U.S. Army Military History Institute 950 Soldiers Drive Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5021 29 Oct 2010

ARMY GENERAL STAFF

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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US Army officers were often detached from service with their regiments and assigned to staff duties in Wash, DC. These "plush" assignments were especially noticed by Congress after creation of the General Staff in 1903. Promotion-seeking officers were spending many hours politicking on Capitol Hill. To curb "homesteading," War Dept General Order No 68, promulgated 26 May 1911, required an officer's return to field duty after no more than four years with the General Staff Corps. The next year, Sec 5 of the Army's appropriation bill (passed 24 Aug 1912) reinforced that General Order. Thus ended the Washington tours of many officers.

At the very same time, another group of bureaucrats in China were abruptly removed from their pleasant positions. China's Manchu or Ch'ing Dynasty had been entrenched in Peking 2-1/2 centuries longer than had the US General Staff in Washington. Thus, the American Law, in the eyes of the exiled US officers, had the same effect as the Chinese Revolution and became known as the Manchu Law. See:

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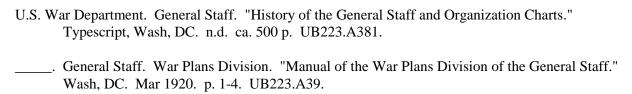
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