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Chinese Rangers? Summarized by Robert Nieman

In their book, *The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution*, Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler relate a strange but true story.

In 1913, Texas Adjutant General Henry Hutchings, under whom the Rangers served, started receiving strange requests from several U.S. Army officers wanting to know such things as Texas Ranger tactics, organization, and training. Upon further investigation, Hutchings discovered the requests were originating from China! The Chinese government was seriously considering forming a Ranger-like organization to fight Mongolian bandits. They wanted to know if the Rangers would consider organizing and staffing a similar institution there.

Hutchings did not give the requests much consideration, but then he received a letter from the College Division of the Army under the Secretary of War stating that they could not locate information about the strategy and field tactics employed by the Texas Rangers. They asked Hutchings if he would recommend documentation and experienced men to act as advisors to the Chinese government.

It became even clearer that the Chinese were serious when the Adjutant General Hutchings received a request from Captain James Reeves, the former U.S. military attaché in China. He was writing on the bequest of his successor who wanted any information about the Texas Rangers that Hutchings could furnish. The driving force behind these requests was a man named Larson, a Chinese government advisor on Mongolian affairs. Captain Reeves explained that the situation on the Chinese-Mongolian border was similar the Texas-Mexico border.

Finally realizing that requests were in earnest, Hutchings forwarded to Larson General Order Number 5, October 2, 1911, which described the Ranger Organization. He also sent various forms that Rangers used—at least what few there were. Furthermore, he informed the Chinese that indeed an efficient force of Rangers and Texas National Guardsmen could be sent to Mongolia. In the end, nothing came of the Chinese Rangers. Nothing, that is except the confirmation of what all Texans already the fame and respect for the Texas Rangers is worldwide.



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