

FREDERICK FUNSTON

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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See Chap. 5, "'Damn, Damn, Damn the Filipine': Frederick Funston"

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See also:

-Biographical sketch file; Bibliographies on Philippines, 1899-1902; San Francisco Earthquake in Civil Aid-Disaster Relief; US Occupation of Vera Cruz, 1914 in Mexico; and two images in PhotoArch in Personality Files.

NOTE: IF FUNSTON HAD NOT DIED IN FEB 1917...

That Frederick Funston would have been given the AEF command if he had not suffered a fatal heart attack on 19 Feb 1917 is certainly an oft-repeated observation. See, for example, Palmer, p. 161, and Crouch, p. 7, cited above. However, documentation of this assertion is not necessarily authoritative.

If the papers of Woodrow Wilson and Newton Baker were explored in the Library of Congress, one may, in correspondence of Feb 1917, find conclusive proof that President and Sec of War had decided upon Funston. They were certainly opposed to appointing Teddy Roosevelt and Leonard Wood. See, for example, Beaver, Chap II.

Smythe, p. 280, and Vandiver, p. 672, both relate an event of 20 Feb 1917 that revealed Funston had been Wilson and Baker's choice. The incident, Major Douglas MacArthur's announcement to the President of Funston's death, is described on pp. 46-47 of MacArthur's Reminiscences. Evidently, one can substantiate the meeting in the Baker Papers. DeWeerd, p. 204, cites a Baker letter to Frederick Palmer of 10 Mar 1931 that mentions the meeting. Baker recalled in 1931 that MacArthur suggested, when asked, that Pershing or March be selected for AEF command now that Funston had died. Apparently the first time MacArthur mentioned the meeting in print was on the occasion of the centennial of Pershing's birth. His 1960 statement appears on p. 23 of the Army Navy Air Force Journal, 17 Sep 1960. In both that statement and in Reminiscences, he says he told Baker his own choice "would unquestionably be General Pershing." Although one would not be surprised that the young officer should have covered himself by including Peyton March in his short list in 1917, he could have ignored that suggestion at the time of the Pershing centennial. Besides, that slight discrepancy does not cast doubt on the major question of whether or not Funston had been pre-selected. See:

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