

# MANCHU DRAGON TALES



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

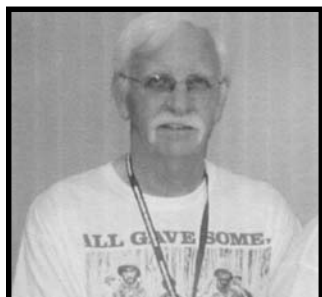


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[www.manchuassociation.org](http://www.manchuassociation.org)

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### COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello fellow Manchus! Here we are into the New Year and in the leadership of a new U.S. President. I am not going to get into politics about our President. Whether

you voted for him or not He is our Commander in Chief. End of that story!

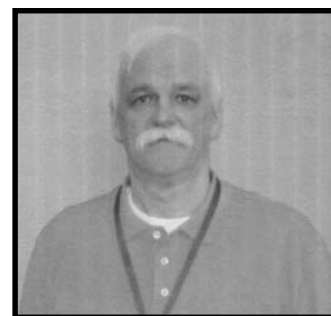
Our last reunion was low in numbers but a lot of good input from members in attendance. We need to work hard in getting the Manchu attendance up. I have spoken with our officers as well as many of you about ways to get members to attend. Let us know if you have any good suggestions. We are losing our older Vets in different ways. When I came on board the old guys called me a kid. I think that I am moving into the older Vet category. We need younger member attendance and get them involved in many ways. Someday they could even move into the offices.

Larry and I have been working on getting our newsletter to be sent electronically. Larry has more about this. Our officers have discussed the cost of sending out newsletters through. Electronically it would save a great deal of money. Please work with us to be able to do this. We have NO income coming in except membership dues. We have very mostly Life Members. Send your info to Larry.

*Continued, page 3*

### COMMENTS AND UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARY

Well it's that time again to connect with all of the Manchus, I hope your winter went easy this year and that you are all in good health. The big topic that is in the planning stage is electronic mailing after this newsletter we will be going this route the printing and mailing costs are getting to much for our organization remember we do not get any money from any other sources except our dues from membership and that has not been great.



We continue to be in touch with the 4<sup>th</sup> that is stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, SGM Chad Brown has extended a welcome to all Manchus to visit the fort and has planned a reunion there.

While I was updating the master list I found out about 16 members that had passed away in the past and no one contacted us to let us know, I have posted the names on another page.

Also another thing that continues to plague us when people move there is no response to tell us of their move we have over 150 life members that have not given us a new address that seems unbelievable to me that you cant even let someone know how sad! It's their loss. Well enough of that. We will be looking for articles from the membership

*Continued, page 3*

## ORGANIZATION REVISED & OFFICIAL

President .....	Roger Dyson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President .....	Charles Groff
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President .....	Ronald K. Price
Sec/Treas .....	Larry Ritter
Chaplain .....	Rev. James L. O'Brien
Sergeant At Arms .....	Mike Ardoin
Parliamentarian .....	Frank Kraft
Historians .....	Raymond A. Tarabusi, Rolfe L. Hillman, III, Al Castilio and Larry Ritter
4/9 Manchu Liaison .....	Ronald K. Price
Public Information Office .....	Larry Ritter

## MANCHU DEVOTIONAL

MANCHUS, Has God answered our prayers. We have a Commander-in-Chief that respects and supports our military. Wants to take care of our veterans with war time injuries. He knows how to properly salute the service men and women around him. The world turmoil is getting very scary. We need more than ever to respect and protect our men and women put in harm's way to keep America safe.

Keep up the faith and keep up the fire. God bless America.

Chaplin James "Obie" O'Brien

## 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,** Jack Woodall; **Membership:** Roger Dyson; **Reunion,** Charles Groff; **Sunshine,** Rev. James "OBie" O'Brien; **Budget,** Larry Ritter / Roger Dyson

### 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).

**Comments From The President** *(Continued)*

Our next reunion will be in Washington D.C. in September. I know that a lot is being planned. It may be more expensive than past reunion. I am not going to be able to attend because of conflicts. My 50<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion is at the same time. I am Co Chairman so that is something that I have been looking forward to. I will be there in thoughts. I can always go to D.C. but can't miss my reunion. Plan to go to D.C.

Keep Up The Fire!

Roger Dyson, President

March 2017

**Comments and Updates From the Secretary***(Continued)*

to put in the newsletter anything you would like to put in about your tour of duty even pictures will be acceptable.

Also our 100<sup>th</sup> reunion is in September in Washington, D.C. more info will be in following newsletters or you can contact Bob Haynes at the 2<sup>nd</sup> I.D. 224-225-1202. Enough for now kutf!

Larry Ritter

With the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War One coming up in Aril 2017, I would like to look back of some of the Manchu's who served in battle in what at the time was known as the "War to end all Wars"

Captain Hugh F Edwards

He was a senior at Emporia State Teachers College when World War I came along. He enlisted in Company L, Kansas National Guard, and was sent to Ft. Sheridan, ILL., for officer training. Going overseas in November 1917 he joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in France. He would command the machine gun company of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, in some of the heaviest fighting in France — Verdun, Chateau Thierry, St Mihiel, Somme, Champagne and Belleau Woods. He came out of the war with the rank of captain and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Citations, the French Croix de Guerre and a wound strip (in 1932 became the Purple Heart). After the war he returned to the life of a cattleman in his beloved Flint Hills of Kansas. When drought and depression deepened in 1933, he accepted a position as one of 10 new Kansas motor vehicle inspectors. Two years later this group became the original Kansas Highway Patrol. Trooper "Cap," as he was widely known began moving up through the ranks until World War II when he re-entered the service. He was given a military police assignment in patrolling supply routes in India, Iran and Iraq. In 1945 he was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant colonel. Returning to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Edwards was named superintendent in 1947 by Governor Carlson. Edwards was superintendent eight years, longer than any other, and was credited with building the patrol to efficiency and popularity, he retired in 1969. Captain Edwards made it last roll call on Captain Edwards is one of the many Manchu's who "Kept Up the Fire", now it is up to us to "Keep Up the Memories"

AL Castillo

Looking for stories from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan

Captain Edwards, photo taken in 1919 during the Occupation of Germany. He is wearing the Croix de Guerre and Distinguished Service Cross over his left pocket, it is also interesting to see that he is wearing two extra DSC ribbons.



**DO YOU KNOW:**

The VA has funds available for veterans on many levels, read on to learn about those you may qualify. Check with your local VA or SO.

**Veterans are eligible for VA travel costs:**

1. Veterans rated 30% or more for SC disabilities.
2. Veterans traveling for SC treatment.
3. Veterans who receive a VA pension.
4. Veterans traveling for scheduled C/P exams.
5. Veterans whose gross household income does not exceed annual VA pension rate.
6. Veterans in certain emergency situations
7. Veterans whose medical condition requires special mode of transportation.
8. Certain non-veterans when related to care of a veteran. (attendants & donors)

Check with the benefits department at your local VA to see if you qualify.

**Home Improvements and Structural Alterations:**

The VA provides up to \$4,100 lifetime benefit for service-connected veterans and up to \$1,200 for non-service-connected veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.

Grants are made to the veteran for changes in his/her improvements and/or structural changes to their residence.

1. Allowing entrance to, or exit from, the veteran's residence.
2. Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.
3. Allowing access to kitchen or bathroom sinks.
4. Improving access paths and driveways to the home by the veteran.
5. Improving plumbing or electrical systems necessary for dialysis equipment.

**Special Adapted Housing Grants:**

Certain veterans and service members with service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a Special Adapted Housing (SAH) grant from the VA to help build a new specially adapted house, to adapt a home they already own or buy a house and modify it to meet their requirements. There are a number of requirements to qualify for this benefit, I suggest you contact the SAH office, at 202- 461-9546 or via e-mail at [brian.bixler@va.gov](mailto:brian.bixler@va.gov) .

Remember my fellow "Manchues" I'm only giving you some information for you to obtain the benefits you have earned and have coming. Contact your SO or the "benefits" department at your local VA regarding your qualifying for any of the above .

Have a good winter and "Keep Up The Fire". Spring will be here soon. Keep our active Manchue soldiers in your prayers.

CHUCK GROFF

KOREA, DMZ. '69-'70

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

FILLMORE GOLDSCHIMDT

TED BATES

THEODORE SCHANER

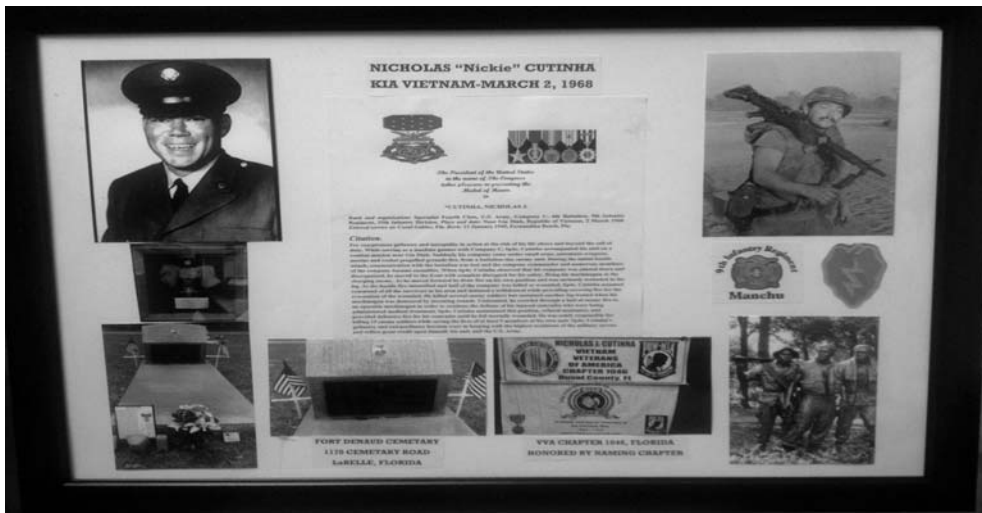
SALVATORE AVELLINA

ROBERT BURKE

ERIC NIEMANN

STEVE NIBLETT

RON GEIST



**Nicholas J. Cutinha: 4/9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Manchu-Awarded the Medal of Honor**

My fellow Manchus, here is the information about a Brother Manchu who gave all to save the lives of men in his company. Nickie was an M-60 Machine Gunner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Co C of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment that was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 9<sup>th</sup> served in III Corp of Vietnam from 1966 to 1971.

His internment site is at Fort Denaud Cemetery located near the town of LaBelle, on the SouthWest coast of Florida. Also, his Medal of Honor is on display at the American Legion Post 130 in LaBelle. About 12 years ago I found out about his gravesite and have maintained it since then. Also, back then when the Commander of the Am Leg 130 found Nickie’s MOH in his desk, we had a Memorial Service on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Am Leg Post had a fundraiser to build his MOH display. I have always followed up with having a memorial service yearly and meeting my Brother Vietnam Manchus there around March 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year to pay our Respects and Honor our fallen Manchu Hero.

The new Commander of the LaBelle Legion has put forth a plan to support and hold a 50 Yr Comemorative Memorial Ceremony next year on March 2, 2018 for Nicholas Cutinha and to Honor Manchu men who were KIA at the Hoc Mon Ambush, Vietnam. The Ceremony will take place at Nickie’s gravesite and afterward there will be an event to Honor the Men and their Families at the American Legion Post 130 LaBelle. When the details of the ceremony are finalized, we will make the information available. It would be very Honorable to have a good representation of our 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment Manchus there. Hope to see you there my Brother Manchus to pay our Respects.

Ronald Price, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of 9<sup>th</sup> Inf Regiment Assoc/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt Ssgt, CoC, 4/9 Vietnam Manchu.

**LAST ROLL CALL**

WILLIAM BACON .....	2016	HAROLD JARVIS .....	2011
FRANF BURGHART .....	2016	EMIL MATULA .....	2013
NED FELKER .....	2017	DAN MILLER .....	2016
FRED GRANATA .....	2007	PAUL NARDOZZI .....	2014
JOHN GRANVILLE .....	1995	JOHN POLESKY .....	2016
BRUCE HALL .....	2010	EDWIN ROPER .....	2008
FRANCIS HUDSON .....	2009	JAMES SAWIKI .....	2002
NICHOLAS VONE .....	2011	DON TEARS .....	2013

### April 1945 Seventy-Two Years Later

As each war fades into history you should try to record the stories of Manchu's who were there, so that these small parts of history will not be lost. This is one such story of one man's death and how it resonates seventy-two years later.

I can first remember hearing about the 9th Infantry as a young boy seventeen years after the war ended. I would sit around and listen to my father Luis Castillo as he told his friends about life in Company I; the bitter cold, the mud, and the Germans. He would pull out an old, yellowing photograph that he would pass around for everyone to see. His link to the past and memories hard to forget, but that was his war, something I would never understand.

Perhaps one of the most vivid memories he had was an incident that happened south of Leipzig, Germany on April 18, 1945. It was the death of his platoon leader Lt. George Berg. It was difficult for me to understand how the death of one man could still have such an impact on another man's life many years later, yet it did.

I have learned a lot about the 9th Infantry since writing the book "Keep Up the Fire". I have met many a great ex-Manchu and have also gathered many more stories, photos, and documents related to the 9th Infantry in the hope of doing a second book on the 9th Infantry covering all the wars. I have been contacted by many individuals looking for answers about their father's or grandfather's service. Some I have been able to help, others I could not. The internet has made research so much easier today, than it was 30 years ago, when I started. The press of a button and you can find a lot of information on places and people. Which brings me back to Lt. Berg and Company I and the internet connection.

In April 1945 for the men of Company I, it had been a long hard road from the shores of Normandy to central Germany. Company I was leading the 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry, which was protecting the right flank of the 38th Infantry as they advanced forward to Leipzig. When Company I reached the town of Treben just north of Lutzen, it was fired upon. After a brief firefight, the men entered the town. That afternoon the 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry was getting ready to settle down for the night when orders were received for Company I to proceed to Leuna. Upon arriving the outskirts of Leuna the Company got into a firefight with the German defenders that lasted 45 minutes before taking the town. Leuna with the Leunawerks southwest of Leipzig, was where the Germans during the war had been producing synthetic gas for the Reich. At its peak, it had put out 10,843,373 gallons of gas a month. After three years of bombing by the US Air Corp the town was a mass shamble of iron and steel. For the next two days, Company I moved forward under deadly fire from the German 88's.

On April 18 as Company I approached Markleeberg on the southern outskirts of Leipzig, the lead Platoon commanded by

Lt. George Berg ran into some very heavy fire. Lt. Berg was a fine officer who had joined the company in Northern France. Although he believed in stern discipline, he was also very caring about the men in his platoon. Many times you would find him leading by example from the front. My father who was assistant squad leader at the time recalled that day vividly. After suppressing the fire and the platoon moved down the road, they captured a German soldier hiding in a foxhole. He told them that the rest of his comrades were up the road waiting in ambush. The German prisoner was loaded onto a jeep and sent to the rear for further questioning. The men continued up the road about 100 yards until they came to a crossroad. Sgt. Willie Collins the Squad-leader and lead scout nicknamed "Joe the Indian", ran across to the other side and hid among the bushes, Sgt. Collins then signaled the men to come over, one at a time.

The photo on the right of my father Luis Castillo with pen in hand and John J. Sullivan. Sullivan was wounded by an artillery shell fragment a week after this photo was taken March of 1945.



Lt. Berg decided to go first so he could get a better feel of what they were facing. So when Sgt. Collins signaled for someone to come over Lt. George Berg ran across the road, a machine gun opened fire catching him in the open crossroad. The lieutenant dropped to the ground in the center of the road, caught in the open with no cover he was hit by the burst. Upon seeing this the Platoon medic ran out to help. When he kneeled to help Lt. Berg, a string of machine gun bullets raked him across the chest, killing him instantly. He slumped over holding, Lt Berg; both men were apparently dead. This made many of the men very angry and they put a heavy volume of fire on the German positions.

Sgt. Collins was giving hand signals to my father to call for support. As the radioman came forward, he was struck in the heel of his right boot. While some of the men pulled, the radioman's boot off and applied aid to his wound, my father called in mortar fire on the German positions. After a short shelling and the placement of heavy machine gun fire on the German positions, the Germans surrendered, some of the prisoners were last-ditch soldiers, old men or boys. The men rounded up about 60 prisoners, whom they roughed up a bit; some of the men talked about shooting the prisoners but cooler heads prevailed and they were stripped of their belongings and sent to the rear under an armed escort. My father said, "They were very lucky they were not shot, many of the men were angry over the death of Lt. Berg and the medic and although they mistreated the prisoners none were shot except the ones killed in the fight".

I often wondered about Lt. Berg, who was he? what did he look like? where did he come from? did he have any children? Once again, like others I have helped in the past, I had more questions than answers. Then one day while doing some research on the Internet on a KIA from the 9th Infantry. I decided to punch in George Berg's name into the WWII Memorial page and there looking at me was the face I had often wondered about. I sat there and looked at it, finally getting to meet the man who my father talked about, who until now had be just a name and a memory.

The photo was submitted by his daughter Judy and after another quick search, I found her address. I then sent her a long letter explaining who I was and how her father and mine had severed together and the circumstances of his death. I received a long letter from her, she had been looking for answers to questions she had about her father's death. All her life she hoped to run into someone who knew her father or about him. I had given her the most information she ever had on him. While she never knew him, she had a great love and appreciation for who he was. She sent me some photos of her father, which I now cherish and we have now also become friends sharing a point in history that effected both our families. My father came home, yes, he suffered from the effects of the war and the concussion of a grenade that plagued him until death but, he came home to raise a family and live another fifty years. George Berg gave his life on that dusty crossroad in Germany never to see his wife and daughter. Fate robbed him of many of the things my father and I got to enjoy. Yes, George Berg I may have never met you but you have been a part of my life and will always be a part of my family.

Al Castillo



George Berg holding his baby daughter Judy with his wife Virginia standing next to him.

Photo was taken at their home in Wisconsin before he went overseas.

# NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

## (MANCHU) ASSOCIATION

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