

The 9th was a regular U.S. Army regiment organized on 3 March 1855 at Fort Monroe, VA. It then moved to the northwest coast where it fought a variety of American Indian tribes. Following the Civil War, the 9th was engaged in the Indian Wars, labor disputes, and quiet garrison duty beginning in 1892 when it moved to Madison Barracks outside of Sacketts Harbor, New York. It was indistinguishable from its brother regiments until the Spanish-American War in the "Empire Age." Then in a short span of three(3) years, it became one of the most well-known and bloodied regiments in the U.S. Army.

On 1 July 1898, the 9th went up San Juan Hill, Santiago, Cuba as part of the 1st Division-3rd Brigade, Vth Corps. , After recovering from the battle casualties, and deadly tropical diseases suffered in Cuba, the 9th sailed to the Philippine Islands in March 1899. It went into action against the Filipino Independent Army on Luzon Island. Then history landed on the 9th again when it was ordered to China in June 1900 to become part of the Allied Relief Expedition. The Relief Expedition's objective was to rescue the foreign legations in Peking and Tsientsin from the Chinese "Boxer" religious fanatics, and the Imperial Chinese Army.

On 13 July 1900, the 9th attacked the old walled city of Tsientsin as part of a joint operation with an United States Marine Corps (USMC) battalion, regular Japanese Army units, and the British Royal Marines. While leading the regiment, the regimental commander, Colonel Emerson H. Liscum, a battle-scarred Civil War, Indian War, and Spanish-American War veteran, was mortally struck by a Chinese sniper's Mauser round. As he lay dying in a muddy ditch, Liscum issued his final order: "Keep at them Men, Keep up the Fire!"

All to no avail, the Regiment was pinned down in the canals outside the walled city until rescued that night by one of its battalions. The Regiment lost over 90 casualties including the fallen, heroic leader Colonel Liscum. The Regiment then tended to its wounded, recovered its strength from the brutal summer drought/heat, and joined with the rest of the Allied Relief forces as it advanced to Peking: fighting and winning two skirmishes at Pei-tsang, which fell on 5 August 1900, and at Yang-tsun on 6 August. The 9th was part of the American forces which fought their way into the walled Imperial City in Peking. It was this Chinese adventure that earned the Regiment its nickname: the MANCHUs. The Chinese service period is represented on its regimental crest with the Imperial Chinese dragon centered in the crest.

The Regiment remained in Peking and Tsienstin as part of the occupation forces until May 1901 when it sailed back to the Philippines to continue operations against the Filipino insurrectoes.

Then history struck the 9th again. On Sunday 28 September 1901, Filipino insurrectoes ambushed the 9th's "C" Company in the village of Balangiga, Samar Island. The treacherous Filipinos inflicted over 70 casualties on the Americans including the company commander, the executive officer, and the company surgeon. The Regiment finally left the Philippines in 1902 when it returned to Madison Barracks. Then, in 1907, the Regiment was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas where it was assigned routine garrison duty. The 9th did not participate in the Mexico Punitive Expedition. It remained stationed at Fort Sam Houston until 1917 when it was ordered to France.