

MANCHU DRAGON TALES



NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

(Manchu) Association U.S. Army

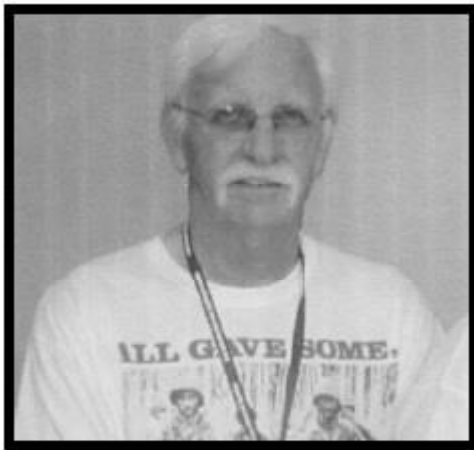


ISSUE NO. 56 Winter 2019

www.manchuassociation.org

E-MAIL: 69larryritter70@gmail.com

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



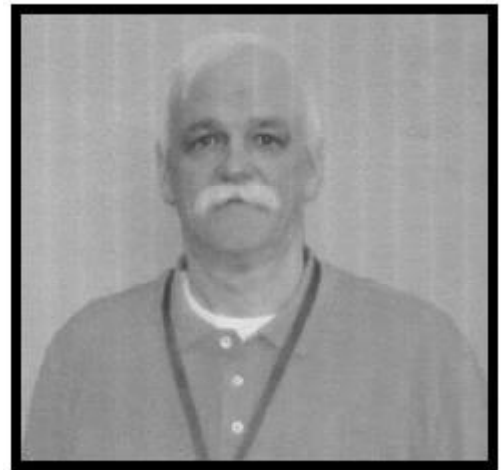
To My Fellow Manchus,

Here it is 2019 already. The holidays have come and gone for another year. This past year has been a busy one for me. Did not do as much speaking to groups as in the past. I was able to attend a remembrance service for one of my high school friends. Marine Pfc Robert Burke was killed in Viet Nam 50 years ago this past May. He was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. It was a great service.

I was not able to attend the annual reunion in Jacksonville because of a conflict. In September my high school basketball team was inducted into the schools Hall of Fame. We are the only team in our school's history to go undefeated in regular season play. Our record was 26 wins with 1 loss. It took 52 years to be recognized but we got it done.

continued on page 3 ...

COMMENTS AND UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARY



Hello again from the sunshine state.

We made it through another year of good fortune.

We have had a few new members join up to this great organization; some people from the sixties era (DMZ) which is wonderful to see.

the Imjin Scout site has been donated to the museum of military history. In case anything happens it will live on. It's still being processed, so hang on. It will make its debut. It has also received a face lift and all the files have been updated.

I had the sad duty to carry out an old friend and buddy to his grave. I have known Ned Ness for 50 years. We met at Camp Wentzel and became good buddies. Keep up the fire, old friend!

continued on page 3 ...

ORGANIZATION REVISED & OFFICIAL

PresidentRoger Dyson
 1st Vice PresidentCharles Groff
 2nd Vice PresidentRonald K. Price
 Sec/Treas.....Larry Ritter
 Chaplain.....Rev. James L. O'Brien
 Sergeant At Arms.....Mike Ardoin
 Parliamentarian.....Frank Kraft
 Historians.....Raymond A. Tarbusi
 Rolfe L. Hillman, III, Al Castilio and Larry Ritter
 4/9 Manchu Liasison.....Ronald K. Price
 Public Information OfficeLarry Ritter

MANCHU ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
 Association President; Members,
 Association 2nd Vice President, Past
 Presidents, Gil Blue, Ken Toeppe, 1SG
 (Ret), William Ditzhazy; Past Secretaries/
 Treasurers, Dante Degni, CSM Riley Miller,
 Oscar Fettig, Raymond Tarbusi, Wayne E.
 Stephens; and the following COMMITTEE
 CHAIRMEN: Constitution & Bylaws, Jack
 Woodall; Membership: Roger Dyson;
 Reunion, Charles Groff; Sunshine, Rev.
 James O'Brien; Budget, Larry Ritter/
 Roger Dyson.


MANCHU DEVOTIONAL

2019

The New Year is upon us. I hope with God's blessing, it will be a great one for all our veterans, active or retired. Our commander-in-chief, prays and praise's, those who have chose to defend us, our lives and our Constitution. I can only hope that this year will be a good one for all of us, because we are at a critical time and we need God's help and guidance to keep us strong.

Keep of the Faith and Keep up the Fire.

Chaplin James "Obie" O'Brien

MANCHU MISSION STATEMENT

We members of the 9th Inf. Regt. (Manchu) Assoc. United States Army, pledge to preserve the history and name of the 9th 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).

... continued from front page (... President)

Nine of the 12 members were in attendance with the other 3 deceased. Six of us served our county in the military.

As most of you know the Balangiga bells from the Philippines have been returned to their country. The bell at Camp Casey and the 2 from Warren Air Base in Wyoming are back on their home soil. There was a lot of differences about this. Touchy subject so I am not going to dwell on it. The Liscum Bowl is now at Ft. Carson Colorado. Stop and see it if you are in the Colorado Springs area. The 4th Bn. 9th Inf Reg that is active. That is where they are stationed.

For a number of year, the National Korean War Museum was to be built in Springfield, Illinois. It started out in Tuscola, Ill then moved to the closed Chanute Air Force base. Then to Springfield. Artifacts were collected and fund raisers to raise money were held. Suddenly, the doors were locked, and items put in storage. Rumor is that the Museum is going to be in New York City. I am trying to find out where the money and items are. I will try to keep you up to date.

On a sad note the Indianhead Association lost along time member recently. Jim Warrender passed away Dec. 29 in Cicero, Indiana. Jim was President 1999-2000 of the Indianhead. He was a mainstay of the association. Jim was a great guy and a dear friend. I will miss him as so will many of you.

Next reunion will be in Arizona next fall. Hope we can all attend. We need to get more members involved.

Keep Up The Fire!

Roger Dyson, President

... continued from front page (... Secretary)

We still are trying our best to get new members to sign up. It's a struggle.

If you hadn't heard, the Liscum Bowl has been returned back to the Ninth after being held captive by the division, and resides in Fort Carson, Colorado, where the Ninth is now stationed. Also, all three bells from the Philippine Insurrection have been sent back to the islands from where they were taken from (the Balangiga Samar Massacre in 1901).

Well that's about all I have for now. I hope all is well with all Manchus.

Larry R.

Keep up the Fire!

The “AFTER-ACTION REPORT”

- France WWI Tour November 2018

by Rolfe L. Hillman III

This is an after-action report on my WW1 centennial tour of the French battlefields, and the centennial armistice celebration.

On Monday 4 November 2018, I was a member of the WW1 “*Armistice 1918*” tour of the WW1 battlefields conducted by Military Historical Tours (MHT). The other tour members consisted of several recent US Army veterans, a variety of retired US Marine Corps(USMC) veterans, and other interested parties. One couple was there to see where the wife’s uncle fought in the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

The tour director was the son of a retired USMC veteran and historian/tour director. He’s conducted the tour several times after replacing his father. The tour historian, SSG(RET) Steve Girard/9th MANCHU warrior (with the belt buckle), is the preeminent historian of the *9th U.S. Infantry Regiment/MANCHUs – 2nd US Infantry Division (2ID)- “2nd to None/Indianheads”* and the USMC’s *4th Brigade (5th & 6th Regiments)* attached to the *2ID*. MHT is run by retired Marines and thus the emphasis on the *2ID*. We had an ex-pat American as our translator.

We left Paris on the morning of the November 4th, and drove to the Armistice site where the peace treaty was signed, and saw a replica of the passenger railcar for the armistice ceremony. Adolph Hitler had the original car burned after he forced the French to sign the WW2 surrender.

Following the tour of the museum etc, we drove southeast to the Soissons battlefield.. on the way to the battlefield, we passed the “Bois-de-Foret de Retz” forest where the Division had to force-march in a nighttime blinding rainstorm without their full complement of food, ammunition, crew-served weapons, and maps or terrain guides. Early on the 18 July, the 9th and the division left the forest and charged out across wheat fields under withering fire, and then from the entrenched German bunkers/positions in the Vauxcastille-Maison-Neuve Ravine. But the *2ID*’s combined units, the *9th Inf*, the *23rd Inf*, and the *5th Marines* overwhelmed the shocked Germans and advanced eight(8) miles towards Soissons. On their left flank, the French Combined African division (*1st Moroccan Division* with some *French Foreign Legion* units attached), and the USA’s *1st ID* (“Big Red One”) lagged behind the operational time lines.

The 9th fought hard for 2 days but had to be pulled off the line because of the heavy casualties: 19 officers killed, 33 wounded, and 1 missing (53), and 182 men killed, 1065 wounded, and 58 missing casualties (1305) with a total of 1,358 casualties in the regiment.

After looking out over the wheatfield, we drove into Vierzy which was the extent of the assault. The *2ID* has a boulder with the Indianhead crest on it.

Soissons was the war’s turning point: the Germans were unable to mount another offensive operation, and the Allies began their counter-attacks and own offensive operations.

continued on next page...

... continued from previous page (... After Action Report)

That evening we drove to the Oise-Aisne American Battlefield Monument Commission's cemetery where the American manager of the cemetery, a retired USMC Sergeant Major, and his French staff conducted taps etc; this cemetery has the remains of the American poet, Joyce Kilmer – SGT who was assigned to the New York 69th Infantry Regiment in the intelligence battalion.

That evening we drove to Reims for the night where our hotel overlooked the Chartes Cathedral.

The next morning we drove to the Chateau-Thierry Monument and overlooked the town and the battlefield. Then onto the opening phase location of the attack on Belleau Woods by the Marine's 4th Brigade. We also toured the location of the furthest advance of the day. In the afternoon, we toured the rest of the Belleau



Wood campaign's terrain including the infamous forest where the "Iron Mike" monument is, and the infamous "wheat fields." Earlier, we stopped in the Belleau village where the French bulldog fountain is: water tasted pretty good. We toured the primary cemetery where the American Belleau Woods casualties are laid to rest: Aisne-Marne.. the tour historian pointed out his great-grandfather's grave.

The next day we left Reims after touring the cathedral and drove to the site of the October Blanc Mont battle, and Sommepy Monument for the battle. Blanc Mont was a crucial side offensive for the Allies as part of the kick-off of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. GEN Pershing loaned the 2ID, and another American division, a rookie national guard unit, to the French because of the importance of the overall offensive strategy and because the French had been unable to kick the Germans out during the previous 4 years of fighting. The 2ID and the 4th Brigade got battered again especially the Marine's 5th Regiment. Because of the losses, the division was pulled off the line and sent to the rear for re-fitting and replacements. It didn't go into action again until the final week of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in early November.

That part of the tour included MAJ GEN Lejeune/USMC's headquarters for the battle. We then drove to Verdun.

continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page (... After Action Report)



On Wednesday morning, we drove to the ST Mihiel Monument and overlooked the battlefield, followed by a tour of the ST Mihiel Cemetery. the *2ID/9th* etc were on the right flank driving north up the salient. Then driving in the rain to the part of the Argonne Forest where the “Lost Battalion” was trapped under fire for a week.. there’s a monument there to the battalion/division.. we did not go to the terrain where Corporal Alvin York(CMOH) had his adventure. In the late afternoon, we went to a Pennsylvania National Guard division monument in the village where Queen

Marie Antoinette was betrayed at a local hotel, and turned over to the revolutionary forces to be sent back to Paris for her sad fate.. the hotel is pointed out. Then on to Verdun for the night. We stayed in a hotel right on the river.

The next morning we left for the location of the Battle of Montfaucon and its monument. A rookie American division was assigned to capture the fortified mountain but got slaughtered due in part because of the refusal of another American Division to coordinate their attacks... this caused a major political problem after the war because of the heavy casualties and the failure to secure the mountain in time for the rest of the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Then onto the Montsec Monument. We then arrived at the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery which is the largest WW1 cemetery. LT Frank Luke (CMOH)[point of interest, Congressional Medal of Honor winners’ graves are marked in gold lettering] is buried there (along with my great-uncle who was killed in action of 29 September 1918 while assigned to the *93rd Infantry Division* (an Afro-American division loaned to the French). Late in the afternoon, we arrived at the Verdun battlefield and toured Fort Douamont.

On Thursday evening, November 8, we returned to Verdun where the group had a joint dinner and celebrated the Marine Corps’s birthday.

On Friday, we toured the French National Museum at Verdun and then drove back to Reims. On the way back to Reims, we stopped at the field overlooking the Meuse River. This was the point of the furthest American advance of the offensive when elements of the *5th Marine Regiment*, the *2nd Engineer Regiment*, and the *9th* crossed the Meuse under fire on November 10. The division has a boulder with the crest at the crossing point.

On Saturday, we departed for the return to Paris in the rain. We stopped at a French War Museum for WWI. We arrived back in Paris later in the afternoon and toured the city before returning to the hotel which is located three blocks from the Eiffel Tower. Sunday morning the group walked 2 miles in the rain to the Champs-Elysses (sp?) to see the armistice centennial celebration with the French Air Force flyover and the bells ringing at 1100.

continued on next page...

... continued from previous page (... After Action Report)

Monday morning several of the group walked to Invalides (in the rain again). Saw Napoleon's Tomb and toured the museum. Monday I took the subway to the Arc De Triomphe because it had been blocked off for the ceremony.

[On a side-note, the President and the Secret Service got an unjustified attack for not going to the Belleau Wood cemetery... the local two-lane roads leading to the cemetery & ceremony would have stopped all local traffic for hours given no notice to the local French and National police to set-up security given the lack of time/notice.. the Marine Corps chopper pilot had earlier cancelled the flight because of the weather (rain and fog).. the president's political opponent & evil lying media critics took a cheap shot for political reasons and disregarded the Secret Service's call. SEC DEF and Marine Corps leadership did the honors.]



KEEP UP THE FIRE !

Hey My Fellow Manchu Brothers,

I am very Proud of our Ninth Infantry Regiment Association, and I am Honored to again be our 2nd Vice President. Our Associate Officers are very dedicated to our Manchus.

I am a Vietnam Combat Veteran and was with 4th/9th Inf Regiment, Co C as the 3rd Platoon SSGT. We were assigned to the 25th Infantry Division in the 3 Corps area. I am very pleased with our Duty in Nam, and extremely Proud of all our fellow Manchus who served our country over the years, and those Manchus who now serve our Country.

At present, I am also the Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 108 Cape Coral, Florida. And we are very dedicated to help our American Veteran Heroes who need assistance with life. Last year my DAV Chapter helped support 236 Veterans who needed help filing claims and needed financial assistance. We also helped Homeless Veterans to get a places to live. My DAV Office is located at the Southwest Florida Military Museum in Cape Coral, Fla. I'm blessed for the opportunity to help Veterans.

My Fellow Manchu Brothers, please feel free to contact a DAV Chapter Office in your area if you need support and help. You can check locations by state and city on the DAV National website at WWW.DAV.ORG, then contact DAV for assistance.

I thank you my Brother Manchus for joining our Association, and God Bless you for your service in the Ninth Infantry Regiment to serve our country and protect our citizens.

Ronald "Kase" Price

2nd VP Ninth Infantry Regiment Association, Life Member



KEEP UP THE FIRE !