



One of two .30 caliber water-cooled machineguns that were used in the "Battle of the Bulge" stands inside the "Manchu" museum.

Manchu legacy now displayed

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December 17-18, 1944 at a crossroad in Rocherath, Germany, Company D, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry fought off a German offensive until the U.S. 7th Army arrived. It was "D-day," "The Battle of the Bulge." Dec. 18. A day that lives not only in history books but in Fort Ord's 9th Regiment "Manchu" museum.

Cpl. S.L. Plumbley and PFC H. Hooper, soldiers of Co. D, 1st Bn., 9th Inf., each manned a Browning .30 caliber water-cooled machinegun at Rocherath. Plumbley and Hooper

received Silver Stars, posthumously. One of their unit's two machine guns survived and is on display at the Manchu museum, a reminder of heroic feats in Manchu history.

The museum has various weapons, sabers, flags and other artifacts from World War II on display. Also, the museum has artifacts that well precede D-day and World War II. Three Chinese Jimgal (muskets) lean against a rack, each musket's muzzle nearly touching the ceiling. The Jimgals, used in the

Chinese Boxer Rebellion of 1900, take you back in Manchu history, but you can go further yet. Also included in the museum's displays are U.S. Spencer Rimfire Breachloading Carbines, placed into the Army's inventory no later than 1860.

The weapons of the museum no longer spit lead or add weight to a marching soldier's load. But that does not mean they no longer have a purpose. They are testimony of a mission that has transcended time.



SSgt. Cecil Hoover, supervisor of the 9th Infantry Regiment museum displays a "Jimgal" musket that was captured during the 1900 Chinese Boxer Rebellion. In the background is the "Manchu" punch bowl, worth about \$250,000. The punch bowl was made from silver ingots that were a gift from the Chinese.