

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M1444

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION RELATING
TO GENERAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC,
AND MILITARY CONDITIONS IN CHINA
1918-1941

Roll 13

MID 2657-I-321 to 2657-I-464

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

WASHINGTON: 1986

INTRODUCTION

On the 19 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced record cards and correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division (MID) that relate to conditions in China from 1918 to 1941. The documents reproduced are largely reports from the U.S. military attache assigned to China and his assistants. The MID correspondence from which the six files reproduced on the microfilm publication were extracted is a part of Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, Record Group (RG) 165.

BACKGROUND

The Military Intelligence Division originated in 1885, when Adj. Gen. Richard C. Drum directed Maj. William J. Volkmar of the Military Reservation Division to organize a Division of Military Information. Drum's action was in response to an increasing need for the systematic collection and dissemination of information relating to foreign and U.S. military services. The Military Information Division, as it became known, functioned as an adjunct of the Military Reservation Division until 1889. The congressional appropriation act of September 22, 1888 (25 Stat. 481), provided for "the pay of a clerk attendant on the collection and classification of military information from abroad." It also specified that officers detailed to obtain military information would be entitled to allowances for mileage and transportation, and to commutation of quarters. As a result of this act, the first U.S. military attaches were detailed during 1889 to U.S. diplomatic posts at London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. In addition, the act laid the necessary financial groundwork for the Adjutant General's confidential order of April 12, 1889, which established the Military Information Division as "a separate division under the personal supervision of the Adjutant General."

An act of February 14, 1903 (32 Stat. 830), reorganized the War Department hierarchy, creating a War Department General Staff headed by a Chief of Staff. Six months later, Secretary of War Elihu Root's order of August 8 directed the transfer of the Military Information Division and its records to the Office of the Chief of Staff, effective August 15, 1903. Under the new organization, what had been the Military Information Division became the Second Division (of three divisions) of the General Staff. War Department General Order 128, dated August 12, 1908, provided for the reorganization of the General Staff into sections and thereunder into such committees as necessary for the transaction of business. As a result of this order, the Second

Division (military information) was merged with the Third Division (military planning and education) to form the Second Section. A reorganization of September 26, 1910, abolished the Second Section and transferred its responsibilities, including military information, to the new War College Division.

The entry of the United States into World War I on April 6, 1917, greatly increased the work of the War College Division. To deal with the growing intelligence workload, the Chief of Staff, in a memorandum dated April 28, 1917, directed that a separate military intelligence section be established within the War College Division. Most records relating to foreign intelligence created or accumulated by the Military Intelligence Section were filed in the central correspondence of the War College Division. A reorganization of the General Staff, under authority of War Department General Order 14, dated February 9, 1918, abolished the War College Division. All intelligence functions passed to the Military Intelligence Branch of the newly created Executive Division. This branch began keeping its own records, separate from those of other branches or divisions of the General Staff. Subsequently, some files were withdrawn from the War College Division records (now inherited by the War Plans Division) and incorporated into the separate series of Military Intelligence Branch records. A second major wartime reorganization of the War Department General Staff occurred under authority of General Order 80, dated August 26, 1918, which established a separate Military Intelligence Division (MID). The order also provided that the MID was to be headed by an officer designated as director of military intelligence who would function as an assistant to the Chief of Staff. The MID continued keeping the separate series of records maintained by the former Military Intelligence Branch.

As a result of War Department General Order 41, dated August 16, 1921, the MID was given the additional designation of G-2 and was constituted as one of the five General Staff divisions, each under the immediate control of an Assistant Chief of Staff. This organizational structure remained largely unchanged through World War II.

The major function of the MID and its predecessors was the collection of military information about foreign countries. Military attaches and observers assigned to those countries were the principal means by which the MID collected such information. The main duties of a military attaché were to observe and report on the organization, training, equipment, doctrine, and operations of foreign military forces. In addition, the attaché reported on political, economic, and social conditions in the country to which he was assigned, especially as they influenced military affairs. To carry out this work, the attaché had a small staff, including assistant military attaches who prepared their own reports, to assist him.

Although the United States first dispatched military attaches to foreign posts in 1889, it did not assign a military attache to China until 1900. U.S. military attaches remained in China until the Nationalist Government moved to the island of Formosa in December 1949.

Record Description

The documents reproduced on this microfilm publication, largely military attache reports but also including documents created by other U.S. Government agencies and foreign governments, are from the records of the Military Intelligence Division and date from 1918 to 1941. Some extant reports on conditions in China for the period 1903 to 1917, from military attaches and other sources, are in the correspondence of the War College Division, also part of RG 165, but are not filmed on this publication. In addition, although this publication reproduces the six principal MID files relating exclusively to China for the period 1918 to 1941 (general conditions, political conditions, economic conditions, army, navy, and aeronautics), it does not reproduce all MID files relevant to China.

The Military Intelligence Division filed correspondence in accordance with the "record card system," utilized widely in the late 19th and early 20th century by the War Department. On each incoming and outgoing communication and on each enclosure, a record clerk placed in the upper-right corner of the first page a file designation consisting of a master number representing the main subject of the communication. Following the master number, the record clerk sometimes entered an alphabetical or numerical suffix representing a subfile under the subject of the master number, and an additional number representing the sequential order under the subfile (e.g., MID 2657-I-1 or 2657-I-276/55 or 2055-622/178). In other instances, when no subfile was involved, the clerk simply added a numerical suffix to the master number to indicate the next sequential transaction (e.g., 2055-606).

After the clerk had assigned a file designation to the communication, he summarized its contents on a record card and placed the same file designation on the record card. Record cards were subsequently annotated to show the routing and ultimate destination or disposition of a communication. The clerk then prepared name, subject, and geographic index cards as finding aids to the communication and the record card. The index cards were filed alphabetically. The communications and the records cards were filed numerically by their assigned file designations. In addition, the MID kept chronological lists ("Dispatch Lists") of all communications received from an attache at a particular post.

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In its filing scheme the MID used letters to designate particular countries; I represented China. Therefore, under the master number for economic conditions (2655), the designation 2655-I relates to economic conditions in China. Individual documents under that designation were numbered generally in chronological order. However, within this and the other file designations, other sets of numbers are sometimes used as subfiles for more specific subject categories. For instance, reports on China's "National Economic Council," 1933-36, are filed under 2655-I-165, with individual documents on the subject numbered 1 to 7. Thus a typical file number containing all these elements would be 2655-I-165/6.

There are gaps in the sequential numbers following master numbers. The gaps have two principal explanations. First, during the late 1920's the War Department destroyed a large number of individual documents as "useless papers," an action authorized by an act of Congress dated February 16, 1889 (25 State. 672). There is a list, filmed at the beginning of each master number, enumerating document numbers that were destroyed. Second, on August 7, 1941, the MID abandoned its numeric file system and adopted the War Department decimal file scheme. At that time, the numeric file was closed and many documents were transferred from it to the new G-2 decimal file. Neither these documents nor those received during the last half of 1941 are reproduced in this microfilm publication. For most communications transferred to the G-2 decimal file, a clerk prepared a card and inserted it in the old numeric file where the communication had been. Each card cites the decimal file designation to which the communication was transferred. Correspondence in the G-2 decimal file is now part of Records of the Army Staff, RG 319.

The contents of the records filed under the six master numbers of the MID correspondence reproduced in this microfilm publication are described below. The master numbers pertaining to more general subjects have been filmed first (general, political, and economic conditions), followed by those relating to more specific topics (army, navy, and aeronautics). Within each master number most documents have been filmed in file designation order. Some of the reports, however, include oversize enclosures, particularly maps. Such oversize documents have not been filmed in sequence, but at the end of the roll containing the appropriate file designations; cross-references have been inserted to indicate where such documents originally appeared and their new locations at the end of the roll.

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The record cards for the six master numbers of MID correspondence relating to China appear on roll 1 of this microfilm publication. The record cards are filmed in the same sequence as the six master numbers. They provide a synopsis of each document, including those destroyed in 1929 by the War Department and those dated before mid-1941 that were transferred to the decimal file. The record cards thus serve as a finding aid to the extant documents filmed in this publication.

Contents

"General Conditions in China" (MID 2055)--Records pertaining to current political, economic, and social events and general trends in the military services. Most are periodic reports submitted weekly or monthly, each report covering several--sometimes diverse--subjects in an abbreviated format. Much of the information was drawn from newspapers or periodicals.

The most frequently recurring reports are those dealing with current military, political, and related foreign events, January 1918-May 1941 (MID 2055-622). Other documents include a 1921 report detailing Japanese atrocities in Manchuria (MID 2055-395); reports on the increase in the size of the Japanese population in Manchuria, December 1925-January 1940 (MID 2055-635); and a province-by-province census of the population of China, October 1930-March 1937 (MID 2055-685).

Also included is a 1921 report, with photographs, of a trip through Yunnan, Szechwan, and eastern Tibet by Maj. John Magruder, assistant military attache. The purpose of the trip was to observe conditions in the provinces of Yunnan and Szechwan, both of which border on Burma and Tibet. Major Magruder was the first representative of the U.S. Government to visit these areas in an official capacity (MID 2055-486).

"Political Conditions, China" (MID 2657-I)--Records complementing the information on general conditions in MID 2055. This file contains attache reports that give more detail concerning Chinese politics and foreign relations.

Reports on lawlessness in the Chinese countryside, 1922-24, are covered in MID 2657-I-251. The policy, ideology, and formation of the Kuomintang, 1926-39, are reported in MID 2657-I-321. Chinese personalities, including Chiang Kai-shek and T. V. Soong, are profiled in MID 2657-I-362.

Soviet activities within China are reported in MID 2657-I-281. The use of American publicity and foreign influence to combat Soviet activities is covered in MID 2657-I-282. Reports on border clashes between Soviet and Chinese troops are detailed in MID 2657-I-382.

There are numerous "Situation Reports" relating to the military situation within China, 1924-41 (MID 2657-I-276). Subjects covered include civil battles between warlords, the civil war between north and south China, the campaigns against the Communists, intra-Kuomintang struggles, and military actions against the Japanese in the Second Sino-Japanese War.

"Economic Conditions, China" (MID 2655-I)--Reports compiled in the office of the military attache from published government statistics, interviews with foreign industrialists, and articles appearing in newspapers and periodicals; also reports prepared in the office of the U.S. commercial attache.

Characteristic of the reports on economic conditions, 1919-38, is a report on the coal resources in Honan Province (MID 2655-I-50). The report details the uses of the mined coal, the location of the mines, the history of the coal mines in Honan Province, and the operation of the coal mines. Other reports describe the development of hydroelectric power in Shanshi Province, December 1934 (MID 2655-I-166).

Additional reports relate to iron and steel production (MID 2655-I-114); foreign loans to Chinese companies (MID 2655-I-123); the oil shale industry in Manchuria (MID 2655-I-129); the British Committee of Information in Tientsin, which provided information on Chinese affairs for British businessmen (MID 2655-I-132); and opium traffic in China (MID 2655-I-146). Also included are U.S. Department of Commerce reports on iron and gold resources (MID 2655-I-77).

"Army, China" (MID 2009)--Reports pertaining to general conditions in the military services (including information on military organizations, personalities, national defense and preparedness, training, and maneuvers) and to observation of Chinese Army units. The reports relate to military engagements between warlords, clashes between Chiang Kai-shek and his fellow Nationalists, the campaigns against the Communists, and the efforts of the Nationalists against the Japanese. There are also detailed biographies of Chinese Army officers, including Chiang Kai-shek (MID 2009-244).

Records relating to the Chinese military also include a 1926 study of the Chinese National Revolutionary Army, which was compiled by the entire staff attached to the office of the military attache in Peking. The report presents a general picture of the Chinese Army, its organization, strength, equipment, morale, pay, and training (MID 2009-176). Also included is a 1927 report listing 1,200 military terms, alphabetically arranged and compiled in two parts, Part I in English and Part II in romanized Chinese, according to the Wade system (MID 2009-182).

Other reports relate to the composition of the Mongolian Army (MID 2009-156); the use of Soviet troops in China (MID 2009-163); The Red Spear Societies, groups of farmers and shopkeepers that banded together to maintain law and order (MID 2009-170); the Soviet military mission in China (MID 2009-181); tables of organization for the National Revolutionary Army (MID 2009-198); and the effectiveness of German military instructors in China (MID 2009-255).

"Navy, China" (MID 2733)--Records chiefly pertaining to the training of Chinese naval officers, appointment of officers, and the purchase of new gunboats. The U.S. military attache devoted some attention to Chinese naval affairs even though the Navy was not strictly within his sphere of responsibility.

Specific reports cover such subjects as the employment of British naval officers in the training and development of the Chinese Navy (MID 2732-7) and the launching of two new gunboats for coastal defense (MID 2732-12).

"Aeronautics, China" (MID 2078)--Reports prepared by the assistant military attache for air, mostly relating to military aviation, but some relating to civil aeronautics.

These reports reflect an effort by the assistant attache for air to systematically collect intelligence on the Chinese Air Corps. Included are annual "Aviation Intelligence" reports on appropriations, production, bases, organization, and training, 1924-39 (MID 2078-70); "Current Aviation Activity" reports on the use of commercial and military aircraft and the number of foreign pilots and instructors employed, 1929-34 (MID 2078-95); and reports with diagrams of airfields throughout China, 1927-41 (MID 2078-87). There are also reports with diagrams of possible emergency landing fields and seaplane bases, 1928-30 (MID 2078-88).

Additional reports relate to the first commercial aviation enterprise in China, 1920 (MID 2078-18); foreign personnel with the Manchurian Air Force, 1925 (MID 2078-74); activities of French armaments representative Count de Boigne, 1926-27 (MID 2078-85); the establishment of air routes, 1929-35 (MID 2078-97); the purchase of German military aircraft, 1931-32 (MID 2078-110); the Central Aviation School in Hangchow, 1932-34 (MID 2078-125); plans for air defense, 1932-38 (MID 2078-142); and the delivery of Soviet aircraft and supplies to the Chinese, 1939 (MID 20768-158).

Security Classification

Many of the documents filmed in this microfilm publication were classified as secret, confidential, or restricted at the time of their creation and had those classification markings stamped, typed, or written on them. The National Archives and Department of the Army have reviewed and declassified all of the records filmed in this publication.

RELATED RECORDS

In RG 165 are additional intelligence records concerning China. Information on China can be found under other file designations of the MID correspondence, 1918-41. Because the records under other file designations do not deal exclusively with China but contain extensive documentation pertaining to other subjects or countries or if they relate exclusively to China deal with less significant subjects, they have not been reproduced here. Access to these records is by the name, subject, and geographic indexes to the MID correspondence and by the dispatch lists of incoming reports to the MID. Microfilm publications of these records are Name Index to Correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department General Staff, 1917-1941, M1194, and Registers of Communications Received From Military Attaches and Other Intelligence Officers ("Dispatch Lists"), 1889-1941, M1271. Roll 1 of M1271 contains the lists of reports from the military attache in China. Also in RG 165 are the records of the War College Division of the War Department General Staff, which contains military attache and other reports from China for the period 1903-17. An index to these records has been microfilmed as Indexes to Records of the War College Division and Related General Staff Offices, 1903-1919, M912.

Military attache reports and other army intelligence records that relate to China and date from mid-1941 are in RG 319.

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Some information pertaining to the appointment of military attaches to China before 1916 is in Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, RG 94. Records relating to naval intelligence, including naval attache reports, are among Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, RG 38.

Many records on U.S.-Chinese relations are in General Records of the Department of State, RG 59. Microfilm publications of these records include Despatches From U.S. Ministers to China, 1843-1906, M92; Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations Between the United States and China, 1910-1929, M339; Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations Between China and Other States, 1910-1929, M341; and Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations Between China and Japan, 1930-1944, M976.

Other diplomatic records relating to China are in Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, RG 84. Two series have been microfilmed: Records of the United States Legation in China, 1849-1931, T898, and Records of the United States Consulate in Kunming, 1922-1928, T402.

Herbert Rawlings-Milton wrote these introductory remarks and prepared the records for microfilming.

APPENDIX

Military Attaches, China

Lt. James H. Reeves	Dec. 20, 1900-July 31, 1902
Capt. Andre W. Brewster	Aug. 1, 1902-May 31, 1905
Capt. Henry Leonard	June 1, 1905-May 13, 1907
Capt. James H. Reeves	May 14, 1907-June 30, 1912
Maj. Albert J. Bowley	July 1, 1912-Aug. 31, 1914
Lt. R. H. Sillman	Aug. 31, 1914-Feb. 18, 1915
Capt. Isaac Newell	Feb. 28, 1915-Sept. 1918
Lt. Col. Walter Drysdale	Sept. 1918-Nov. 1921
Col. Sherwood A. Cheney	Nov. 1921-Sept. 1, 1924
Lt. Col. Joseph H. Barnard	Sept. 1, 1924-Oct. 4, 1926
Maj. John Magruder	Oct. 4, 1926-Mar. 16, 1930
Col. Nelson E. Margetts	Mar. 16, 1930-Mar. 3, 1932
Lt. Col. Walter Drysdale	Mar. 3, 1932-July 8, 1932
Col. Joseph W. Stilwell	July 8, 1932-June 13, 1939
Lt. Col. William Mayer	June 13, 1939-June 28, 1942

G-2 Report

CHINA (Political)

Subject: Committees of the Central Political Council.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. SEP 30 1929

The following committees of the Central Political Council were recently appointed:

- (a) Political Affairs Committee: Koo Ying-fen, Ting Wai-wen, Yeh Tsu-chang, Chen Lih-fu, Hsueh Tuh-pi.
- (b) Economics Committee: Chang Ching-kiang, Tai Chi-tao, Shao Yuan-chung, Chen Kuo-fu, Wang Peh-chun.
- (c) Foreign Affairs Committee: Hu Han-min, Tan Yen-kai, Wang Chung-hui, C. T. Wang, Sun Fo, H. H. Kung, T. V. Soong.
- (d) Finance Committee: Tan Yen-kai, Wu Chih-hui, Chao Tai-wen, T. V. Soong, Yu Yiu-jen.
- (e) Military Affairs Committee: Yen Hsi-shan, Ho Ying-ching, Chu Pei-teh, Yang Shu-chwang, Chen Shao-ying.
- (f) Local Autonomy Committee: Chao Tai-wen, Li Shih-tseng, Fong Chen-wu.
- (g) Legislation Committee: Wang Chung-hui, Hu Han-min, Tai Chi-tao, Lin Sen, Li Wen-fan, Chiao Yi-tang.
- (h) Educational Committee: Wu Chih-hui, Tsai Yuan-pei, Tai Chi-tao, Chu Chia-nua, Zau Lin-tze, Chen Tien-fang.

Parker G. Tenney
Parker G. Tenney
Captain, Field Artillery
Assistant Military Attache

Distribution:
4 MID
1 Tientsin
1 File

From M/A, China

Report No. 7579

August 28, 1929

G-2 Report

CHINA (Political)

Subject: The Third National Congress.

On March 20th, the 5th General Session convened. Various reports on party affairs were submitted and resolutions adopted concerning the educational policy, and the punishment of Wang Ching-wei and eight others for their implication in the communist uprising in Canton in December, 1927.

The 6th and 7th General Sessions were held on March 21st. First, reports on party affairs were submitted, and then resolutions were adopted stating that the selection of the plum flower as the Chinese national flower was not a matter of urgency and might wait; and commending Chiang Kai-shek for his efforts for the party and the nation.

The 8th General Session was held on March 22nd. Reports on party affairs were first submitted and a special report from Chiang Kai-shek on military affairs was rendered, and a resolution was passed to the effect that the number of members of the Central Executive Committee and the Supervisory Committee remain the same as before.

On March 23rd, the 9th General Session of the Third National Congress was convened and formulated a procedure for the election of members to the Central Executive Committee. A motion was passed giving the government full authority and carte blanche in the Hunan-Hupeh situation. That afternoon the 10th General Session was held, at which party affairs were discussed.

The 11th General Session was held on the morning of March 25th, when the election of new members to both the Central Executive Committee and the Supervisory Committee took place. At the 12th Session in the afternoon there was a discussion of bills to revise the Party Constitution, on education, and a conference on Hunan party affairs.

On March 26th, the 12th and 13th Sessions were held. In the morning, the 12th Session, minor amendments were made in the constitution, and in the afternoon new members were elected to the Central Executive Committee and to the Supervisory Committee.

CHINA (Military)

Subject: General Ho Ying-chin.

creditable manner. While Ho Ying-chin's position ostensibly is one concerned chiefly with military affairs, it is in reality political also. There has been report of some friction and jealousy on the part of Huang Fu, Chairman of the Political Council. Ho is no doubt Chiang's check on Huang Fu's power in North China.

f) Political affiliations -- powerful friends and enemies.

A 100% follower of Chiang Kai-shek in everything, and as such, he says and believes exactly what is dictated by Chiang. As he is not an aggressive man he has not any unusually powerful personal enemies. Recognized leader of the Kweichow clique in the National Government. Is either the leader or a powerful member of the so-called "military clique" of Chinese politicians.

g) Pro- or anti-American, if known.

Cannot be said to be pro-American but is cordial and friendly.

h) Character, morals, personal habits -- strengths and weaknesses -- likes and dislikes -- hobbies.

A man of good character. As many of those close to Chiang Kai-shek, he has excellent moral habits. Does not smoke opium and drinks only a sip of wine when he believes the occasion requires it. Does not engage in any sport except hunting and riding.

i) Physique, physical and nervous stamina -- ability to stand up under hardships of campaign.

Far above the average physical condition for a Chinese of his age. Not excessively nervous but placid and has in the past year stood up under much nervous strain. Has not commanded an active field unit for the past six years.

j) Mentality and temperament -- intelligence, judgment, inclined to be rash and impulsive or timid and conservative.

A Chinese official above average intelligence but not quick or brilliant. Has shown excellent judgment on most occasions. Is conservative and not impulsive.

k) Physical and moral courage -- ability to perform under pressure -- willingness to take heavy responsibility and make timely and important decisions followed by prompt action.

Ho Ying-chin's position in North China the past year and one half has been the most difficult one in China because of his close and difficult relations with the Japanese and Huang Fu. He has stood up against constant and vicious political attacks during the past two years showing him to be a man of moral courage. He does not as a rule either make important timely decisions or follow them with quick action but adopts typical Chinese methods of quiet negotiation and caution.

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James K. Neering 7/26/86

G-2 Report

CHINA (Political)

Subject: Mr. Wang's Unscrupulous Diplomacy.

If Russia can be kept performing an internal Chinese service of weakening the autonomous Manchurian militarists until Nanking becomes free to move to the "rescue" of the prostrate Three Eastern Provinces, then unity will be furthered.

The net result of Mr. Wang's deceptions, should his efforts succeed, would be continued bombing of innocent persons, and possibly further military operations in Manchuria. Fortunately for peace in the Far East, the Mukden Old Party have been brought to a frame of mind of willingness to pay the price of their own irresponsibilities committed in July.

John Magruder
John Magruder,
Major, General Staff, *pro. ell*
Military Attache

Distribution:

4 MID
1 Legation
1 Tientsin
1 Manila
1 Tokyo
1 File