

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans

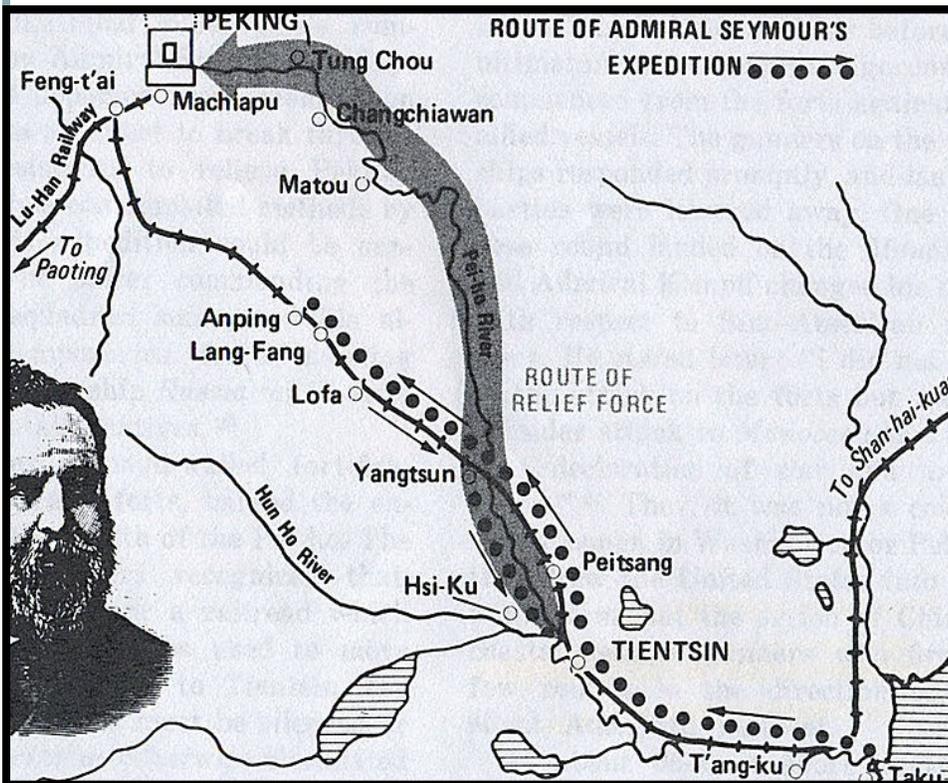
Volume 2022, Issue 1

2021 was a challenging year —again! Still we had a significant attendance for our National Convention in Newport, Kentucky (which us locals call, Cincinnati's South Bank). As with too many others, despite vaccines and protocols my wife and I came down with some strain of COVID. Luckily, we did not require hospitalization, but for about a week things were unpleasant. A combination of events caused this newsletter not to be published in the Fall of 2021, but we hope you enjoy this issue.

This issue focuses on the China Relief Expedition, a under-discussed military operation. Some photos from the National Convention are also included in this issue.

Bernie O'Bryan, Editor

Route of Admiral Seymour's Expedition from the eastern China coast to rescue those under siege.



China Campaign Medal

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British Admiral Edward Seymour led an expedition of 2,000 sailors and marines from European and Japanese warships. Though the mission failed, it was a valiant effort.

Left: Illustration from:

Wikipedia: U.S. Department of the Army derivative work:

[Smallchief Military Operations in Northern China - 1900.jpg](#)

China Expedition Timeline

Below is from the "Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1900" Page 12

CHINA

The perilous situation of the members of the American legation at Peking and their complete isolation in the midst of an unruly and murderous populace last spring demanded prompt action for their relief. The Commanding General, Division of the Philippines, was therefore instructed by cable, June 16, to send at once a regiment of infantry to Taku, and, six days later, Mai. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, U. S. Volunteers, was selected to command the United States troops to compose the China relief expedition.

The following is a summary of events in China subsequent to the firing by the Taku forts on foreign war vessels which resulted in the surrender of the forts June 17, and to the capture of the east arsenal at Tientsin by the allied forces on the 27th of the same month:

July 3. — Headquarters and eight troops of the Sixth Cavalry sailed from San Francisco on the Grant for China.

July 6. — Ninth Infantry landed at Taku.

July 11. — Two battalions Ninth Infantry reached Tientsin.

July 13. — Severe engagement at Tientsin between the allied forces and the Chinese. The Ninth Infantry suffered heavily, losing Colonel Liscum and 17 men killed and 5 officers and 72 men wounded.

July 14. — Tientsin captured by the allies; Third Battalion, Ninth Infantry, reached that place.

July 15. — Light Battery F, Fifth Artillery, and two battalions Fourteenth Infantry sailed from Manila for China.

July 17. — Headquarters and four companies Fifteenth Infantry sailed from San Francisco on the Sumner for China.

July 26. — Two battalions Fourteenth Infantry, on the Indiana arrived at Taku.

July 27. — Light battery F, Fifth Artillery, on the Flintshire arrived at Taku.

July 28. — General Chaffee, with headquarters and eight troops Sixth Cavalry, arrived at Taku.

July 29. — Four batteries Third Artillery sailed from San Francisco on the Hancock for China.

August 6. — Pietsang captured by the allied forces. No casualties to the United States troops.

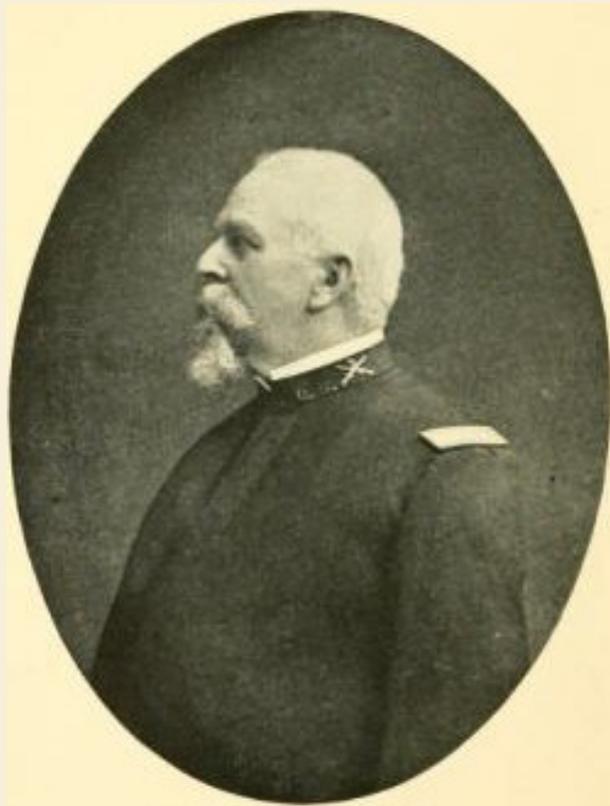
August 6. — Light Battery F, Fifth Artillery, Ninth and Fourteenth Infantry, participated in battle of Yangtsung, sustaining a loss of 7 men killed and 1 officer and 62 men wounded.

August 9. — Japanese, British, Russian, and American troops advanced to Ho-si-wu, the Chinese flying after firing first shots.

Below are the officers of the Ninth Infantry, assumingly in the Philippines circa 1899. **Colonel Liscum** middle of first row. **Lt. Schoeffel** is #5 from the right in a row by himself just behind the 2nd row, but not actually in the 3rd row. Notice on the left in the back their regimental flag is a USA flag with their name print on a stripe. Source: www.manchu.org/linage/schoeffel/



Emerson H. Liscum, Colonel, United States Army (source: arlingtoncemetery.net)



GENERAL EMERSON H. LISCUM.

Lieutenant Colonel Emerson H. Liscum of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, who was wounded (battle of Santiago, Cuba), began his military career in the ranks. He was born in Vermont and in May 1861 entered the volunteer army as a Corporal in the First Vermont Infantry. He took his discharge however within three months. On February 1 of the following year he enlisted as a Private in the Regular Army and was assigned to the Twelfth Infantry. He passed through the grades of Corporal, Sergeant and First Sergeant in his regiment within a year and on March 22, 1863 he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in his regiment. Two weeks later he was advanced to the rank of First Lieutenant. On August 1, 1864, while a Lieutenant in the Twelfth Infantry, he was breveted Captain for gallant services in the battle of Bethesda Church and during the campaign before Richmond.

On September 21, 1866 he was transferred to the Twentieth Infantry and on July 28 of the same year was appointed a Captain in the Twenty-fifth Infantry. He was assigned to the Nineteenth Infantry in July 1870 and on May 4, 1892 was promoted to Major and transferred to the Twenty-second Infantry. He was advanced the rank of Lieutenant Colonel May 23, 1896 and transferred to the Twenty-fourth Infantry. I

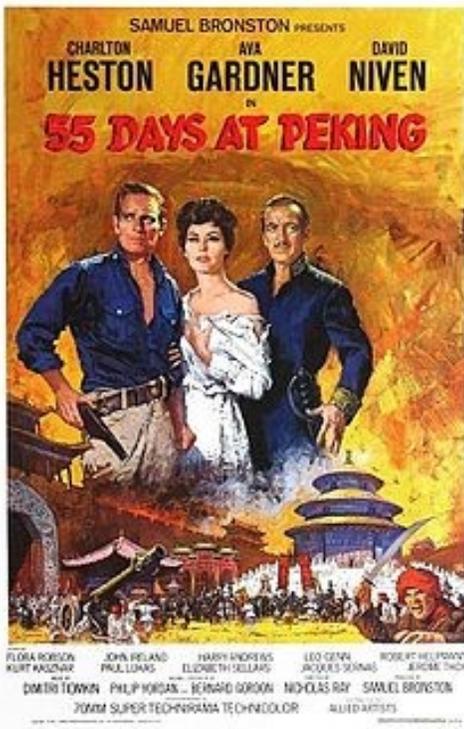
to
n the meantime, foreign dignitaries and missionaries (including Americans) were being subjected to the terrors of a rebellion in China. The 9th Infantry was one of only two American units chosen to protect American interests in China. After landing at Taku Bar, the Regiment began the trek towards Tientsin under the direction of the Regimental commander, Colonel Emerson H. Liscum.

The assault on Tientsin began on the morning of 13 July 1900, a day that is deeply engraved in the memory of the entire Regiment. At approximately 0900 hours on that day, the Regimental Color Sergeant, Sergeant Edward Gorman, who was standing beside Colonel Liscum, was severely wounded by the intense fire. Colonel Liscum had been struck in the shoulder but he gallantly seized the Colors from the fallen sergeant, stood fearlessly holding them erect and continued to direct the assault on the city walls in the face of murderous fire. A few moments later, the Colonel fell mortally wounded and shortly after directing his men to "Keep Up The Fire Men," he died. The regiment remained pinned down by the fierce Boxer fire for the rest of the day, and at dusk was ordered to retreat by General Dorward, the British commander of the multi-national task force. The assault was resumed the next day and the Japanese Infantry broke through the city gate and the city fell.

The Regiment participated in another engagement at Yang-Tsun and then participated in the assault on Peking. The Fighting Ninth was the first unit to break into the forbidden city and, after the fall of Peking, a sentry of the Ninth remained on guard at the entrance to the forbidden city for almost one year until the Regiment was withdrawn in mid-1901.

As a result of their exemplary performance during this campaign,, the Regiment was awarded the honorary title of "Manchus," earned its foremost trophy, the Liscum Bowl, and its motto, "*Keep Up The Fire.*"

CHINA REBELLIONS IN FILM



The China Relief Expedition is the setting for

55 Days at Peking which received two Academy Awards nominations. The story focus's on Europeans trapped in Peking and efforts to rescue them.

Two decades after that time period is the setting for

The Sand Pebbles which tells the story of an independent, rebellious sailor aboard the fictional river gun-boat USS *San Pablo*, on Yangtze patrol in 1920s China.

A well done video overview of the China Relief Expeditions is:

[When America, Russia, And Germany Were Allies: The Relief Of Peking \(1900\) - YouTube](#)



Book Review History Disrupted:

How Social Media, Wikipedia and the World Wide Web Have Changed the Past

By Jason Steinhauer

Has technology changed our view of the past? In his new book, Jason Steinhauer details social media's focus on the strange, novel and controversial and Wikipedia which crowd sourcing history while replacing true historic research. He explores mobile networks, and the viral and visual nature of the Web inundated the public sphere with historical information and misinformation, changing what we know about our history and History as a discipline. Apparently this is the first book to chronicle how and why it matters. Why does History matter at all? What role do history and the past play in our democracy, our economy, our understanding of ourselves? How do questions of history intersect with today's most pressing debates about technology; the role of the media; journalism; tribalism; education; identity politics; the future of government, civilization, and the planet? At the start of a new decade, in the midst of growing political division around the world, this information is critical to an engaged citizenry. As we collectively grapple with the effects of technology and its capacity to destabilize our societies, scholars, educators and the general public should be aware of how the Web and social media shape what we know about ourselves and crucially, about our past.



See anything strange about these two above pictures? The one on the left show our past National President James McAteer and our then current President James McBryant with some of our virtual audience watching. The picture on the left is our new President D. M. "Tim" Mabee actually taking the picture on the left. Our National Convention in 2021 met in the public library in Newport, Kentucky at no cost to our organization. The library is just a few blocks away from the hotel and from the scenic view of Cincinnati across the Ohio River (see picture below).



Left: Outgoing National President James McBryant swears some members into their new national positions.

Below: the night skyline of Cincinnati, Ohio from Newport, Kentucky. The water reflected the lights in this clear night with the moon in the sky.

