

LIVING IN NEVERLAND: THE UNITED STATES' 15th INFANTRY REGIMENT IN CHINA, 1912-1938

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This paper examines the Fifteenth Infantry, United States Army, during the Regiment's time in Tientsin, China from 1912-1938 where it performed one of the most peculiar garrison duties of any branch of the US military. The 15th Infantry's primary duty was to protect the vital railway that ran between Beijing and Tientsin. However, this garrison duty coincided with American Prohibition and the Great Depression, and offered the American soldiers a completely different lifestyle. Regiment members had abundant access to alcohol, prostitution, and enjoyed a high exchange rate with the local currency that allowed them to live a life at odds with other Americans as a whole during the time. Regiment commanders tried to control the soldiers' behaviors with varying degrees of success.