asking for opinions on this subject (good or bad idea) you can e-mail me your thoughts on

Continued, page 6

Manchu Brothers...Past-Present-Future

I would like to re-introduce myself to all the men of the 9th Infantry Regiment (Manchu) Association....it has been awhile since I have been active in any events related to my membership or any Veterans organization. This was primarily due to demands of my business life, as well as later health issues. Well, I have recently left the business world and retired; and after a long battle, my cancer continues to remain in remission. Both have become Blessings for my family and myself.

As some of you may know, if you look on the inside of the front page of the Dragon Tales, I remain listed as the 4/9 Manchu Liaison Officer. To review, here is the definition of a Liaison Officer...."He is responsible for ensuring communication and cooperation between 2 or more entities by serving as an official go-between for the officers and members of each organization. His duty is to ensure coordination on matters to achieve unity of effort, and to be sure that coordinated measures achieve synchronized results!"

In a sense, every member of an organization acts as a liaison focusing on the betterment of the association. But a Liaison Officer gives the organization a point man to help lead the efforts. As most of us have walked point before, you know it is a tough job, but you know that the men behind you will keep their eyes open as well, and they will always be there to cover your back.

Now I have the time and strength to once again assume my duties as Liaison Officer. So I reached out for Pres. Roger Dyson, and we had an open discussion about both organizations...The 9th Inf Regiment Assoc.and the 4/9 Inf Manchu (Vietnam) Assoc. I appreciated the mutual respect we had for each others opinions, as we found common ground to form a basis for future dialogues concerning the organizations. I informed him that I would be attending the Vietnam reunion, and extended him an invitation to attend. He said he had considered it already, but had a conflict in his schedule. So I ask if he wanted to address the organization, & I would be pleased to read it in his absence. And he did send me an open letter to the Association, which I read to the officers & members at the reunion business meeting. I want to thank Roger for his thoughtful words, and his best wishes to have a "Manchu Time" (which we did!!). I was especially encouraged by his remark that..."Regardless of where you served, we are still Manchus!" And at his request, I sought out and received input from some of the men of the 4/9 Inf Manchu (Vietnam). The thoughts and ideas were respectful as well as informative, and you will be hearing more on that in the near future.

When the 4/9 Infantry Manchu (Vietnam) Association was formed...it was because of a website that Robert "Willy" Dixon created as a forum for the Veterans of Vietnam to find each other, to connect once again with our Brothers in Arms. The first reunion was a small get together of just a few guys, but since then, the website and the organization has grown to where at the 14th Reunion (Sept 2011) there were over 350 Men and their families in attendance in

Washington D.C. We conducted a ceremony at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with a reading of the names of our Fallen Vietnam Brothers, and a placing of a wreath at the Memorial. We had the honor of having the current CO of the 4th Bat/9th Inf in attendance, as well as their Color Guard from Ft Lewis. If you have not yet checked out the website, I urge you to go to visit it: www.manchu.org and read the comments from President Larry James, as well as the review and pics of the reunions.

There is also a link on the website for the active 4/9 Manchu Warriors. They are keeping the honor and tradition of the Regiment alive and well. The 4/9 Vietnam Assoc. has established a strong and on-going bond with our current Manchu Brothers. The Vietnam Manchus have participated in, and have given support, to many of the programs and events for our Present Manchu Men and their families. The Past Manchus have been represented there to send them off to war, as well as to celebrate their triumphant return. So check out their website as well. The common bond of the 9th Regiment is strong and runs deep for all of us!

I first joined the 9th Inf Assoc. in the early '80s after reading about it in a military publication...I was the 203rd member to join. Then later, I became a Life Member. Why...because of the men that I met at those early reunions. While none were from Vietnam, we were all Manchus, and Comrades in Arms. I recall one of the first reunions I attended, there were 6 of us guys sitting at a table, and I was listening to the 3 WWII men discussing their time in battle, and then to the 2 men from Korea. And I found that we all shared many of the same experiences...good & bad, that war brings to a soldier. But the one thing that was the very essence of our being, that transcended time and place, that which would remain with us forever, was that we were ALL Manchu Brothers. And that there is a code we live by...Duty, Honor, Country...and to always "Keep Up the Fire"

I think you see a common thread...we are ALL extremely Proud of the Heritage of the 9th Infantry Regiment, and are Honored to be part of that heritage. And as it should be, the Guidon of the Fighting Ninth has been passed down from generation to generation of Manchus...from the War of 1812, through every major conflict this country has fought, and now to the Iraq/Afgan War on Terror. The Men of the 9th Inf Regiment have always stood united, shoulder to shoulder, and served with Bravery and Gallantry. Let us always remember...we are ALL Manchus...Past, Present, and Future!!

I look forward to working with, and ask for the assistance of, each member of both associations. I want your input, thoughts and ideas, as well as your support, to help guide for the betterment of all. We Past Manchus are task to maintain the Legacy, History and Traditions of the 9th Infantry Regiment for Future Manchu Veterans.

Keep Up the Fire

Ron Price

4/9 Manchu Liaison Officer

Proud Veteran of the Fighting Ninth Inf Regiment

Business Meeting Minutes August 27, 2011

The business meeting was called to order by President Roger Dyson. Chuck Groff, 2nd Vice President led us in the Pledge of Alligance and a moment of silent prayer.

In absence of Larry Ritter our Sec/Treasure, Gil Blue, Past President recorded the minutes. Officers in attendance were Wally Baxendale, 1st Vice President, Chuck Groff 2nd Vice President and Gil Blue, Past President.

There were 12 members in attendance at the meeting. Some members did not attend the meeting. In attendance besides the officers: Glynn Raby, Earl Blouse, Robert Coltrain, Max Tadlock, Joe Johnson, Jack Woodall, Wayne Steffens and Robyn Ellis.

The President gave the financial report. As of August 2011 there is \$18,924 in the checking account and \$50,000 in a CD. The members wanted to know if we needed all of that amount in the checking account. It was recommended that enough be kept in the account to cover operating expenses. CD's with alternating rollovers should be looked into. A motion was made by Robert Coltrain, and seconded by Earl Blouse, that Larry be advised and authorized to reinvest Manchu funds as advised and recommended. Motion passed. Roger will discuss this with Larry.

Gil Blue was concerned if the items that we sell are priced that we are recovering our cost. The group recommended that Roger discuss this with Larry and get back to the group.

Chuck Groff made a motion to give a donation to the Family Support Group of the Manchus at Ft. Lewis. One thousand dollars was a suggested amount but not to exceed. It was seconded by Max Tadlock. Motion passed. Larry may have to contact Dante to find what was given in the past.

Some discussion on what it would take to set up our newsletter by e-mail. The 2nd Div. has been doing this for a few years and it seems to be working. It was recommended that the Sec. look into this.

Roger discussed that the Manchus donate \$1000.00 to the 2nd Indianhead Scholarship Fund. Discussion: Members would like to keep this for a Manchu applicant. This was agreed upon by all. There were members present that their children and grandchild had received scholarships and were very grateful. Gil Blue made a motion to contribute \$1000.00 to the 2nd Indianhead Scholarship fund with preference to a Manchu applicant. It was seconded by Wayne Steffens. Motion passed. Chuck Groff recommended that Roger and Jack Woodall, Scholarship Chairman, look into the wording of the donation to cover the Manchu Association. This motion did not cover whether it would be an annual contribution or just a onetime thing. This will be discussed at next year's meeting.

Discussion of the Bells of Balangiga was brought to the floor by the President. Larry Ritter has been to Madison Barracks in Sackets Harbor, N.Y. and met with Mike Campbell. Mike says the town is interested in getting one of the bells back to its original base there. The bell is now

in Korea. This has been a hot topic because the Philippians would like to have the bells back in their possession. There are a total of 3 bells. The other 2 are at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Gil Blue has seen the bells on different occasions. The Manchus were stationed at Madison Barracks from October 1892 to April 1905. There is a stone water tower with a plaque listing 238 names of the 9th Infantry Regiment enlisted men and 9 officers who were casualties of the Cuban War, the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion in China. Our Sec has pictures of this plaque. The tower is need of repair to the roof but there is no fund setup at this time according to Mike Campbell. A rough estimate would be \$25,000.00.

It was recommended that the President and the Sec. follow up on this project and report to the membership when anything would arise. Some of the members thought we could be opening a can of worms concerning the bells.

Robyn Ellis from Texas spoke of the refurbishing of Ft. Sam Houston. For the records he said " Ft. Sam Houston is not closed." The contact is Joan Gaither at 1-210-824-1917 or Robin Ellis at 1-210-527-9512.

The President mentioned that next year, elections would be held. Anyone wanting to be an officer contact Larry Ritter or Himself.

No further discussion of old or new business. Chuck Groff asked that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned.

Gil Blue, Past President

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

For the February 2012 newsletter

All info to the secretary by Jan. 15, 2012

All info to the printer by Jan.. 22, 2012

Newsletter mail date - Jan. 31, 2012

All information can be transmitted to me by the following:

US Mail: Larry Ritter, 3962 Rt. 9 Apt. 401, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Telephone/Fax: (518) 310-1170

E-Mail: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

DO YOU KNOW

Hello fellow Manchus. Let's begin with, did everyone find a copy of their DD 214 or Discharge Papers, make copies and most importantly give a copy to a family member and explain the importance of these documents. If not, please do so ASAP. You will need them to obtain the following benefits you have earned.

This months conversation has to do with: "BURIAL AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS". If you were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable you along with spouses and dependent children may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. Let's get started.

Burial in VA National Cemeteries.

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible Veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a head-stone or marker and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, benefits include an American flag and military honors. This is where prior planning is important for you and your spouse.

If your desire is to be buried in a VA cemetery you must be aware of the procedures involved, your funeral director should be able to assist in having your wishes fulfilled. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made under previous programs. The Veteran and spouse share the same site. Normally the VA does not conduct burials on weekends, good union benefits, weekends off. Cremation is available at some cemeteries, again prior planning is recommended.

Headstones and Markers.

Veterans are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery - National, State Veterans or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. Headstones or markers may be provided even if the grave is also marked with a private one.

Flat markers are available in bronze, granite or marble. Upright headstones come in granite or marble. In national cemeteries the style chosen will be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are available to mark columbaria used for cremated remains.

Headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the deceased, branch of service and year of birth and death. They also may be inscribed with other optional information, space permitting, such as rank, overseas duty, ETC.

If a privately-purchased headstone or marker already exists in a private cemetery, a medallion indentifying the deceased as a veteran can be obtained. Current information regarding medallion information is located at www.cem.va.gov.

Burial Flags.

VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize:

- Veterans who served during wartime or after Jan. 31, 1955
- Veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the reserve or N.G.

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the Veterans death is from service-connection, in such cases person who bore the Veterans burial expenses may claim reimbursement. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

Burial Allowance

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral allowance for Veterans who at time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay. If death occurred at a VA facility, VA contracted nursing home or a State Veterans nursing home may qualify for allowance.

Plot Allowance

VA will pay a plot allowance of \$300, see above.

Military Honors

Upon request, DoD will provide military honors consisting of folding and presentation of flag and the playing of "taps". Detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces with at least one from the deceased's branch of service. Arrangements must be made by the funeral director only, by calling (1-877-MIL-HONR). Military organizations, VFW, etc. may assist in providing a final rifle salute.

This is a lot to consider, so take your time and make a decision both you and your spouse will be happy with. Once you've decided what is best for you let a family member living outside your home know your wishes. You can pre-plan everything with your local funeral director and don't forget those important discharge papers, without them securing the benefits you've earned are difficult to obtain.

SECRETARY/TREASURER*Continued from Page 1*

this and the EXEC BOARD will determine if it's a good or bad time to initiate this. I also have a change of a new telephone number look for it in this edition.

I would like to acknowledge a Manchu brother Bill Drake who enlisted on March 4, 1940

Whom I've had the pleasure of becoming a friend to. He is one of the original WWII Manchus and had a distinguished career achieving the rank of LT. COL. and flew his 30 missions for the Army Air Corps then volunteered to fly with the OSS on his 6th mission was shot down over Greece and was the only survivor. Bill has written a book detailing his experiences of trying to get out of Greece taking over 6 months to arriving into friendly territory. The name of his book is DOWN IN GREECE and is filled with a lot of intrigue and is very detailed on what went on in his quest to be free. In future editions I will submit some of his passages. KEEP UP THE FIRE LARRY R.

NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

3962 RT.9 APT.401 PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 310-1170

Executive Board Meeting Minutes August 27, 2011

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Roger Dyson. Those in attendance were: Wally Baxendale, 1st Vice President, Chuck Groff, 2nd Vice President, Gil Blue, Past Pres. and Joe Johnson. In absence of Larry Ritter, Sec/Treas. Gil Blue recorded the minutes.

Financial report was read. As of Aug. 2011 there was \$18,924 in checking and \$50,000 in a CD. It was discussed whether we wanted to leave the \$18,924 in the checking account. It was discussed that Larry look into investing a portion of it. We do need to have money for operating expenses. Roger and Larry will look into this.

Gil Blue was concerned if the postal rate was enough to cover shipping of Manchu items. He also asked if the items were being sold for enough to cover the cost of said items.

Chuck Groff asked if we would give a donation to the Family Support Group for the Manchus at Ft. Lewis. Roger said he would talk to Larry to find out what our donation was in the past. We may need to contact Dante.

Roger asked if there was an interest in donating \$1000.00 to the 2nd Div. Scholarship Fund with preference being given to a Manchu applicant. All were in favor. This will be discussed at the business meeting.

Roger reported that Larry and he had been talking with Mike Campbell in Sackets Harbor N.Y. The Manchus were stationed there in the early 1900's. Our Sec. has been there and has taken pictures of the monument on the water tower. They are interested in getting one of the bells from the Philippines that were in the possession of the Manchus. One of the bells is in Korea. This was the original bell that was in their possession at Madison Barracks. The concrete base is still in existence. The other 2 bells are at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Gill said he had seen the bells there. The group decided to discuss this at the business meeting.

Executive meeting was adjourned.

Gil Blue, Past President

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 9th Inf Regt (MANCHU) Association, 3962 Rt. 9 Apt. 401, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. When writing your check, please add \$7.00 for packing and postage, except for the Membership Roster. Thanks.

Quantity	Item Description	Unit Price
_____	#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 th Infantry Partial Coat of Arms Patch, 3 X 4"	\$ 6.00
_____	#5-9 th Infantry Regulation Size Insignia Pin, 1 X 1"	\$ 6.00
_____	#6-9 th 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 th 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 th 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 \$ _____
 SUB-TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NEW MEMBER PROCESSING FEE \$4.00**

*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 _____

Make check payable to "9th Inf Regt (MANCHU) Association," and mail together with this completed application to:
 3962 Rt. 9 Apt. 401, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, and Keep Up The Fire!

Return Service Requested

Plattsburgh, NY 12901
 3962 Rt. 9 Apt. 401,

(MANCHU) ASSOCIATION
NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

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