



DRAGON'S BREATH

Dhahran Memorial Division Newsletter

January/February 2012

No. 37



Chinese New Year Celebration

February 1, 2012 6 PM

150 SR

Email dandianne3@gmail.com to RSVP by January 29th

China Post 1 Officers and Board

Officers	
<i>Commander</i>	Daniel S. Boothby
<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Curtis Gonter
<i>Vice Commander - Membership</i>	Vacant
<i>Vice Commander - Fundraising</i>	Larry Atkins
<i>Vice Commander - Social</i>	Randale Rushing
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tom Sedberry
<i>Adjutant</i>	Vacant
Other Board Members	
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rotating
<i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i>	Chris Rudie
<i>Newsletter/Historian</i>	David W. Tschanz



The Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located at the National War Memorial in Confederation Square, Ottawa. The Tomb of the *Unknown Soldier* was added to the war memorial in 2000, and holds the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in France during World War I. At the first Remembrance Day following the tomb's installation, a new tradition formed spontaneously as attendees placed their poppies on the tomb. This tradition, while not part of the official program, is widely practiced, with others leaving cut flowers, photographs, or letters to the deceased. The spontaneous display of respect has also carried over to Canada Day, when the public leaves small, paper Canada Flags on the tomb.

Commander's Corner



Hi All,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

I wish you all the best for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

2012 is upon us and time to have our first get together for the New Year. We will be having a dinner meeting on Wednesday eve, Feb 1st. Details elsewhere in the newsletter, so please look and plan to join us. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with a Chinese menu catered by Al Nimran, here on Dhahran camp.

I have been requesting anyone who is a full member of the American Legion/China Post 1 to consider joining the Exec Board for the past 2-3 years. It has been the same few, and our numbers are dwindling. Specifically, we need someone that has good administrative skills and would like to take over membership.

My apologies that we have done poorly, at best, in the membership area the past few years. It seems

that membership forms have been collected and lost or have never arrived in Houston and the result is that everyone is displeased. In an attempt to help reconcile with those members and potential members, DMD CP1 is willing to pay for both the local and National dues for anyone that returns to us and is willing to fill out another "blue card" for American Legion Membership. If we somehow messed up on getting your application in to Houston, we are willing to pay the bill for this second attempt submission.

It is our hope to be able to sponsor a Memorial Day celebration in May, but due to lack of available venues and lack of Exec Board Membership, we will be reducing the number of CP1 DMD events this year to between 4-6 times. Therefore, we hope that you will make every effort to attend whenever we do meet. The funds we raise are used to support veteran's charities and assisting organizations!

In 2012, CP1 DMD was able to donate 12,000 US dollars to the American Legion Legacy Fund, in support of those children that had lost their parent(s) in service to their country. Thank you all for your generosity!! It was your support of the CP1 DMD dinners and raffles which made that donation possible!

We look forward to seeing you this Feb 1st and throughout the New Year!

Dan



China Post 1 Membership

Becoming a Member of the China Post 1 Dhahran Memorial Division is easy!

There are three types of membership:

Regular Member

To become a regular member you must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Optionally you can be a US citizen who served with Allied Armed Forces during any period of conflict to which the United States was a party. Conscientious Objectors and others who refuse military discipline or do other nonqualified service are not eligible.

A copy of your DD-214 must be submitted with the application. If you do not have ready access to your DD-214, please submit it as soon as possible. A copy of your discharge certificate will be accepted as temporary documentation for application into China Post 1 but a copy of your DD-214 needs to be submitted when you have access to it. We normally give a grace period of 1 year to submit the DD-214.

There is an annual dues assessment of \$40 paid directly to the National China Post 1 Headquarters in Houston, Texas. The initial check is sent with the application from the Dhahran Memorial Division Office. There are also SR150 annual dues to support the local Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1 chapter.

Sons of the American Legion

Membership in this group is open to a sibling, child or grandchild of a veteran that was on active duty during any of our periods of conflict

Friends of China Post 1

The “Friends of the Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1” is a social membership open to anyone who does not qualify in the above categories. Membership allows you admission to our gatherings as well as a subscription to our newsletter and a place on our mailing list.

For additional information, as well as a membership form, please contact **Dan Boothby, Commander**

Frederick Townsend Ward

China's 'White God' and CP1 Namesake

David W. Tschanz

American Legion Posts are named for war heroes, distinguished Americans and individuals whose contributions enhanced the post and its development. China Post 1 is the only one that is named for a man who was declared a god.

Frederick Townsend Ward was born on November 29 1831 in Salem, Massachusetts into a seafaring family. He was headstrong, troublesome and by the time he was 15 had gotten into enough trouble for a lifetime. His father removed him from high school in early 1847 and managed to secure a position for him as second mate on the clipper *Hamilton*, commanded by Captain William Allen, a family friend.



Aboard the *Hamilton* Ward quickly discovered two essential truths. Life on ship was difficult, nasty, brutish and tough. And a 16 year old in authority over a collection of "old salts" would do well to tread carefully. To underscore the point the crew tossed him overboard complaining that he gave too many orders for a youth. After retrieving his second officer from the ocean, Allen noticed a change in the boy, but no lessening of his "reckless daring." Allen concluded by the time the *Hamilton* arrived in Hong Kong, that Ward, on the whole, was proving to be a valuable officer. Ward's first visit in China was spent entirely within Hong Kong as the Manchu Dynasty did not allow foreigners from venturing inland on pain of death.

Returning to America, Ward decided to try school again, enrolling at the "American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy", now Norwich University, in Vermont. The curriculum included military tactics, strategy, drill and ceremonies. He attended for only a few months, before he left school and never returned. In 1850 he shipped out as first mate of the clipper ship *Russell Clover*. His father was the captain.

The Fifties

His movements in the 1850's are a matter of speculation, fact and Ward's own fabrications. He supposedly met the father of Italian Independence, Giuseppe Garibaldi in Panama or Peru in 1850 while the *Russell Clover* was sailing round Cape Horn to San Francisco. He worked on a trading barque that plied the seas from San Francisco and Shanghai and worked on a variety of coastal ships on the Chinese coast. In 1852 he arrived in Mexico and found employment, as a "Filibuster."

"Filibustering" is "raising private mercenary armies and leading them into other countries to advance either [one's own] schemes or those of wealthy sponsors" Ward worked for the infamous "King of the Filibusters", William Walker, in Mexico, where he learned how to recruit, train, and command mercenary troops.

Ward also learned to avoid some of Walker's practices and behaviors. Walker has a reputation for being "excessively vain, weak minded and ambitious...his weakness renders him cruel..." During Ward's later time in China, he displayed respect and concern for the Western and Chinese troops under his command, whom he referred to as "my people".

Ward learned about practical warfare during his "Filibusteresque" experience in 1854, when he served as a lieutenant with the French Army in the Crimean War. He learned about weapons, tactics, using riflemen in mobile platoons rather than in fixed firing lines and siege techniques Ward also learned that the frontal assault was of limited value against disciplined long range firepower, and he gained

experience under fire. He did not serve throughout the entire war, because he was 'allowed' to resign in 1855 after being insubordinate to a superior officer. He also completely vanishes in 1856.

He resurfaced in 1857, Ward looking for work as a mercenary, but when he didn't secure such work, he served as the first mate on a coastal steamship in dangerous waters. He worked as a shipping agent in his father's New York City office alongside his brother in 1859.

At the end of the 1850s, Ward's life bears some similarity to Ulysess S. Grant's life. Both were former soldiers with very uncertain prospects, who worked in offices for their fathers, with their brothers. It is unlikely that they knew each other. However, while Grant later stated that he did not anticipate his role in the Civil War, while Ward was saving money, and planning military activity, this time for Imperial China.

Shanghai

Ward, then 28, and his brother arrived in Shanghai, China in 1860 for the purpose of trading, as an extension of their father's New York office. It is also likely, if not certain, that Ward had ulterior motives for his return beyond adding to the family's wealth.

The opportunity to re-enter military life came quickly as the brothers arrival coincided with a buildup of the forces of the Taiping Rebellion in the area and the prospect of war loomed. This suited Ward, as he had little respect for the Shanghai business practices, which he dismissed as "lying, swindling and smuggling."

While Ward's brother set up a trading business in Shanghai, Ward himself secured a position as executive officer on the *Confucius*; an armed riverboat commanded by an American, employed by the "Shanghai Pirate Suppression Bureau". The Bureau was organized by Hsüeh Huan and Wu Hsu, Shanghai governmental officials who took pains to shield the throne from any association with Western mercenaries and military. Funding was arranged by Yang Fang, a prominent Ning Po banker and mercantilist.

Ward's show of bravery and initiative onboard the *Confucius* caused him to be noticed by Shanghai's Chinese leaders. His exploits, previous military experience, ability to rise above racism and empathize with local populations, and his stated mercenary intentions, made him an attractive candidate to lead a force of Foreign Nationals in defense of Shanghai against encroaching Taiping forces.

Wu Hsu and Yang Fang recognized that such a force was necessary, as Imperial forces, frequently staffed by Confucian scholars and conscripts, rather than experienced commanders and soldiers, had all too often proven unequal to the task of defeating Taiping forces. The truth was that the average Chinese of the time had little understanding of marksmanship, nor much impetus to defend the Manchu throne. Further, with Taiping armies edging closer to Shanghai, there was no time to train native peasants in either conventional Chinese or Western warfare.

Chinese authorities realized they needed help and placed more faith in a small, motley group of mercenaries than readily available local citizenry. So they drew their initial army from the Shanghai docks, where Westerners with diverse military experience existed as discharged seamen, deserters, and other drifters. Even the gainfully employed could be tempted by the prospect of adventure, high pay, and loot.

Shanghai Foreign Arms Corps

Through their contacts with the Western business community, and Ward's own relentless self promotion, in the spring of 1860 Hsu and Fang reached out to Ward and became his employers. Ward then began scouring the wharves of Shanghai for every Westerner, sober or otherwise, capable of firing a weapon. With



this, the Shanghai Foreign Arms Corps (SFAC) was born.

It was going to be a politically and militarily delicate balancing act for Ward. While backed and financed by local Shanghai ministers and merchants, Manchu Imperial forces had no desire to show their reliance upon Western powers. At the same time, the Western powers discouraged foreign involvement in domestic Chinese matters, even by Westerners in Chinese employ due to fears that the Taipings would block trade downriver from the interior to Shanghai if neutrality were violated.

By June 1860, Ward's had a polyglot force of 100 Westerners, trained in the best small arms (including Colt revolvers) and rifles available for purchase in Shanghai. Protesting that his forces were not fully trained, Ward was forced by his Shanghai backers to take his men into action alongside Imperial forces probing Taiping advances, retaking two captured towns. They were then forced by circumstances (and the urging of their Shanghai backers) to assault the Taiping fortified city of Sung-Chiang, without artillery – a near-impossible task.

The attack failed, sending the thoroughly defeated force back to Shanghai. However, by mid-July, Ward had recruited additional Westerners and over 80 Filipino "Manilamen", and purchased several artillery pieces. Once again, his forces assaulted Sung-Chiang. They were successful, but at enormous cost. Out of a force of roughly 250 men, 62 were killed, and 100 were wounded, including Ward himself.

The victory, and the improved pay, attracted new recruits and enraged local Westerners who saw Ward as an inflammatory, filibustering element sure to force the Taipings to stop the flow of trade. The Taipings themselves were now aware of a new and potent force against them.

On August 2, 1860, Ward led the SFAC against Ch'ing-p'u, another fortified Taiping town on the approaches to Shanghai. This time the Taiping were prepared. As the Corps stormed a garrison wall, Taiping forces lying in ambush waited for the optimum moment and then delivered a withering barrage of close-range musket fire. Within 10 minutes, SFAC had suffered 50% casualties, and Ward himself was shot in the left jaw, with an exit wound in the right cheek, scarring him for life and leaving him with a speech impediment.

The force retreated and Ward returned to Shanghai for medical treatment and to attempt to recruit more forces and buy additional artillery. Within several days he and the remnants of the SFAC laid siege to Ch'ing-p'u and bombarded it with artillery. By this time, the Taiping's best military leader, the Chung Wang, "The Faithful King", dispatched 20,000 troops downriver to break the siege, sending the SFAC fleeing back to the Sung-Chiang area, where Ward's second-in-command, Burgevine, held the Corps briefly together, but it soon ceased to function as an organized entity.



Regrouping

Ward returned to Shanghai for further treatment of his injury, and was there while the Chung Wang's forces laid siege, and were beaten back by Western and Imperial forces within the City. Ward left Shanghai (apparently secretly) in late 1860 for further treatment of his facial wound, while the remnants of the SFAC remained more or less under the command of Burgevine.

It is unclear as to whether Yang was still funding the SFAC in the late fall of 1860, but upon Ward's return in spring 1861, Ward was able to attract desired elements of the Corps back to his employ. After his return, Ward tenaciously began to recruit and train replacements for the SFAC, and the pay was high enough to cause desertion among the many British warships in port. Ward, facing arrest and numerous political difficulties arising from the Western governments' desire to remain neutral, opted to become a Chinese subject, stymieing efforts by the British navy and other Western forces to stop him.

In May 1861, Ward once again led the SFAC into battle at Chi'ng-p'u, and once again, the assault failed, with heavy casualties. This was the last major engagement of the SFAC in its "primarily Western" configuration.

The truth was the SFAC was not particularly effective or well-disciplined. A problem more of the backers than Ward. They were repeatedly sent into the field without adequate preparation and the poorly trained and ill-disciplined contingent stood virtually no chance of success against the Chung Wang, Li Hsiu-ch'eng's seasoned troops. Sometimes drunk and always disorderly, the SFAC depended primarily on the element of surprise and the superiority of Western weapons to obtain victory.

Ward clearly recognized the harsh truth. He soon embarked upon a new vision, in which he would reform the more reliable elements of the Corps into the nucleus of an effective fighting force, comprised primarily of local Chinese.

The New Army

Credit for the concept of training Chinese in Western military tactics and arming them with the best available weaponry is sometimes given to Ward, other times to Li Heng-sung, a local Imperial commander ordered to cooperate with—and keep an eye on—Ward's unruly contingent and other times to Burgevine, who according to some began the training while Ward was recuperating, having been inspired by the sight of a Chinese gun crew acting under French direction.

Perhaps another factor in the reconsideration of local Chinese troops was the changing mood of the local peasantry. Before they had been unwilling to fight for Manchu primacy, they were now constantly threatened and in some cases occupied by Taiping forces that were, despite their “heavenly” origin, ruthless in their treatment of local populations. In many areas informal militias were formed to drive Taiping forces out, and conduct guerilla operations.

Regardless of the concept's actual origin, Ward became its champion and after his death, no other commander could match his success..

By the summer of 1861, a training camp was established by Xue Huan's “right hand man” Wu Xu at Songjiang, where Ward set up operations. Working with survivors of the SFAC, and supported by a



strong Headquarters staff, Ward trained an increasing number of Chinese in Western small arms, gunnery, tactics, customs and drill and ceremonies. Particular care was taken to train the Chinese to hold their fire until their targets were within effective range.

Troops were trained to respond to bugle calls and verbal commands, and outfitted them in Western-style utility uniforms, color-coded for branch of arms (Infantry or Artillery), with Indian “Sepoy” style turbans. This garb, at first distressing to the Chinese troops, earned them the nickname “Imitation Foreign Devils” among the local populace, as well as a fair share of mockery. In time, as the troops

proved themselves the equal of their European counterparts, both on the parade ground and the battlefield, their distinct uniforms would become a point of pride.

Another point of pride was their pay, which was both high and consistent by Chinese standards. The pay was high in part to attract new recruits to dangerous work, but also to compensate for the lack of “looting” opportunity. Ward strongly discouraged looting, as he knew the practice turned local populaces against their “liberators”. Other benefits offered to Ward's men included better rations, billets, and a better chance of survival in combat.

By January 1862, with about one thousand Chinese soldiers trained and ready, Ward stated that his unit was ready for the field – much to the relief of his Shanghai backers who had significantly invested both government and private funds into the force's recruitment, arms and supplies. This was timely, as

within the same month, the Chung Wang's forces reentered that region with over 120,000 troops, in an attempt to first cut off, and then enter and occupy Shanghai.

Battle for Shanghai

Ward welcomed the coming conflict, and was absolutely confident in his troops' ability to defend his Sung-Chiang headquarters, while simultaneously operating as "flying columns" to be directed to strategic areas and Taiping vulnerabilities. He soon had several opportunities to test this confidence.

In the middle of January, about 10 miles north of Shanghai in Wu-Sung, and over 25 snow-covered miles from their own headquarters, Ward led his new army into action, under a banner carrying a Chinese rendering of his own name reading "HUA" (Hw-ahh"). His forces drove the Taipings from their entrenched positions, despite greater rebel numbers. A week later, after a return march, Ward's forces struck at the city of Kuang-fu-lin, occupied by over 20,000 Taiping troops, just five miles from Ward's own headquarters.

Ward with 500 men, attacked the city without artillery support. The defenders, seeing the strange attire, military skill and foreign leadership of their own countrymen, wavered and broke, fleeing in disarray.

In February, again facing Taiping forces moving near his training area, Ward took 500 troops and in joint operations with local Imperial commanders, drove the rebels from Ying-ch'i-peng, Ch'en-shan, T'ien-ma-shan, and other areas around Sung-chiang. In the course of these actions against superior numbers, thousands of Taiping were killed or wounded, while Ward himself suffered five wounds, including the loss of a finger to a musket ball.



The Chung Wang, enraged at this foreign irritant, had a force of 20,000 attack Sung-chiang, defended only by Ward's force slightly less than 1500 men. Upon approach, rebel forces came under the fire of camouflaged artillery and lost over 2000 men. Immediately thereafter infantry struck out of the city at the rebels, and cut off and captured another 800, while capturing a large number of boats bearing Taiping supplies and arms.

The Taipings beat a hasty retreat, and in the process secured Ward's reputation among all the peoples of the Shanghai area; Chinese, Western and Taiping alike. From this moment on, the key Western commanders and politicians would support him, funds for troops would flow relatively freely from Imperial coffers, and his decisions would no longer be second-guessed by his backers in Shanghai.

The Ever Victorious Army

By March 1862, Ward's force would be officially named by the Manchu government, and to history, as "The Ever Victorious Army" (*Chang-sheng-chun*), and Ward himself would be made first a 4th-rank, and then a 3rd-rank mandarin, high honors indeed for a Barbarian from the Manchu court.

Through the course of 1862, "The Ever Victorious Army" would essentially live up to its name, again and again defeating numerically superior opponents, often in entrenched positions. Further, its presence on the battlefield and example of effective Chinese soldiering served as a "force multiplier" for Imperial Anhui units commanded by Li Heng-sung, between whom and Ward mutual respect grew during joint operations.

During the summer, Ward's "duckfoot" background found immediate application to the problems of land warfare. The Chung Wang's growing Taiping forces in the area, led to multiple threats at multiple

points across the region. Clearly, mobility was needed for Ward's limited forces, but the road system was inadequate. Ward saw the rivers and canals crisscrossing the region not as obstacles, but as passageways. He quickly secured the use of several river steamers, fitted them out as mobile artillery and troop transports, and increased his army's effectiveness several times over. The Chung Wang himself later attributed his defeats in the Soochow area to Western steamers. Taiping land forces could contend with "foreign devils", he believed, but rebel water forces could not.

Throughout this time, Ward's reputation continued to grow. Ward himself, while careful to try to appear disinterested in public accolades, was clearly trying to quench some inner need for further glory. He told friends and subordinates that he hoped to participate in an eventual strike against Nanking, the Taiping capital.

Ward however completely misunderstood the Manchu court. Xenophobically suspicious of him from the start, they became more so as time passed. Oddly, Ward who showed cultural sensitivity seemed to go out of his way to trivialize his relationship with the Manchu dynasty. He refused to shave his forehead, wear a queue or even appear in his fine Mandarin robes. These and other comments regarding his ambitions led the court to limit the size of his unit far beneath his potential to recruit for it, and to give Ward far less rein than they would have to a commander with more Confucian leanings.



By September, the Ever Victorious Army would number over 5,000 men, organized in four battalions as well as an artillery corps, with several riverboats used for transport and mobile artillery.

Death in battle

Ward was mortally wounded in the Battle of Cixiat the city of Tz'u-ch-i on September 21 1862, when he was shot in the abdomen. One version is that he was wounded at the base of the city wall. Another story is that he was shot when he stood on the city wall looking for the enemy with a telescope, and that his visibility made him an easy target. Ward survived 14 previous battlefield injuries.

Ward lingered for a day. During that time he dictated a will ensuring his brother, sister and Chinese wife would be cared for before dying on the morning of September 22, 1862. He died at the height of his fame, leaving an unusual, original army forged by an even more unusual commander.

His funeral was impressive and attended by Chinese, English, Americans, Germans and French. Many civil and military officials accompanied his body to Sung-Kiang where he was buried in the temple grounds dedicated to Confucius thousands of years ago. Li Hung Chang wrote a memorial letter to the Emperor recording General Ward's death and suggesting that "it is appropriate, therefore, to entreat that your Gracious Majesty do order the Board of Rites to take into consideration suitable posthumous rewards to be bestowed on him, Ward; and that both at Ning-Po and at Sung-Kiang sacrificial altars be erected to appease the Manes of this loyal man."

An Imperial Edict directed "that special temples to his memory be built at Ning-Po and Sung-Kiang. Let this case still be submitted to the Board of Rites, who will propose to Us further honors so as to show our extraordinary consideration towards him, and also that his loyal spirit may rest in peace. This from the Emperor! Respect it!"

The US Minister to China, Mr. Burlingame, forwarded a full account of Ward's career and death, which was read in the Senate and answered together with a message from President Lincoln.

Legacy

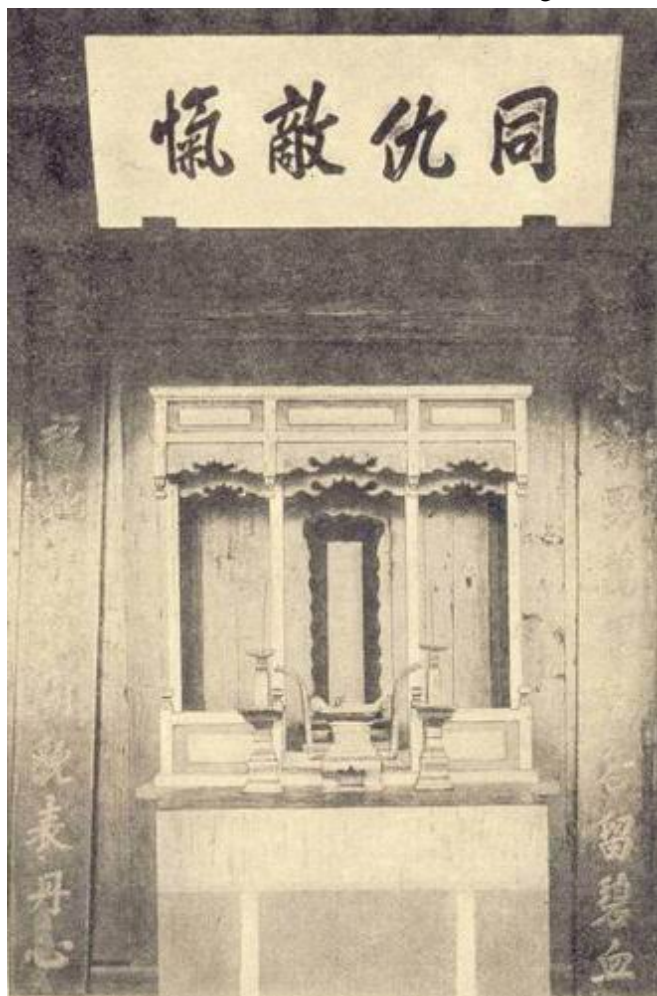
Three years after arriving in Shanghai an obscure, penniless, 28 year old merchant, Ward had become the most honored American in Chinese history, a naturalized subject and a mandarin entitled to wear the prestigious peacock feather in his hat. His wife was the daughter of another mandarin. But above all he had assemble out of the most improbably elements an army unlike any the world had ever seen: a highly disciplined force of native Chinese officers commanded by Western officers. Troops expert in the use of foreign weapons and capable of defeating vastly superior numbers of opponents in the field.

The events of the American Civil War overshadowed Ward's accomplishments in China during his life and in the midst of that war few Americans paid attention to the activities of an American in faroff China.

Charles George Gordon, aka "Chinese Gordon", a British Army officer would also overshadow him in the media. After Ward's death, the command of the Ever Victorious Army passed to his second in command, E. Forrester, then to Henry Andres Burgevine and later to Gordon. Gordon biographers diminish or disregard that Ward creation, the Ever Victorious Army, an original and unique military development which made Gordon's famed success in China possible. Today, Chinese Gordon is remembered, while Ward is largely forgotten.

Physical remains and monuments

Ward was buried and while the Chinese government was genuinely uneasy about it, he was treated as a mandarin and a temple ordered to be built over his grave.



The imperially ordered temple was dedicated on March 10, 1877 amid elaborate ceremonies. The procession moved off towards the tomb amid the banging of fire-crackers and bombs. There were sacrifices of goats, pigs, ducks and other animals. At the end of the dedication there were more fireworks and gongs. Inside the temple was a shrine upon which burnt-offerings are laid in February of every New Year to the Manes of General Ward, and to which official prayers were offered every month in the year by officials of the Chinese Government. The inscription at the entrance of the shrine reads, "A wonderful hero from beyond the seas, the fame of whose deserving loyalty reaches round the world, has sprinkled China with his azure blood." Monuments were also placed on the scenes of his victories. The mausoleum soon became a shrine supposed to be invested with miraculous power, and some years after his death he was declared to be a Joss, or God.¹ Such honors were rarely given to any native Chinese and never before to any Westerner.

When the imperial Chinese government collapsed in 1911, Ward's legacy and memory was threatened. The American Legion Post in Shanghai named itself after him and tried to

¹ A manuscript to this effect can be seen in the Essex Institute in Salem, as well as his hat, boots and the bullet that killed him.

maintain his grave. The Republican government had little use for Ward since he had fought for the Manchu, and against the Taiping, whom Sun Yat-Sen regarded the founders of Republican movement. While not actively hostile, they did little to preserve his memory.

The brutal Japanese seizure of Shanghai in 1940, led among other things, to the sacking of Ward's shrine and memorial hall as well as the defacing of his graves – actions they assured then neutral American officials they would not do.

The final victory of Mao Tse-Tung's communists had a catastrophic effect. They too saw their origins in the Taiping Rebellion and were not in the least sympathetic to Ward or the Ever Victorious Army's role in propping up the Manchu. In 1955 Ward's remains were dug up and his grave and shrine destroyed and paved over. The whereabouts of Ward's bones today are unknown. They have almost certainly been destroyed.

The 1923 headstone, erected by the American Legion can be found in Nanking's Taiping Kingdom History Museum.

A plain headstone over a cenotaph in Salem, is the only memorial to this most noteworthy of nineteenth-century American adventurers.



Dragons and Their Toes

David W. Tschanz

Look around you at any China Post 1 meeting and you're sure to see dragons. In fact CP1's dragons are probably one of the most unique and memorable logos at any American Legion gathering. But make sure you have the right dragon and understand why that dragon had better have five toes. Here's a brief summary of the role dragon's played in Chinese mythology and symbolism and the meaning of the toe count.

The Dragon is one of the most ancient symbols in China, with bronze castings predating the invention of writing. Dragons played an important role in Chinese mythology and unlike their western counterparts, which were destructive and bordered on being evil, Chinese dragons were just, benevolent and bringers of good fortune. They were also believed to have near god-like powers over all elements and human life.



A dragon, for example, could cause it to rain in a drought or, by striking a flooded raging river with its tail, cause the river to split or divert away from a city or village or fields. Dragons could be destructive but only

when antagonized. Legend says that some of China's worst floods and earthquakes occurred when a mortal upset a dragon. Dragons also carried humans to the celestial realm after death, hence the term 'to mount the dragon' when someone is dying.

Most Eastern dragons were portrayed as wingless. They flew through their their inherent magical abilities. Dragons are described as having a *chi'ih-muh* - a lump on their head, which was said to be the source of their magical flight capabilities. Some dragons did not have this lump and would instead carry a *po-shan* - a wand or baton which would allow them to fly.

During the winter dragons slept curled up at the bottom of the sea or rivers before rising for the six months of the summer. They would then whirl round in the storm clouds where their claws were seen as the lightning and the thunder their voice. Dragons could make themselves as small as a silk worm or, alternatively, makes themselves large enough to fill the space between heaven and earth. A dragon is usually paired with a phoenix to symbolize long life, prosperity and wedded bliss, and with a tiger to symbolize the forces of heaven and earth.

Dragons were said to be born from nine different animals and strict rules governed their appearance in all forms of decoration. Eastern dragons traditionally have four legs, long serpent-like bodies, and usually don't have wings, although aquatic dragons will have fins. Asian dragons have the horns of a deer, the head of a camel, the eyes of a hare, the neck of a snake, the scales of a carp the stomach of a silk worm, the claws of an eagle, the paws of a tiger and the ears of an ox. They are generally depicted with a lion's mane, antlers and two long whiskers spreading out from their snout. Chinese dragon bodies have 117 scales; 81 infused with yang and 36 infused with yin, a combination which evens out the dragon's temper and personality. Chinese dragons are usually shown as blue, black, red or yellow.





The number of toes a dragon has also provides a clue to its heritage and importance. The Chinese believe that all eastern dragons originated in China and as they went further east and south from their homeland, they began to lose toes. Hence Chinese Dragons have four or five toes, while Korean dragons and Japanese dragons have three or four toes.

Ancient Chinese law dictated that the five toed dragon, known as a *Lung*, was worn on robes by a restricted group of important people headed by the Emperor, his first and second sons, and high ranking officials who were rewarded for their work for the Emperor. It was usually a Yellow Dragon, thought to be the most superior of all the colored dragons in China, that was worn by the Emperor.

There are four types of *Lung*;

- Tien-lung - The Celestial Dragon: gatekeeper and protector of the homes of the Gods.
- Shen-Lung - The Spiritual Dragon: controller of the winds and the rain.
- Ti-Lung - The Earth Dragon: guardian of rivers and waterways.
- Fut's-Lung - The Underworld Dragon: keeper of precious metals and gems.

Third and fourth line princes wore the four toed dragon, or *Mang*, and the rest of the nobility and other suitable worthies wore the three-toed dragon. Everyone else had to use a lizard.

If someone other than the Emperor was caught wearing the symbol of the five-toed dragon, they were put to a rather gruesome death. As a result anyone carrying a travel warrant sealed with the Emperor's five-toed dragon could travel safely from one end of the country to the other and expect hospitality all the way.

And that's why China Post 1 has a dragon with five toes as its symbol -- we're the ultimate!

Year of the Dragon



The Chinese dragon is also one of the twelve zodiac signs in Chinese Astrology. Anyone born under his sign is likely to be regal since the dragon is a royal symbol of sorts. The person bearing the sign of the dragon will be a strong leader, have a big ego, and may tend to be bossy. Sometimes the Chinese dragon appears as a waterspout because he rules the oceans.

Dragons have a good chance of achieving considerable material wealth during their lifetimes, although it isn't mere money that's this sign's main motivation. Power is what the Dragon wants and truly believes it deserves. Dragons are quite the opportunists and are always in search for ways to consolidate their considerable power. Dragons are not well suited to growing old. The prospect of losing power, the helpless feeling of youthful strength ebbing away is unbearable to them. A weakened Dragon is a sad sack, a creature that refuses to take defeat with even a modicum of grace.

Irritable and stubborn, the Dragon is a real big mouth and his words often outrun his thoughts. Nevertheless, his opinions are worth listening to and his advice is always good. People do, in fact, listen to him and his influence is considerable. The Dragon is over-proud. He is enthusiastic to the point of impetuosity, and he loses his temper easily.

Dragons are dauntless, dynamic and delightful. When a Dragon enters a gathering, the room starts to simmer. The Dragon is gifted, intelligent, tenacious, willing and generous. He can do anything. No matter whether the Dragon chooses an artistic career, medical or political one, he is going to shine in it. He will be a success wherever he goes.

Strange and Obscure Civil War Facts

Gertrude Stein said it best: “There will never be anything more interesting in America than that Civil War.” And of course interest is high, now that we’ve begun commemorating the sesquicentennial anniversaries of the war’s key events. Some of the odder coincidences and bizarre facts of the period can be overlooked. Wilmer McLean became one of the legendary figures of the war merely by trying to escape it. (After his house was shelled during the First Battle of Bull Run, he moved—to Appomattox Court House, and it was his house where General Lee surrendered to General Grant.) Here are some other noteworthy people and artifacts:

The Unusual Bunker Brothers. Chang and Eng Bunker are best known as “the original Siamese Twins.” Natives of Siam (modern Thailand) and joined at the sternum, they became a popular attraction with traveling museum exhibitions. In 1839, they bought 110 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and settled down. They married sisters, built a successful farm (with slave labor) and became naturalized citizens and devoted Confederates. In 1865, Union General George Stoneman raided North Carolina and decided to draft some of the locals, regardless of sympathies; the names of men over 18 were put into a lottery wheel. Eng’s name was drawn, but he resisted the draft. Since Chang’s name was not drawn, there was little General Stoneman could do; the brothers were not only joined at the sternum, their livers were fused. Neither one served in the war, but their eldest sons both enlisted and fought for the Confederacy.

The secret hiding place. In 2009, a woman visited the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, with an acorn-shaped object in hand. It was made of brass and had no inscriptions or markings. She said that according to family lore, one of her descendants, a Confederate soldier, used the device to smuggle secret messages, hiding it in his posterior until he reached his destination. Museum officials were intrigued by what she called a “rectal acorn,” but she declined to donate it.



Glowing wounds. After the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, soldiers reported a peculiar phenomenon: glow-in-the-dark wounds. More than 16,000 soldiers from both armies were wounded during the battle, and neither Union nor Confederate medical personnel were prepared for the carnage. Soldiers lay in the mud for two rainy days, and many of them noticed that their wounds glowed in the dark. In fact, the injured whose wounds glowed seemed to heal better than the others. In 2001, two Maryland teenagers solved the mystery (and won a top prize at an international science fair). The wounded became hypothermic, and their lowered body temperatures made ideal conditions for a bioluminescent bacterium called *Photorhabdus luminescens*, which inhibits pathogens.

Stonewall Jackson, hypochondriac. The Confederate general thought himself “out of balance.” Even under fire, he would raise an arm so the blood might flow down into his body and re-establish equilibrium. (His hand was wounded when he did this during the First Battle of Bull Run). He refused to eat pepper because it seemed to make his left leg weak. He sucked lemons, believing that they helped his “dyspepsia.” He was most comfortable standing upright so that all of his organs were “naturally” aligned. He suffered from poor eyesight, which he tried to treat by dunking his head into a basin of cold water, eyes open. And yet he once told a captain that he felt “as safe in battle as in bed.”



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY