

9th
U. S. Infantry
REGIMENT



1956

HISTORY

of the

9TH U. S. INFANTRY

The 9th United States Infantry Regiment is one of the oldest active units in the Army. The original authority permitting organization was an Act of July 16, 1798—157 years ago—when the creation of twelve new regiments was authorized. Tensions had arisen between the United States and France and the creation of these additional Armed Forces was deemed essential to the safety and preservation of the Union.

The Regiment itself came into physical existence in January, 1799, in Maryland and was composed primarily of Maryland volunteers. Its first commander is recorded as having been Lieutenant Colonel Josial Carville Hall. In early June, 1800, when the storm clouds occasioning its organization had passed, the 9th Infantry was disbanded.

The Fighting Ninth was again called into being to engage in the War of 1812. Organized in March of 1812 under the command of Colonel Simont Learned, New England volunteers constituted its main body. In about December of that year it joined the Army of the North at Burlington, Virginia and participated in engagements at York, Fort George, Sacketts Harbor, Chrystlers Field, Fort Erie and the Chippewa River. (An interesting historical fact is the immediate and continued success of the Federal Forces subsequent to the appearance of the Fighting Ninth.) Upon termination of hostilities, all units in the Army with a numerical designation of the number nine and above were eliminated during the reorganization of the Army under an Act of March 13, 1815. Accordingly, the 9th Infantry was again dissolved.

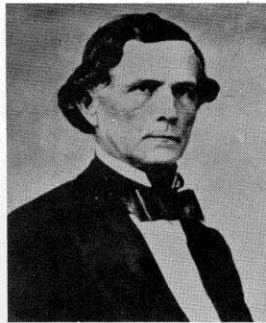
However, by April of 1847 the outbreak of the Mexican War had stretched existing forces to the breaking point. At that time, almost exactly 32 years after it had been disbanded, the 9th United States Infantry was again organized. Volunteers from Rhode Island and Massachusetts formed its nucleus. Upon arrival in Mexico, and after having been immediately dispatched to the center of the conflict, the then Fighting Ninth was active in the Battle of Padierna, Churubusco, the Valley of Mexico, and the bloody Battle of Chapultepec. The latter battle saw Colonel Truman B. Ransom, the Regimental Commander, killed while leading an assault upon the city. During the short time remaining before the end of the War, the 9th marched and fought to the very outskirts of Mexico City. Approximately five months later it was dispatched to quell disturbances in Pachuca, where it was engaged for an additional six months. Upon termination of service in Pachuca the tour in Mexico was closed and it returned to native soil, only to be released in August of 1848. The participation in Mexico, however, proved to be a continuation of traditions which already then existed.

The Manchu Regiment—the unit existing at the present time—was organized under authority of an Act of March 3, 1855, and on March 26, 1855, Headquarters was established at Fort Monroe, Virginia. The Regiment has uninterrupted service for a period of more than one hundred years since that date.

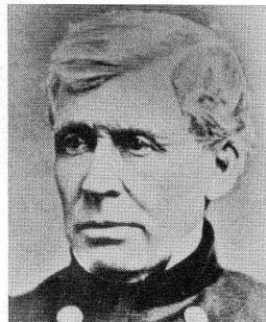
Immediately after reorganization, upon being transferred to the Western Frontier on December 15, 1855, the 9th United States Infantry began to revive the glory known to the units which had previously borne that designation. The vastness of the territory patrolled required decentralization during the many years the Regiment spent in the west. As a consequence, immediately after arrival various units were stationed at Fort Vancouver, Fort Steilacoom, and Fort Walla Walla, all in the Washington Territory. Subsequently, intermittent service was rendered on various portions of the



Colonel
TRUEMAN B. RAMSON
4-9-1847 — 9-13-1847



Colonel
JAMES M. WITHENS
Sept. 1847 — March 1848



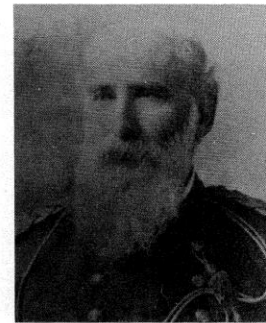
Colonel
GEORGE WRIGHT
1855 — 1865



Colonel
JOHN M. KING
July 1865 — Feb. 1882



Colonel
JAMES VAN VOAST
Feb. 1882 — April 1883



Colonel
JOHN S. MASON
April 1883 — Aug. 1888



Colonel
ALFRED L. HAUGH
Aug. 1888 — April 1890



Colonel
CHARLES G. BARTLETT
April 1890 — May 1896



Colonel
WILLIAM J. LYSTER
May 1896 — June 1897



Colonel
WILLIAM H. POWELL
June 1897 — April 1899



Colonel
E. H. LISCUM
April 1899 — July 1900



Colonel
CHARLES ROBE
July 1900 — July 1903

Montana, Nebraska, Idaho, Utah, the Dakotas, and Oregon. No less than four hundred skirmishes were fought with the numerous Indian tribes while on these stations. As a consequence, battle honors for Washington, Wyoming, and the infamous Little Big Horn were awarded. In addition, on September 26, 1867, a Company was dispatched to Sitka, Alaska, to assist in operating the newly acquired Territory. The unit, Company F, arrived in Sitka on October 10, 1867.

The actual history of the 9th Infantry during the Civil War is hazy, and the extent of specific accomplishments not as definite as other portions of the past. Nevertheless, its integrated elements are established as a portion of the Union Forces, and their effectiveness may be visualized by referring to the honors awarded for Murfreesboro, Chickanauga, Chattanooga, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Atlanta.

By 1892, after years of activity on the frontier, garrison duties at Madison Barracks, New York, were finally accorded the battle-weary men. This respite from combat was relatively short lived, and on April 16, 1898, the Fighting Ninth was committed to the protection of federal interests, when ordered to active duty in Cuba. During the ensuing campaign the 9th Infantry again distinguished itself. The assault of San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898, and the Battle of Santiago are names which live in the memory of the Manhus as marking bitter battles, where victory was purchased with blood and courage. On August 15, 1898, after the Cuban fighting had ended, the 9th Infantry returned to native shores and Madison Barracks. Shortly thereafter, when the Philippine Insurrection developed, the Regiment was immediately (February 28, 1899) dispatched to the area, and by March 17th of that year had embarked upon a tour which would carry them not only through the patient, yet costly fighting in the Philippines, but would also see them earn the title, "MANCHU."

Immediately upon arrival in Manila the Fighting Ninth moved on line. It was later detailed responsibility for the elimination of Insurgents on the area of Luzon. After innumerable small, yet fierce engagements, the area detailed was considered cleared, when on June 15, 1900, General Macabulos, the most powerful enemy then at large, surrendered.

In the meantime, foreign dignitaries and missionaries (including Americans) were being subjected to the terrors of a rebellion in China. On June 16, 1900, the day after the surrender of General Macabulos, it was directed that a regiment be prepared for entry into China. The 9th Infantry was chosen for the mission and on June 17, 1900, was ordered to prepare for departure. June 26, 1900, was the date of embarkation from Manila. The destination was Taku. The Fighting Ninth was groomed to earn the treasured title, "Manchu."

After landing at Taku, the trek towards Tientsin was begun under the direction of Colonel Emerson H. Liscum. The assault on Tientsin was accomplished on July 13th—a day of memory for the entire Regiment. On that date Colonel Liscum was killed in action, and, while dying, gave birth to the motto: "Keep up the fire."

While leading the assault on the walls of the city, Colonel Liscum was mortally wounded. When struck he had possession of the Regimental Colors. (He had recovered them from the wounded color-bearer.) After passing the colors to an unidentified member of the unit, and while falling, he directed the members of his Fighting Ninth to "Keep Up The Fire" on the seemingly impenetrable walls. The assault went forward with renewed vigor, and was completed. As a result of the same action the Regiment acquired its foremost trophy, the treasured Liscum Bowl.

After withdrawal from China, the Manchu Regiment (with the exception of one Company detained in Pekin as Legation Guard) immediately returned to the Philippines.



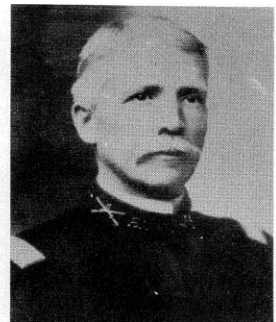
Colonel
JAMES REGAN
July 1903 — June 1906



Colonel
H. S. FOSTER
6-25-1906 — 10-6-1906



Colonel
EDGAR B. ROBERTSON
October 1906 — October 1907



Colonel
CHARLES J. CRANE
Oct, 1907 — April 1916



Colonel
HARRY R. LEE
Aug. 1917 — March 1918



Colonel
L. S. UPTON
April 1918 — July 1918



Colonel
GEORGE W. STUART
Aug. 1918 — Oct. 1918



Colonel
R. O. VAN HORN
Oct. 1918 — May 1919

Upon arrival in Manila in June, 1901, it was assigned to Cabayog, Samar, a new trouble spot. The duty at this small island produced many of the bloodiest encounters during the insurrection. In one of these battles more than eighty men were ambushed. All except four were either killed or wounded. Nevertheless, by May, 1902, the island was cleared and the Regiment returned home. When they sailed from Manila on May 27, 1902, the Manchu troops carried with them not only the victories of China, but also campaign streamers for San Ysidro, Luzon (1899) (1900), Zapote River, Malolos, Tarlac, and Samar (1901).

In 1905 the 9th Infantry returned to the Philippines. The duty was not comparable to the original bloody campaigns, and in August, 1907, it was returned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. From April 1909 to July 1912 the Regiment spent a third tour in the Philippines.

Upon the entry of the United States into World War I, in 1917, the Manchu Regiment was again called to do battle upon foreign soil. It arrived in France in early October of the same year and was moved to the front shortly thereafter. The extensive activity of the 9th Infantry troops on the battlefields of France is established by the streamers awarded for battles at Lorraine, Ile de France, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne, where they met and defeated the elite of the German Armies. In addition, the Regiment received the Fourragere in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre as a result of two citations in the Orders of the French Army.

During its first encounter on French soil the Regiment became involved in the then static trench warfare in the Sous Sector Rouvrois. When subsequently moved to Chateau-Thierry, it met and stalled the forward surge on Paris. It was immediately endeared to the hearts of the French people, and won renewed respect and admiration of allies and adversaries. Later, during the involved campaign of the Meuse-Argonne sector, and in one of the final campaigns of the War, the 9th Infantry successfully spear-headed one of the most reckless and daring moves in the history of modern war—a cloak and dagger operation which is almost fantastic.

After capturing the edge of the Belval Forest on the afternoon of November 3, 1918, the Regiment immediately prepared to continue the surge into the enemy lines. At 1630 hours, during an intense rain and under the cover of darkness, the forward movement was begun with columns on either side of the only passable road through the wooded terrain. The movement necessitated passage directly through the main line of the enemy resistance, and carried within one hundred yards of artillery engaged in firing upon the Regiment's recently abandoned positions. Without disturbing those units it proceeded, silently intercepting and capturing enemy patrols and outposts as well as defensive positions often without firing a single shot. At 2330 hours the movement was completed and a perimeter established more than five miles to the rear of the "defending" German forces.

The German attempt to make Belval one of the fierce, slow defensive maneuvers was thwarted and their lines became utterly disorganized; yet, this was only one of three successful night moves or raids made by the Manchu organization within a period of days, and aided considerably in dealing a death blow to the then bewildered Boche. The bravado of the incident was overshadowed, except in military history, by the Armistice which immediately followed.

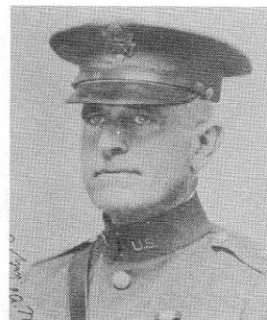
The spirit and courage of the Regiment during the entire Meuse-Argonne Campaign is displayed in figures. Upon entering the sector, the 9th was further under strength than any comparable unit of the Division; it suffered more casualties, had less sick, and more men present for duty at the end of the battles than any comparable unit within the Indianhead organization.



Colonel
ADNA R. CHAFFEE
July 1919 — Aug. 1919



Colonel
HARRIS PENDLETON
Sept. 1919 — July 1920



Colonel
PAUL A. WOLF
Aug. 1920 — March 1922



Colonel
EDWARD B. MITCHELL
3-10-1922 — 7-31-1922



Colonel
ROBERT G. McCLEAVE
Sept. 1924 — Sept. 1926



Colonel
H. A. RIPLEY
Dec. 1931 — Aug. 1934



Colonel
C. H. MASON
Sept. 1934 — Oct. 1936



Colonel
H. W. FLEET
Nov. 1936 — March 1939

Subsequent to the Armistice, Manchu troops marched into Germany as an occupying force. Occupation was terminated, however, and they were returned to the States in July and August, 1919—the fourth such return since the turn of the century.

For twenty-three years of peace, the longest non-combat period in its active history, the Regiment was stationed at Camp Travis and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. It remained at these bases until the entry into World War II.

In October 1942, extensive training and winter maneuvers were begun at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. A year later was embarkation date for Europe, with the arrival in Belfast, Ireland occurring on October 17, 1943. Training progressed in Ireland, and became more intensive in view of the impending invasion of the Continent. On D-Day plus 1, June 7, 1944, the Manchu Regiment again set foot on hostile soil on Omaha Beach, Normandy, and immediately moved forward to capture Rubercy. Continuing the pressure, within three days they had intercepted the main rail line between Cherbourg and Paris and had driven through the Cerisy Forest. After momentary reserve activity the 9th was called forward again and captured the town of St. Germain d'Elle. Within a short time thereafter it was spearheading a three day drive south to enter Tinchebray.

The Indianhead Division and the 9th Infantry was then relieved and moved from Normandy to the Brittany peninsula on August 18-19, 1944. It was on this peninsula, in the conquest of Brest, where some of the more courageous stories of the War were written.

Brest, located in one corner of the Peninsula, governed a large inlet and had been developed as a fortress. Undoubtedly, the city was to be held at all cost. Constant pressure was maintained on the defenses by the Indianhead, as well as other Allied units. On September 4th, however, the outer ring of the defense was broken during an engagement in which two-thirds of Company B, 9th Infantry was destroyed. The fierceness of the fighting may be further illustrated by the result of three days of gruelling combat—an advance of three hundred yards.

During the battle for Brest the 9th was responsible for the capture and destruction of two of the main strongholds in the line of defense. These successes were surmounted, however, when the Manchu warriors became the first Allied forces to burst into the city. The surrender of the North sector of Brest was to the Commanding Officer, 9th Infantry.

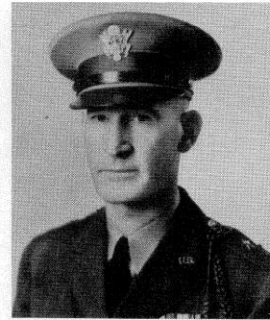
After Brest, we find the 9th Infantry across from the famed Siegfried Line in the Ardennes Forest sector. They proceeded forward with disdain, and pierced the titanic defense at Wehlerscheid Crossroads after bitter battles. The spot was later named "Heartbreak Crossroads" when the German winter counter-offensive broke through the Ardennes Forest in other locales. The 9th was withdrawn from its hard won "crossroads," and moved to the aid of the embattled Allied Forces.

In the days immediately following the withdrawal, during the "Battle of the Bulge," the Division and the Regiment performed one of the outstanding defensive stands in history. Operating as a "hinge" on the bulge, the Manchu Regiment during eighteen hours' fighting against overwhelming odds, and while facing hand picked German units, repulsed a key drive in the German thrust. Since the entire counter-offensive was dependent upon continued momentum, the maneuver faltered and Allied Forces were permitted to reorganize.

After American and Allied lines had been re-established, the Manchu Regiment once again spearheaded a drive towards the Siegfried Line, and "Heartbreak Crossroads." However, another unit was passed across their front, and the Regiment was not placed in the ironical position of being required to recapture that juncture, but moved through and began a dash across Germany towards Czechoslovakia.



Colonel
HARRISON C. BROWN
April 1939 — Aug. 1940



Colonel
W. H. SIMPSON
Sept. 1940 — Nov. 1940



Colonel
WALTER M. ROBERTSON
Nov. 1940 — Dec. 1941



Colonel
C. J. HIRSHFELDER
6-6-1944 — 1-17-1945



Colonel
P. D. GINDER
Dec. 1944 - July 1946



Colonel
THEODORE F. BOGART
July 1946 - Jan. 1947



Colonel
JESSE T. HARRIS
Feb. 1947 - May 1947



Colonel
NOBLE J. WILEY
May 1947 - April 1948

The Rhine was crossed on March 21, 1945, as the drive moved towards the Weser River, and Leipzig. When placed on the Mulde River, following the capture of Leipzig, the Manchu unit continued the fast moving campaign into Czechoslovakia to the outskirts of Pilzen, where it was engaged in combat until the final day of the War. It remained in that sector in occupation until returned to Camp Shanks, New York, on July 20, 1945. Later, a movement to Camp Swift, Texas was accomplished, and finally another move to Fort Lewis, Washington, in April, 1946.

During engagements in the Second World War, the Manchu Regiment earned streamers for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. It was awarded the Belgian Fourragere, and individual units were awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations. Two citations in the Orders of the Day of the Belgian Army for actions at Ardennes also existed.

With the entry of the United Nations into the Korean Conflict, and the commitment of the Second Division to the Korean Peninsula, the Manchu organization once again responded vigorously. Manchu troops were the first of the Indianhead Division to touch on Korean soil; they arrived at Pusan on July 31, 1950 and were immediately placed in the successful defense on the Nakdong River. Subsequently, breaking out from the defensive position, they advanced North, until a withdrawal was effected at the Chong Chong River. The forces committed once again fought savagely, against overwhelming odds. Later, Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge were familiar terms to the 9th Infantry, when it assisted in the capture of these two landmarks in August and September 1951.

Other key features well remembered by the Manchu Regiment, and the world, are Old Baldy, Pork Chop, Bulls-Eye, and T-Bone. These areas were the center of vicious fighting, giving rise to constant fluctuations in the line. Once again the 9th Infantry was located in the heat of the battle.

On December 28, 1952, the Regiment was relieved from Pork Chop and Old Baldy, but on January 29, 1953, it returned to the front in the Little Gibraltar sector, where it remained until April 1953. During the tour at Little Gibraltar, extensive patrolling occurred. Special Ranger platoons—previously developed and used by each Battalion while in the T-Bone battles—bore the brunt of the duty. After leaving Little Gibraltar, the Boomerang sector became the home of the Regiment. It was located in that area during the signing of the cease fire pact on July 27, 1953. However, even while negotiations were in progress, on July 18th, a mass attack was executed by the Chinese forces. They were again repulsed.

When it returned to Fort Lewis, Washington on October 14, 1954, streamers marking participation in the United Nations Defensive, the United Nations Offensive, the Chinese Communist Forces Intervention, the First United Nations Counter Offensive, the Chinese Communist Spring Offensive, the United Nations Summer-Fall Offensive, the Second Korean Winter, the Korea Summer-Fall 1952, the Third Korean Winter, and the Korea Summer-Fall 1953, were carried with the 9th Infantry.

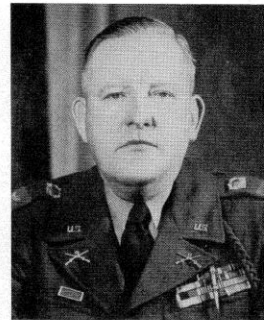
In the latter part of 1955 the Manchu Regiment was designated as a Gyroscoping unit within the Indianhead Division. Alaska is its next area of service.

Every major military venture of our Nation has been marked by the honorable participation of the 9th Infantry. Since 1798, when it was first groomed for service a 9th Infantry has existed and participated in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, The American Relief Expedition to China during the Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict.

A compilation of campaign streamers awarded to the



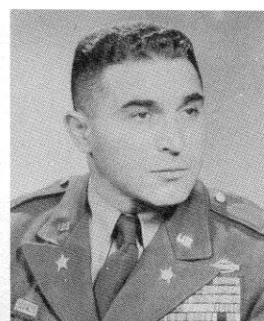
Colonel
GEORGE O. N. LODOEN
May 1948 - May 1949



Colonel
C. C. SLOANE
May 1949 - Dec. 1950



Colonel
EDWIN J. MESSINGER
12-7-1950 - 4-30-1951



Colonel
OLINTO M. BARSANTI
5-1-1951 - 7-11-1951



Colonel
WILBUR WILSON
12-25-1951 — 9-2-1952



Colonel
MAURICE D. STRATTA
9-3-1952 — 2-5-1953



Colonel
RICHARD STEINBACH
2-6-1953 — July 1953



Colonel
JULIAN J. EWELL
7-19-1953 — Dec. 1953

Manchu Regiment includes: Washington (1856) (1858), Wyoming (1866) (1867), Little Big Horn, Mississippi (1862), Kentucky (1862), Murfreesboro, Tennessee (1863), Chickamauga, Georgia, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Santiago, San Ysidro, Luzon (1899) (1900), Zapote River, Malolos, Tarlac, Samar (1901), Tientsin, Yang Tsun, Peking, Lorraine, Aisne, Ile de France, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, United Nations Defensive, United Nations Offensive, Chinese Communist Forces Intervention, First United Nations Counter-Offensive, Chinese Communist Spring Offensive, United Nations Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Korea Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter, and Korea Summer-Fall 1953.

The 9th Infantry has also been awarded two streamers in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre, with palm, one embroidered Aisne-Marne, and the other Meuse-Argonne. The Fourragere in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre was added to the emblems of service in 1919. The Belgian Fourragere, won during World War II, was authorized in an order of June 17, 1946. A Korean Presidential Unit Streamer embroidered Naktong River Line was won in 1951, in addition to a Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered Hongchon. The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation was added in 1951 and again in 1954. The Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded in 1951. In addition, units within the Regiment have frequently obtained individual distinctions.

Rarely has a unit been accorded such a volume of honors, and even more rarely have those honors been won on such vastly separated battlefields, under such a variety of circumstances. The distinctions attained were acquired only through the constant vigilance, willing sacrifice, endless devotion and heroes' blood of thousands of Manchu men. Those were men who knew the spirit, and accepted the challenge to "KEEP UP THE FIRE".

COAT OF ARMS 9TH U. S. INFANTRY

and

9TH U. S. INFANTRY

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The Regimental Coat of Arms is commemorative of the varied exploits of the Regiment and vividly illustrates many of its costly campaigns. The foundation for the symbol is a blue shield, with the blue significant in distinguishing the unit branch of Infantry. Service in China during the Boxer Rebellion is symbolized in the golden dragon inserted on the upper left of the shield. In the upper right sector is implanted a "Sun Burst"—an ancient Mexican-Aztec trademark—which acts as a reminder of service in the bloody Mexican campaign. The light shaded bar curved towards the upper portion of the shield stands as a mute memorial of the costly battle on the bend of the San Juan River. The active years on the Western Frontier, during the Indian Wars, are characterized in the "Tepee", centered in the



Colonel
LEWIS V. HIGHTOWER
12-15-1953 — 4-4-1954



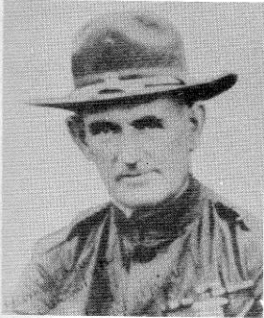
Colonel
WALTER M. HIGGINS, JR.
4-5-1954 — Sept. 1954



Colonel
JAMES W. LOCKETT
Oct. 1954 — Nov. 1955



M/Sgt.
JOHN J. LYNCH
1909 - 1916



M/Sgt.
PETER HAMILTON
1915 - 1917



M/Sgt.
MATHEW AUSBORN
1917 - 1926



M/Sgt.
JOHN ERICKSON
1926 - 1927

lower part of the shield. The Indianhead patch placed above the body of the shield, designates the assignment of the Manchu Regiment to the Second Infantry Division in October 1917, while the Fourragere encircling the Indianhead is a memorial of the valiant exploits of World War I. Inserted between the shield and the Indianhead is a Blue and Grey furred streamer, commemorating the shedding of fratricidal blood in the Civil War. Beneath the shield is a scroll on which is engraved a living motto and challenge to the members of the Manchu Regiment to "Keep Up The Fire."

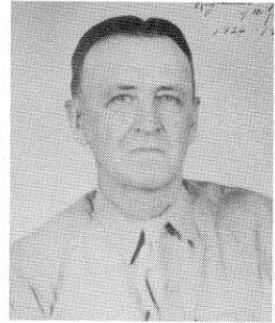
In addition, the Regiment is authorized a Distinctive Insignia consisting of an "imperial five-toed dragon head to chief facing the dexter, encircling a disc bearing the numeral '9' all or—Motto—'Keep Up The Fire' around the edge of the disc." (G. O. No. 5, Hq 9th Inf., dated 25 June 1926.) The insignia, authorized by the War Department, was created as a memorial to the Relief Expedition to China, and originally was designed to be worn with the "Sam Brown" belt as a waist buckle by Officers, and on the leather waist belt as a waist buckle by Enlisted Personnel. Miniatures were to be worn by Officers on the service hat and on the mess jacket, while these same miniatures were to be worn on the front of the service hat, midway between the band and the crease, by Enlisted Personnel.

A miniature in the form of a pin is presently worn centered on both shoulder loops of Class 'A', 'B', and 'C' uniforms and on Dress Uniforms by all personnel. Enlisted personnel also wear the miniature insignia centered between the blue infantry stripe and the band of the garrison cap, at a point approximately one inch to the right of the front center crease; and, centered between the band and the top of the front center of the field (fatigue) cap.

The emblem is truly a distinctive insignia. It is believed the distinction is unique, and the Manchu is the only Regiment bearing an authorized individual emblem in addition to the Regimental Coat of Arms.



M/Sgt.
WARREN W. WINSHER
1932 - 1937



M/Sgt.
JOHN H. COLLINS
1926 - 1942



M/Sgt.
BERNARD DOHERTY
1943 - 1953



M/Sgt.
JAMES R. VICK
February 1955



M/Sgt.
WALTER C. CANNON
Feb, 1953 - Feb, 1955