

MANCHU DRAGON TALES



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

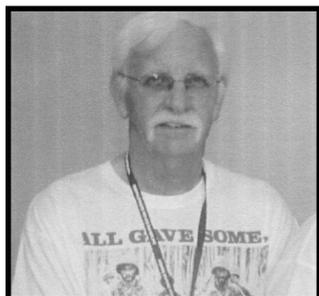


ISSUE NO. 49 January, 2016

www.manchuassociation.org

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello MANCHUS,

Another reunion has come and gone for 2015. It was a great time in San Antonio. I had the privilege of visiting the Alamo. What an

experience and such a sacred battle site. If you are ever in San Antonio this is a must see. The Manchus were well represented. It is always great getting to visit with old friends as well as making new ones.

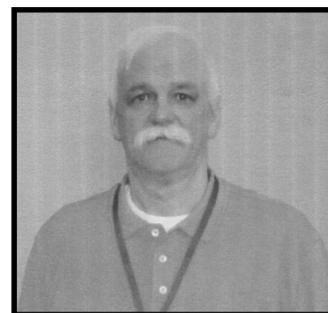
We donated money to the Indianhead Scholarship fund. Putting flowers on the memorials in D.C. on Memorial Day is one of our enjoyable projects. I have received a few e-mails thanking us for doing this. They see our name on the flowers and respond to us. The MANCHUS always come through.

I introduced Beetle Bailey to the Manchus as our Official Mascot. Larry had made contact with Mr. Walker the creator of Beetle and has given us permission to use Beetle as our mascot. Beetle served with the 13th Div [fictional] but was in the 9th INF Reg. We made Mr. Walker a Lifetime Member to the association. Most of all Beetle Bailey is a LIFETIME Member. Now he has a permanent bunk with us. I also introduced him at the Indianhead meeting. What a privilege for us.

The last Manchu unit was de-activated in Korea. The 2/9th colors have been put away. This is sad because of our past existence over the years on Korea. The only active battalion is the 4/9th at Fort

COMMENTS AND UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARY

Well another reunion has come and gone for 2015. It was great to see a lot more Manchus at this reunion and to have new people come was also great. At the meeting a lot of topics were discussed. Among them was our new mascot of the Regiment, Beetle Bailey. Thanks to Mr. Mort Walker and Bill Janocha for giving us the rights to post Beetle on the website (manchuassociation.org). What a great honor!



We also now have an online merchandise store to buy shirts, hats, etc. on the website. We now have a Sgt. Major of the regiment now. His name is Howard Ray from San Antonio. His resume is in this edition for you to read.

Now to the big item that was brought up. We will be going electronic with the newsletter after this one. It is just too expensive for us to continue if we want to be solvent, and we can put more newsletters out more often and keep the costs down. We are asking you to send us your email addresses so we can proceed with this venture. We also know that some members do not have a computer, so you need to stipulate that you would like a hard copy sent to you. I know this is asking a lot, but we need your input to succeed in this. Remember if we don't hear from you, no newsletter. There is also another way to get the newsletter. I have been posting them on the website for the last three years, so no excuse in this matter please.

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ORGANIZATION REVISED & OFFICIAL

President	Roger Dyson
1 st Vice President	Wally Baxendale
2 nd Vice President	Charles Groff, Jr.
Sec/Treas	Larry Ritter
Chaplain	Rev. James L. O'Brien
Sergeant At Arms	Mike Ardoin
Parliamentarian	OPEN
Historians	Raymond A. Tarabusi, Rolfe L. Hillman, III, Al Castilio and Larry Ritter
Honorary COL of the Regiment	OPEN
Honorary SGM of the Regiment	Howard T. Ray
Honorary COL of the Association	Col. Max Tadlock
4/9 Manchu Liaison	Ronald K. Price
Public Information Office	Larry Ritter
Distinguished Member of Regiment.....	CPT Rich Coutermarsh

MANCHU ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Association President; **Members,** Association 1st Vice President, 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 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

MANCHU DEVOTIONAL

We are seeing a time where the Veterans are finally getting some respect. I would hope someday the Americans will act like the Canadians. Canadians start wearing their Poppy's on November 1st until November 11th. I am watching an AD on TV about buying Green lights to honor Veterans this year. An excellent idea, I hope it works. In my prayers, I always remember those past and present, who have sacrificed for all of us. Normandy this spring was a great reminder, "To Keep up 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 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)*

Carson. Larry has been in contact with the Sgt. Major. Let's hope they don't de-activate them. The 9th is such a great unit. I don't know how many times guys and or their wives have told me that they wished they could have been a Manchu.

There is a return trip to Korea in November. Chuck Groff and his wife Joan are going on this. I appointed Chuck as the official spokesman for the Association. I know that he will do a great job. His wife is a true Manchu too.

Electronic e-mail for newsletter was discussed at the reunion. It costs around \$500.00 each time we mail out our letter. We are looking into what is involved in getting this set up. MOST of all, we would need up to date e-mail addresses. We know there are many that don't even own a computer so there would still be a need for mailed out hard copies. Larry puts each newsletter on the website so one can read it there. We need your input. Contact Larry Ritter or me.

Next year's reunion will be in Springfield, Mo. Put this on your calendar. The 4/9th will be having their reunion in Kansas City the week before. I am going to try to attend both. September is always a busy time for me.

It was voted at the reunion to keep our same slate of officers. I guess you are stuck with me for another term. As I have told many of you, I enjoy being your President. I try to represent the MANCHUS to the best I am able. This Veterans Day I wear my Manchu Crest proudly and try to attend as many Veteran Day functions as possible.

KEEP UP THE FIRE!

Roger Dyson, President

Nov 2015

Comments and Updates From the Secretary
(Continued)

I am hoping we can get together on this endeavor and help our association move on into the new millennia. We are also hoping that all members will go to the website and log in for posterity. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

As always,

Larry R. Kutf

MID ATLANTIC BRANCH

Manchu Association Members of the 2nd Indianhead Division Assn (2IDA) living in the NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, & WV area, the Mid Atlantic Branch (MAB) of the 2IDA noticed that our Manchu Association has members attending the Annual Reunion of the 2IDA with a time set aside for a Manchu Meeting.

Accordingly, the MAB holds an annual reunion. This year it will be in either Lancaster PA or Hagerstown MD from 22 – 24 April 2016 ...and for those 2 IDA Manchus who live in the MAB area and do not have the opportunity to attend the annual 2IDA Reunion , the MAB would like to convey an invitation to join us.

For those interested please contact MAB President Alan "AJ" Fojt at alanfojt@gmail.com or 703-330-1965.

**New Merchandise Store
Now Open!**
Go to www.manchuassociation.org

RANGER TRAINING

The 9th Infantry has a long and outstanding history, having fought in every war with the exception of the Civil War. It has also fought all over the world from the hedgerows of France to the plains of China. During my research for my book "Keep Up The Fire" the history of the 9th Infantry Regiment in WWII, I learned a there are a couple of things very few people know about the Regiment. One that during World War Two they had their own Rangers and that along with 105, 2nd Division Engineers they would landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. The following information comes from my book.

The Ranger training was started at a Regimental-level at Fort Sam Houston by the 2nd Infantry Division in 1941. All three of the Division's Regiments took part in the training, with each regimental company sending three men from their company. The training mainly consisted of hand to hand combat, map reading, things that these men could take back and in turn train others. During this period the 9th Infantry was also engaged in another type of special training, this was a so call "Airborne" training. This was more of an early attempt at the concept of air mobile fighting, than paratrooper jumping out of airplanes. They would load up men and equipment on C-47 airplanes and fly them to other nearby army bases where they would unload and attack in a mock battle.

Men from the 9th Infantry Regiment unload a 37mm gun after landing at Maxton Airport, Maxton, NC. The 9th was part of the Provisional Task Force Two which consisted of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry and Company C, 502nd Parachute Battalion. (photo on right)



At Camp McCoy the Ranger training was formalized by establishing The Ranger Battle Training School. The purpose of training was to teach a number of men from each unit the use of explosives and to give them intensive training in subjects that would enable them to perform difficult and specialized missions. Brigadier General T.L. Martin was in charge of the school and Major O.M. Barsanti was the Director. The staff was comprised of ten officers: three from each of the infantry regiments the 9th, 23rd, the 38th and one from the 2nd Engineer Battalion. The Ranger course was offered to a selected group of men from each of the Divisions, three Regiments and the Engineer and Artillery units. Three soldiers from each Company were selected. The selection was based on the soldier's records and past performance.

The training began on April 12, 1943. It would run for about two months. During the training the men spent half a day in Ranger training and the other half with their company. The training was intensive training in night patrols, map reading, terrain appreciation, hand-to-hand combat, bayonet and grenade combat, the use of explosives and camouflage, to name a few. One Manchu who took the training, Sgt. Henry Doar recalled that they were made to dig spider holes, camouflage them, then the Regiment was brought in for a demonstration. They pop up out of the holes and surprise everyone. "We would put out the trip wires pull-tab firing devices, pressure-release firing devices and everything like that. They set up the minefields for the other troops to go through at night".

On June 5, 1943, a formal graduation ceremony was held. Every soldier who completed the course was presented with a certificate and a sleeve emblem, a white skull sewn on a round black patch. The insignias were sewn by some of the wives and other women associated with the Second Division. In his speech to the graduates, Brigadier General Brown spoke about the patch. "With every stitch in these insignias went a prayer, a hope, Make the hopes and prayers of these women come true. You can if you live up to the motto of the Army – Duty, Honor, and Country".

The 9th Infantry Rangers would go to use their training on June 6, 1944 when as part of Assault Gap Teams they would land on Omaha Beach. The gap teams were made up of one Naval Combat Demolition Unit, and a 27-man Army engineer unit. A tank dozer and two Sherman tanks would support each unit, with the crews for these tanks coming from the 741st and 743rd Tank Battalions and the 610th Engineer Light Equipment Company. The bulk of the Engineers came from the 146th and 299th Combat Engineer Battalions. These Navy and Army units only had two weeks to train before the Invasion. The final composition of the group would be officially known as the Special Engineer Task Force (SETF). It would be attached to the 1st Infantry Division for the assault on Omaha Beach.

The SETF was still short of manpower, so about 150 Engineers, from the 2nd Engineer Battalion and Infantrymen from the 9th, 23rd and 38th Infantry Regiments of the Second Infantry Division were add to bring the unit to full strength, which now numbered around 1050 men.

The Gap Teams were composed of 1 officer, 25 enlisted men and one medic. Each Gap Team was assigned three to five men from the Second Division. The plan was for the teams to go in on H-hour before the assault troops and clear sixteen fifty-foot wide gaps for the assault troops to go through. Following the Assault Gap Teams were eight Gap Support Teams that would land behind them, not more than eight minutes afterwards.

Sgt. Doar thought they looked at their MOS's and picked men for this assignment from the Regiment that had training in demolitions, communications, or some type of special training. They learned how to waterproof everything and were told they were an assault group to penetrate as far as they could, blow up barbed wire and bunkers. Many of the men had pole charges, satchel charges and Bangalore Torpedoes. Sgt. Doar was assigned to carry a Bangalore Torpedo that he would use to blow a gap in the concertina wire on the Beach.

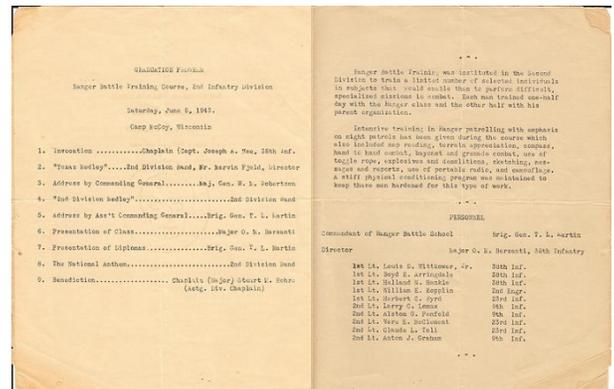
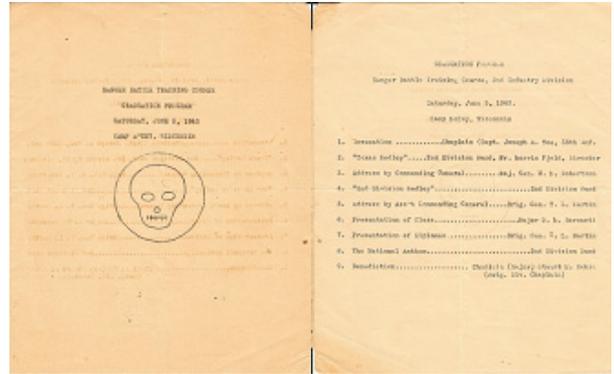
RANGER TRAINING (Continued)

Front and back of program for the Ranger Graduation on June 5, 1942, two years later some of the men who took the training would be put to the test on Omaha Beach. (top right)

Inside of program giving list of men who were in charge of training. (bottom right)

Landing on H-hour on Omaha Beach was a nightmare for the men who were there and the first casualties in WWII for the 9th Infantry happen that day. Three men from the Regiment were killed that morning, PFC. Lester Horn, PVT. J.C. Blanton and PVT. Joe C. Rivas. For Sgt. Doar his nightmare began when the ramp to their Higgins boat went down, he stepped off and went into water over his head. As he struggled to reach the surface, his friend another 9th Infantry Ranger Sgt. Fred Walls pulled him up and helped him get to shore. Sgt. Doar states "I had put my rifle around me like a bow, but I didn't realize I still had it because I had lost the Bangalore Torpedo and most of my equipment. So on shore I picked up another rifle, I went in carrying two rifles."

The machine gun fire was devastating and mortar and artillery fire raked the beach. There were a lot of dead bodies floating in the water and laying on the beach, as well as all kinds of equipment. He took cover behind a seawall. It was utter confusion and so many men were resting against the seawall. Some were wounded; others were just dazed and confused. There were so many bodies on the beach, but the body that captured his attention the most was that of a dead GI clutching a hand grenade in his hand with the pin pulled out.



Sgt. Henry Doar took the training at Camp McCoy, he would land on Omaha beach with the a GAP team and later would be wounded twice once in Normandy and later in Germany. (photo on left)

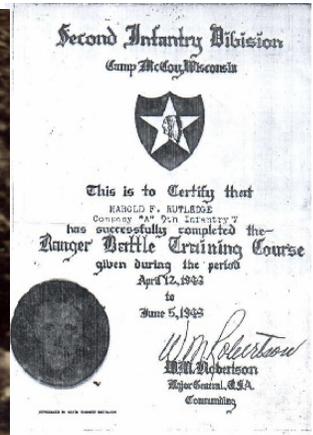


Photo of Sgt. Harold F. Rutledge and Ranger Certificate given to him for the Ranger training at Camp McCoy. The patch is the Ranger patch worn on the left sleeve of the dress tunic by the men who completed the training. Sgt. Rutledge was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge and be one of the few survivors of the Company A, when it was over run. (photo on right)



Sgt. Rutledge's Ranger patch giving to author in 1998 while researching information for his book. Harold Rutledge was member and great supporter of the Manchu Association serving as President for a number of years.

Fighting all through France and Belgium it would not be until that the German border that the 9th Infantry Rangers would be formed into a platoon size unit.

They were organize into Ranger platoons in each battalion; the Ranger platoons consisted of one officer, one NCO, and fifteen privates. Each rifle company was also instructed to designate for patrol work one officer, one NCO, and five privates who could be used as replacements for the Ranger platoons when needed. But until needed they were to remain in their respective units.

RANGER TRAINING (Continued)

These Ranger platoons were placed under the supervision of the Battalion S-2. The platoons were relieved of all responsibilities except for their own security and did patrol work only. The Ranger platoons were billeted and fed wherever possible. The Ranger Platoons also did all the night patrols; no other units were allowed to do night patrols. Each battalion would send out its Ranger platoon on a mission each night.

After the Battle of the Bulge the rangers would be disbanded and the men sent back to their companies. Still in the drive deep into Germany and the long awaited coming home you could still find a proud Manchu wearing his skull patch on his battle jacket or Class A uniform with pride.



Photo Kraig Rice

Portrait of Sgt. Hanford M. Rice, made on his return to the United States in 1945. Sgt. Rice is wearing his class A tunic with his 9th Infantry insignia, CIB, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon, ETO Ribbon with three stars, Expert, and Sharpshooters Badges with five bars, and French Fourragere. Sgt. Rice also wears the rare 2nd Division Ranger patch on his left sleeve. While inspecting the Second Infantry Division in April 1944, General George S. Patton Jr. stood before Sgt. Rice, looked him over and said, "Fine looking soldier."

Keep Up the Fire

Al Castillo

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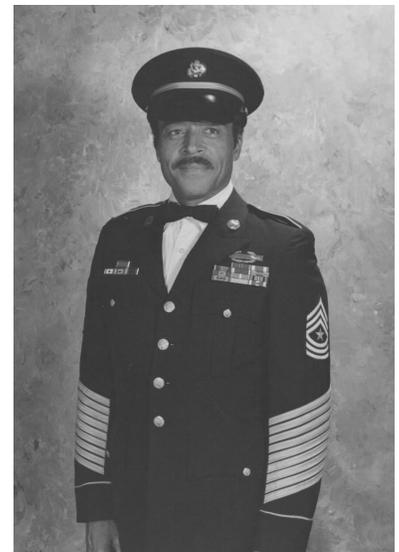
Mr. Howard T. Ray Sergeant Major (Ret.) U. S. Army

Mr. Ray entered on active duty May 5, 1950 at St. Louis, MO. He took Infantry basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. Upon completion of basic training, was assigned to the Republic of Korea with the 2d Infantry Division and performed duty as a Light Weapons Infantryman until his capture by the North Koreans in December 1950. He was released in January 1951.

Following his release from captivity, Mr. Ray continued his dedication to military service by serving on the continents of Europe and Africa. He returned to serve again in the land of his captors, on two other occasions. He also served in the Republic of Viet Nam 1967-68. His occupational career fields ranged from Infantryman, Personnel Specialist, Chaplain Assistant, Morse Intercept Operator and Instructor, Signal Intelligence Supervisor, to a Chapel Activities Supervisor where he retired as a Sergeant Major at Fort Sam Houston in November 1979

Mr. Ray's Military Awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 3rd Award, Purple Heart Medal; POW Medal, Good Conduct Medal, 9th Award; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Meritorious Unit Emblem, and the Vietnam Civil Affairs Ribbon.

Mr. Ray is married to the former Gloria L. Pryor of San Antonio, and they have a blended family of Seven children, 15 grand children and six great grand children.



CUTINHA, NICHOLAS J.

Medal of Honor

Presentation: To his family at the White House

By President Richard M. Nixon - April 7, 1970

Buried at: Fort Denaud Cemetery - Fort Denaud, Florida

Rank and organization: Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division

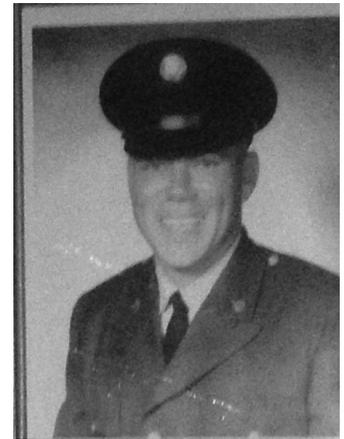
Place and date: Near Gia Dinh, Republic of Vietnam, 2 March 1968

Entered service at: Coral Gables, Florida

Born: 13 January, 1945, Fernandina Beach, Florida

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While serving as a machine gunner with Company C, Sp4c. Cutinha accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire, from a battalion size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communication with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties. When Sp4c. Cutinha observed that his company was pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his safety, firing his machine gun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, Sp4c. Cutinha assumed command of all the survivors in his area and initiated a withdrawal while providing covering fire for the evacuation of the wounded. He killed several enemy soldiers but sustained another leg wound when his machine gun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to an operable machine gun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment. Sp4c. Cutinha maintained this position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing 15 enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least 9 members of his own unit. Sp4c. Cutinha's gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

**MANCHU REUNION 2015**

NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

(MANCHU) ASSOCIATION

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Mailing Address, Including your 5 + 4 digit ZIP Code

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e-mail Address

Unit(s) Assigned as a Manchu

Dates of Assignment as a Manchu

Highest Rank as a Manchu

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CALENDAR YEAR DUES:

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RE-ENROLLMENT FOR YEARS= \$ _____
ANNUAL RENEWAL FOR YEARS= \$ _____
PROCESSING FEE \$ _____

NEW MEMBER PROCESSING FEE \$4.00**

SUB-TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

*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:
5230 Blue Roan Way, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544, and Keep Up The Fire!