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Don't Lose Continuous Years of Service!***

***CP1 Squadron membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June every year. If your dues remains unpaid after 31 December, your Continuous Years of service is reset to Zero. Send your (\$25.00) 2018 dues to our mailing address below.***

***2018 Reunion***

***The 2018 China Post Reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas, 20-23 Sep 2018, at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel.***

*Use these links for hotel reservations. I recommend you get your reservation sooner rather than later so we can still get more rooms if necessary.*

*Reunion registration will be made available when final plans are in place.*

*Register on line: [American Legion China Post 1](#)*

*Register by phone: [877-736-4311](tel:877-736-4311). When guests call they should ask for American Legion China Post 1.*

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JOE GENTILE  
SQUADRON COMMANDER

[www.ChinaPost1.org](http://www.ChinaPost1.org)

## The Early Years of China Post 1 ...

It is firmly established that China Post 1 is one of the first posts ever organized within the American Legion. There is a desire, within China Post, to tie China Post 1 to the organization and that first caucus held in Paris in March 1919; to be a “Charter or Founding Member” if you will, of the American Legion. I can report to you that my research is inconclusive. It is a common misconception throughout the Legion, that the Paris caucus in March of 1919 established the first legion posts and issued the first Post charters. But that is not the case.

The foundation, legwork, constitution and draft bylaws were formalized between March of 1919 and September of 1919 when the United States Congress granted a Congressional Charter incorporating the American Legion on September 16, 1919. Throughout 1919, prospective posts were being organized and departments were being established. Finally at the first National Convention of the American Legion, held November 10-12, 1919 in Minneapolis, MN permanent charters were finally issued (**see Tabloid History of AL**).

Regarding the first charter issued to an American Legion post, the “official” position of the Legion is: ***“As is confirmed by The National Library of the American Legion and its official supporting documents, the first post of the American Legion is George Washington Post 1 in Washington, D.C. Organized March 7, 1919, it obtained the first charter issued to any post of The American Legion on May 19, 1919”.***

George Washington Post No.1 was organized a week prior to the Paris Caucuses, a week before the executive committee was chosen, and a week before the name “American Legion” was adopted. What incredible insight. This is a fine but important point. Temporary charters were issued to posts meeting minimum membership requirements as a means to indicate to Congress that there was an interest and a need for a nationally incorporated organization. However; no permanent charters were issued prior to the first National Convention in November 1919.

Representatives from China attended the first National Convention pressing our interests and establishing the Department of China while concurrently working to

secure a charter for a post in Shanghai. The first mention of China Post 1, known at that time a Shanghai Post No.1, appeared in the American Legion Weekly Vol.2 No. 17 Published May 21, 1920, six months after the first American Legion National Convention. Here is the quote:

***“The American Ex-service Club of China has become Shanghai Post No. 1 of The American Legion. Organization of the Department of China is now underway and at least six additional Posts are to be formed at Hankow and Tientsin in North China and at Hong Kong. The Shanghai ex-service men have been giving monthly luncheons.”***

The Second Annual Convention of the American Legion was held on September 27 – 29, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio where Shanghai Post 1 and the Department of China was represented by [“H.E. Marsden, c/o Standard Oil Co., Shanghai, China”](#) ref. pg. 125 Convention Pamphlet ([see 1920 Convention Pamphlet](#)).

The [American Club](#) on Foo Chow Street in Shanghai dates back to 1910 and may have its roots as far back as 1905 with the Army’s 15<sup>th</sup> infantry, the Navy’s Asiatic Fleet and the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Legation guards. The history of a servicemen’s club on Foo Chow road at the location of China Post’s home is well documented and undeniable. The conversion from the American Club to Shanghai Post 1 took place on November 28, 1919. Here is an excerpt from the China Monthly Review, Volume 10 December 1919 issue:

***From China Monthly Review, Volume 10 pg. 511 “An organization of ex-service men of the United States Army and Navy who served during the European War is being formed in Shanghai and a dinner and smoker is to be held at***

*the **American Club**, at 8 o'clock, Friday night, 'November 28, 1919. The temporary organization is headed by Major Arthur P. Bassett as chairman and Don D. Patterson of Millard's Review, 113 Avenue Edward VII, as temporary secretary. It is intended to affiliate the local organization with the American Legion, the association of ex-servicemen now being perfected in the United States. A cover charge of \$2.50 a plate will be charged for the dinner. All American Army or Navy men who served during the European war are asked to attend the dinner and to communicate with the temporary secretary."*

Whether representatives from the American Club in Shanghai, China attended the Paris caucuses in March of 1919 is still a mystery. But what is clear, though, is that we are well represented in the beginning of the American Legion and were instrumental in the foundations and building of this organization. What is incontestable is the impact that members of China Post 1 have had on the history of not only this nation, but in many cases the outcome of global events. There is not a single post, regardless of when their charter was issued, that can match our legacy.

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Scott Riebel

Historian, China Post 1



## Support the Legacy Fund

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### **Net Proceeds go to the Legacy Scholarship.**

Since the inception of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2001 following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, The American Legion has offered its support to the children of fallen post-9/11 servicemembers through this scholarship. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher. Our organization remains committed to honoring the memory and service of our fallen and disabled comrades by ensuring their children are afforded the best possible educational opportunities.

Wear a China Post 1 T-Shirt while contributing to a great cause. Available Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL. Reply to this email with any questions. Send \$30.00 which includes shipping. Send your payment via PayPal to [joe42672@gmail](mailto:joe42672@gmail.com) as Friend to Friend (no fees) or mail a check to our address below with Size(s), Quantity and Shipping Address.



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