

GENERAL OFFICERS/FIELD MARSHALS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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GENERAL SOURCES

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Brown, Richard C. Social Attitudes of American Generals, 1898-1940. NY: Arno, 1979 reprint of PhD dss. 420 p. UB200.B76.

Byrd, Barthy Ann. "The Changing of the Guard: Six Generals Examine the U.S. Army since World War II." PhD dss, U NM, 1989. 244 p. U52.B77.
Analysis of responses to her set of questions.

Callihan, David L. They Did Their Work Bravely: Civil War Generals Buried in Pennsylvania. Westminster, MD: Heritage, 2004. 122 p. E467.C35.

Cloud, David, & Greg Jaffe. The Fourth Star: Four Generals and the Epic Struggle for the Future of the United States Army. NY: Crown, 2009. 330 p. DS79.76.C56.

Cook, Martin L. "Revolt of the Generals: A Case Study in Professional Ethics." Parameters (Spring 2008): pp. 4-15. Per.

Dowd, James J. "Connected to Society: The Political Beliefs of U.S. Army Generals." Armed Forces & Society (Spring 2001): pp. 343-72. Per.

Goss, Thomas J. The War within the Union High Command: Politics and Generalship During the Civil War. Lawrence, KS: U KS, 2003. 300 p. E470.G679.

Hoffman, George F. Cold War Casualty. The Court-Martial of Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow. Kent, OH: Kent State, 1993. 249 p. UB856.G76.H63.

Kitfield, James. Prodigal Soldiers. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 175 p. UA23.K524.
Transformation of the armed forces in Vietnam to triumph in the Gulf viewed from the perspective of the careers of various top generals.

Krammer, Arnold. "American Treatment of German Generals during WWII." Journal of Military History (Jan 1990): pp. 27-46. Per.
As POWs, they fared well in USA.

Laffin, John. Links of Leadership: Thirty Centuries of Military Command. London: Abelard-Schuman, 1970. 3204 p. U27.L32.
Study of chain of transmitted historical experience shared by great generals.

Markel, Wade. "The Limits of American Generalship: The JCS's Strategic Advice in Early Cold War Crises." Parameters (Spring 2008): pp. 16-29. Per.

Pierce, James G. "Organizational Culture and Professionalism: An Assessment of the Professional Culture of the U.S. Army Senior Level Officer Corps." PhD dss, PA State, 2004. 231 p. UB413.P54.

Pool, Ithiel de Sola, et al. Satellite Generals: A Study of Military Elites in the Soviet Sphere. Stanford, CA: Stanford, 1955. 165 p. UB415.S3.P6.

LISTS/ANALYSES

"Ages of the Commanders." Infantry Journal (Dec 1945): pp. 42-44. Per.
Statistical summary of WWII generals and admirals.

"Alphabetical list of General Officers of the U.S. Army who served during the World War between April 1917 and the close of War 1919." Typescript, carbon, AWC Historical Section, 1929. 19 p. D609.U7.L4.

Boone, Milton O. "A Study of Officers of the Regular Army Who during the World War Held the Rank of General, Lieutenant General and Major General." AWC typescript, 25 Jan 1924. 9 p. D507.B6.
List of grades, age, and 1924 status of each of 95 officers, plus other data.

Defense magazine, annual almanac issue (Sep/Oct), includes table showing number & grade of all officers, all services. Per.

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Hawkins, Walter L. African American Generals and Flag Officers. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1993. 265 p. E181.H38.

Biographical sketches & photo.

McMahan, C.A., & Combs, J.W., Jr. The Age of Military Leaders and Expansion of the Armed Forces. Reprint from SW Social Science Quarterly (Mar 1956), pp. 365-75. UB413.M35.

Spencer, James, comp. Civil War Generals: Categorical Listings and a Biographical Directory. NY: Greenwood, 1986. 333 p. E467.S78.

Vagts, Alfred. "Age and Field Command." Military Affairs (Spring 1942): pp. 13-20. Per. Analysis of over 100 various commanders, antiquity to WWII.

Wade, Gary H. "World War II Division Commanders." Military Review (Mar 1986): pp. 61-67. Per.

Wade, Gary. "World War II Division Commanders." Ft. Leavenworth, KS: CGSC, CSI, 1983? 28 p. UB413.W22.

U.S. Armed Forces Information School. Army Almanac. Wash, DC: GPO, 1950. 1009 p. UA25.A75. Complete list of WWI and II general officers, pp. 908-30, includes history of grades.

See also:

- Army Almanac, 1959 (lists gens, 1400-58)
- AWC File #68-58, Arch. Background information on US Army leadership.
- Heitman, Historical Register & Dictionary (lists gens, 1775-1903)

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Bardin, Etienne. Dictionnaire de l'arme de terre..... Vol. 5. Paris: Perrotin, 1851? pp. 3333-57. U24.F8.B21.

Farrow, Edward S. Farrow's Military Encyclopedia. Vol. II. NY: Author, 1885. p. 279. U24.F24.

Grose, Francis. Military Antiquities Respecting a History of the English Army from the Conquest to the Present Time. Vol. I. London: Stockdale, 1812. pp. 192-97. UA649.G76RareBook.

The Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Vol. V. NY: Oxford, 1989. p. 884. PE1625.O93.

Riehn, Richard. "The Marshal's Baton: More Than a Fancy Swaggerstick." Campaigns (No 44, Mar/Apr 1983): pp. 34-38. Per.

Wilhelm, Thomas. A Military Dictionary and Gazetteer. Phila: Hamersly, 1881. pp. 307-08. U24.M54.

LIEUTENANT GENERALS & ABOVE

For a quick history of the grade of lieutenant general and above, pre-1950, see pp. 908-09 of The Army Almanac (Wash, DC: GPO, 1950). A very detailed history of those grades, 1775-1945, appeared in Infantry Journal (Jun/Nov 1945) written by Col Frederick B. Wiener. Until World War II, Wiener points out, the 3 & 4-star grades were largely conferred merely as personal honors.

The present procedure for appointing major generals to higher temporary grades dates from the 1947 Officer Personnel Act. (Sections 504 & 515). A review of the effects of this act, along with the 1954 Officer Grade Limitation Act, the "Stennis ceiling" of the mid-50s, and the 1972 Pike subcommittee findings, appear on pp. 26-30 of Maureen Mylander's The Generals (NY: Dial, 1974; U52.M93).

Congress imposed a ceiling on the number of Regular Army officers with the 1947 Act and permitted the Secretary to make the temporary promotions in order to avoid the consequences of the "tenure provisions" provided by the act. The Pike subcommittee noted that the "effect of the temporary promotion has been to accelerate the officer promotion plan as envisioned in the (act)."

It has been charged that Congress, as a result of the '47 Act, lost control of officer temporary promotions "since these promotions stem from a grade distribution prescribed by the Secretary." See p. 3206 of the US Congress, House Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee Hearings on H.R. 7103 to Establish Limitations on the Numbers of Officers Who May Serve in Various Commissioned Grades in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and for Other Purposes (Wash, DC: GPO, 26 Jan 1954; UB412), i.e., hearings on Officer Grade Limitation Act of 1954. A more detailed search through those hearing transcripts may provide additional insight into the nomination procedure for the two highest grades.

Postwar periodicals are replete with arguments between DOD and Congress concerning grade inflation, arguments that often focus upon the top two grades. See, for example:

Immen, Bill. "Too Many Stars in the Military?" Army-Navy-Air Force Register (10 Feb 1962): pp. 9-11. Per.

GENERAL'S STARS

The star insignia for general officers was adopted from the French during the Rev War. New uniform regulations published in Jun and Jul 1780 for the first time prescribed star insignia for general officers. Major generals were authorized two on each epaulette. See:

Finke, Detmar H. "Insignia of Rank in the Continental Army, 1775-1783." Military Collector and Historian (Fall 1956): p. 73. Per.

Peterson, Harold L. The Book of the Continental Soldier. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1968. p. 243. UC263P47.

“on the shoulder-straps and epaulettes four silver stars” appears in General Orders No. 75, dated 5 Sep 1866.

“two silver embroidered stars of five rays each, and gold embroidered ‘Arms of the United States’ between them,” per 1881 Army Regulations.

See also:

-Bibliography on Four-Five Star Generals in Generals; Evans Kerrigan, American Badges & Insignia, pp. 241-43; General Order (18 Jun 1790) on pp. 21-3, Vol. 19, Writings of Washington.

GENERALS & AFFAIRES D'AMOUR

Bourrienne, Louis de. Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte. Vol. 1. NY: Crowell, 1885. pp. 156-67. DC203.B775v1.

Concerning Madame Foures, Egypt, 1798.

Ashton, John. English Caricatures and Satire on Napoleon I. London: Chatto & Windus, 1888. pp. 64-65. DC203.4.A75.

The Foures liaison.

Harding, James. The Astonishing Adventure of General Boulanger. NY: Scribner's, 1971. pp. 96-99. DC342.8.B7.H37.

Concerning Marguerite Brouzet, Vicomtesse de Bonnemains, and other women.

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Partridge, Bellamy. Sir Billy Howe. London: Longmans, Green, 1932. pp. 33-34. DA67.1.H8.P37.
Concerning Mrs Joshua Loring, Boston & Phila, in Revolutionary War.

Swanberg, W.A. Sickles, the Incredible. NY: Scribner's, 1956. pp. 83, 320-22 & 345. E467.1.S57.S83.
Concerning affairs with Fanny White, Queen Isabella II, and others.

See also:

-Bibliographies on Ethics/Morality and Army Wives in Women.