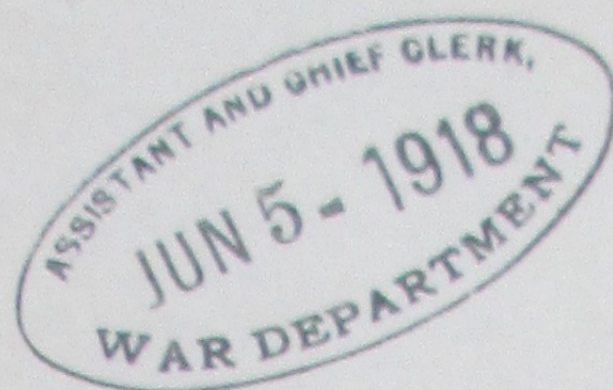


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1918 JUN 8 AM 9 11

17 University road
Brookline, Mass.,
3 June 1918.

War Department, U.S.
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:-

I enclose a news article taken from a recent issue of the Boston Advertiser concerning the formation of a military-trade organization to be sent to China.

With the idea of enlisting therein I should like to ask for any information you may be able to give me on this subject: When and where such a unit is likely to be formed, the requirements for enlistment, etc.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Yours very truly,

Ford B. Blanchard

CHINA ASKS FOR U.S. "TRADE ARMY"

Want Young Commercial Men
to Establish 'Skirmish Line'
in the Far East

Peking, May 25 (by Associated Press).—A commercial regiment for China, composed of young American business men subject to war service, while serving their country, they at the same time to form the skirmish line of an American commercial army to invade China after the war.

This is one of the possibilities of recommendations by the American Minister, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, to the War and State Departments at Washington are heeded.

The idea of a commercial regiment originated with Major Arthur Bassett of the United States army, stationed in Tientsin. His plan was suggested to Minister Reinsch and by the latter submitted to Washington for consideration. Major Bassett said:

"The idea is, briefly, to send to China young men with business experience or who expect to follow a business career but who are drafted into the army. These men could get their military training in China just as thoroughly as elsewhere and at the same time acquire a grounding in Eastern commercial methods. They would relieve troops now stationed here, who would be available for service on the western front.

"The North China School of Languages is already doing good work in teaching the northern or Mandarin Chinese. It has tentatively promised to open a branch of the school in Tientsin, to teach American troops as I have suggested.

"At the same time, arrangements could easily be made for a course of instruction in Chinese commercial methods and business opportunities. With a knowledge of the language and with facilities for observation which could be assured, each man at the close of the war would become a factor for the promoting of American trade in China.

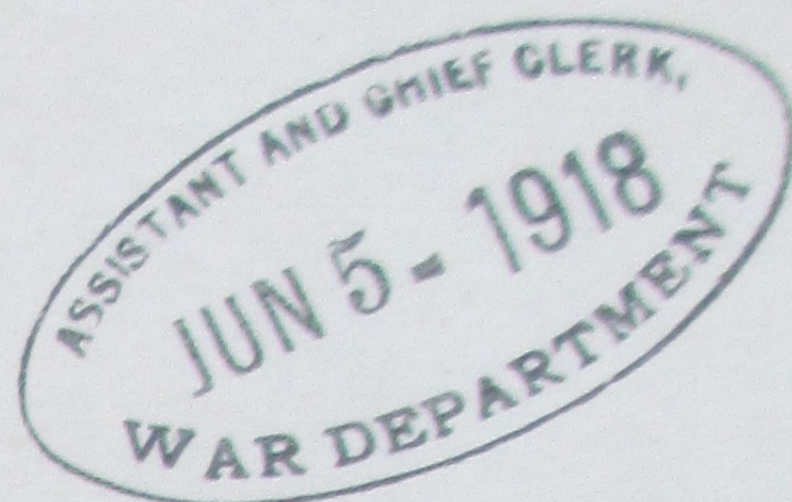
"In the past trading has been done from the treaty ports. Thence the Chinese took the goods into the interior and marketed them. The Japanese, however, have more or less broken away from this practice. They have penetrated into the interior and have made it necessary to do away with the old method of confining operations to treaty ports.

"There are really great commercial opportunities here in China, and it seems as though this would be the commercial battleground after the war. If they are to hold their own in this contest, Western nations must prepare now for the struggle."

R.F.D.C.
REC'D.

JUN 8 18 A.M.

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Department, U.S.
ington, D.C.

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Thanking you for your consideration

Yours very truly,

Lord

7-34
June 14, 1918.

Mr. Ford Blanchard,
17 University Road,
Brookline, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 3, which we have received by reference from the War Department, enclosing a copy of the clipping from the Boston Advertiser, with regard to the formation of a military trade organization to be sent out to China. In reply, we regret to state that the article in question has given you an incorrect idea of the status of this matter. A proposition same as the one referred to was made sometime ago by representatives of the Government in China, but it is not believed to be practicable and we do not expect that any further action will be taken with regard to it.

Very truly yours,

Division of Commercial Attaches.

JRA:am

Secretary.