

Qu Tongfeng

Born:

1873

Fushan, Shandong

Courtesy name Weiqing

Military Career:

As a teenager, Qu Tongfeng joined the army, but was quickly sent to serve in the navy. He would be stationed on the Zhenyuan Battleship as an engineer and would have face the Japanese during the Sino-Japanese War. Qu had a close brush with death in that engagement, as he fell off his ship when it was struck by Japanese shells. Despite his battle against the Japanese, Qu would join Yuan Shikai in the Tianjin Military Academy then would go to Zhenwu School and consequently the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. After his graduation, he would serve as an army officer and instructor in various military academies in China, notably the Baoding Military Academy. When Yuan Shikai signed the Twentry One Demands, many of the students in the academy were in uproar and went on strike. Duan ordered Qu to quiet the situation, but Qu stood up for his pupils and refused. Consequently, he was fired from his post and relieved of his ranks. However, once Yuan died, Duan was quick to restore Qu's rank and Qu would soon repay Duan by supporting him in the political battle between him and Li Yuanhong. With Duan's trust, Qu would serve as commander of the First Division of the War Participation Army, the unit he commands today.

Important Notes:

Due to the respect Qu Tongfeng commands with many of the current Zhili leadership due to his tutelage of them in Baoding, he is unlikely to see the need to continue fighting should the situation become dire.

Wei Zonghan:

Born:

1884

Zhengding Zhili

Courtesy name Hailou

Military Career:

A long-time subordinate of Duan Qirui, graduating the military academy under his supervision, Wei has grown to be a close friend and confidant to the Anhui patriarch. After various position in the army, he was placed in charge of the Military Science Department, where Wei started a feud with Jiang Baili, causing Jiang to try and shoot himself in the heart. Unfortunately for Wei, Jiang lived, and Duan had Wei transferred away from the academy to avoid any repercussions. He would be promoted to Lieutenant General in 1917, which came with the command of the 9th Division of the Central Army. Stationed in Beijing, he holds a powerful position to close to the capital. Duan can sleep soundly knowing Wei is only a few minutes away.

Important Notes:

Due to his rivalry with Jiang Baili, Wei has few friends in the Research Clique, due to the friendship between Jiang and Liang Qichao. Moreover, the conflict between the two has only deepened Wei's preference for Japanese doctrine.

Duan Zhigui

Born:

1869

Hefei, Anhui

Courtesy name Xiangyan

Military Career:

Duan Zhigui had a lucky start in his life, serving as Li Hongzhang's attendant at a young age. His connection to Li would see him admitted to the Beiyang Military Academy and then onwards to the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. On his return, he served in the Ordinance Bureau then underneath Yuan Shikai in a variety of bureaucratic roles. On orders from Yuan, he would bribe a Manchu prince with a singer, an act which would help him becoming the military governor of Heilongjiang. However, his corruption was exposed, and he was dismissed from the post. He fought with Yuan in the Xinhai Revolution, taking controlling of the Gongweijun. After suppressing the Second Revolution against Yuan, he would be rewarded with the governorship of Hubei, then Fengtian two years later. Loyal to Yuan, Duan supported the president's bid for the imperial throne, and would once more be deposed due to it. That, along with some pressure applied by Zhang Zuolin. With Yuan's death shortly after, Duan Zhigui sought out Duan Qirui due to their shared home province and he joined the latter's Anhui Clique. After defeating Zhang Xun's restoration attempt, Duan Zhigui would become the commander of the Beijing Garrison, and then the Minister of the War, before being replaced by Jin Yunpeng.

Important Notes:

Although not too involved with the Anfu Club, Duan is associated with them.

Xu Shuzheng

Jin Yunpeng

Born:

1877

Zouxian, Shandong

Courtesy name Yiqing

Born to poor parents in rural Shandong, his family would move to Jining early on. They would scrap together enough means to send Jin Yunpeng and his brother Yun'e to school and eventually they would both end up in the Beiyang Military Academy. There, he would be noticed by Duan Qirui, and would stay as an instructor with Duan's respect. Later, he would serve as a regiment commander in Zhejiang, before serving under Duan once more during the 1911 Revolution. Along with being promoted to Lieutenant-General, his efforts would see him being placed as military governor of his home province of Shandong as well a whole division to command. Due to his loyalty to Yuan, Jin would stay neutral during the revolution against Yuan's Hongxian Empire scheme, which would nearly cost him his reputation was it not for Duan becoming prime minister shortly afterward. Jin would leave Shandong to serve Duan in Beijing, where he would continue to act as an extension of Duan's will. He went to Japan to sign the hated Sino-Japanese Joint Defence Agreement among other acts that some opposition figures may deem "traitorous", earning the ire of many revolutionaries. The next job Duan had for Jin was to build him an army, no small task. Yet Jin carried out his boss's orders to the letter as one of his "Heavenly Kings", and now, Duan's personal army is the most modern fighting force across all China.

However, the rosy relationship between the pair would not last, as Duan's favourite, Xu Shuzheng would get in the way of their bromance. Jin, seeing Xu as an incompetent upstart, would slowly distance himself from Duan, forming personal relationships with Cao Kun and Zhang Zuolin. In 1918, Jin finally split from the Anfu Club, and joined forces with President Xu Shichang to form the Jiwei Club, a collection of former Anfu Club members in the assembly. Despite this, Jin is still part of the wider Anhui Clique, and Duan has seen to it that Jin was made Minister of War, the position he currently occupies.

It may only take one wrong move for Jin and Duan to completely turn their backs on one another.

Fu Liangzuo

Born:

1873

Qianzhou, Hunan

Courtesy name Qingjie

Military career:

After studying at Hunan's first reformed school, Fu Liangzuo was transferred to the Beiyang Military Academy then onwards to the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. Specialising in artillery, he would graduate in the same class as many current Anhui heavy hitters such as Wu Guangxin and Qu Tongfeng. He would join the Beiyang Army, becoming part of Yuan Shikai's clique. When the republic was founded, Yuan would quickly promote Fu to the director of the military department of the palace, then to deputy Dutong of Chahar, then to military commissioner of Jiyu in Zhili. Due to his connections with Duan Qirui when both men served under Yuan, Duan promoted him to Vice-Minister of War. From then on, Fu would never cease his loyalty to Duan. He would have a brief stint

as governor of Hunan, before being forced out by the southern warlords, and now serves as Duan's chief of staff.

Important Notes:

Fu Liangzuo is more associated with the political wing of the clique than most and thus is widely disliked by the opposition due to his Anfu Club connections. He is considered one of Duan's "Heavenly Kings".

Ding Jin

Born:

1879

Nantang, Jiangsu

Courtesy name Muhan

Military Career:

Originally a bright, young, English-speaking scholar, Ding Jin did not seem like the soldiery type. However, after two years of being a mathematics teacher, Ding entered the Baoding Military Academy to act as a translator of English military manuals. He would continue his teaching career within the army, becoming connected with the high echelons of what would become the Anhui Clique. Duan Qirui would recommend him to follow Jin Yunpeng, and the pair were sent to Yunnan on the eve of the Xinhai Revolution. After prompting being kicked out by the revolting troops, Ding would travel to study in Japan, before returning to China to serve under Wei Zonghan's Education Section of the military as a colonel. In 1912, Ding would also teach in Baoding once more, instructing young and intelligent pupils such as Bai Chongxi. Ding would start to serve in main combative roles, serving as an advisor to Jin Yunpeng, getting promoted to major general, and becoming a brigade commander under Ma Liang. Due to his intellect and contacts with both the West and Japan, Ding would be placed as director of the Aviation Affairs Department.

Due to his performance in the Zhi-War War, and the influence of Jin Yunpeng, Ding has been promoted once more. Although not the most experienced officer, he is quick of mind and an modern thinking leader.

Important Notes:

Ding is widely considered to be Jin's right-hand man and staunchly supports him and his Jiwei Club. Moreover, Ding does possess a lot of connections with the rising stars in Guangxi.

Chen Wenyun

Born:

1880

Gwangju Henan

Courtesy name Yuchen

Military Career:

A prominent cavalryman graduate of the Imperial Japanese Army Academy, Chen Wenyun was guaranteed a quick rise through the ranks. He was given the distinguished command of the first cavalry brigade of the republic, and it was a role he did not take lightly. Remembering what he was taught in Japan, he was swift to enact reforms to the outdated Qing-era organisation, cutting out the battalion level and greatly integrating the command structure of cavalry regiments. His reforms were put to the test in the following year when several Mongolian banners revolted with the goal of independence from China. With the vast grasslands optimal for cavalry units, Chen was sent to crush the rebels. In the fierce defensive and offensive battles for the few cities in Chahar, Chen proved himself to be a capable and effective commander.

In the aftermath of the rebellion, he grew close with the Anhui clique and would be given the leadership of the regiment of teachers and instructors in charge of creating Duan's War Participation Army. Once the army was assembled, Chen was given command of the 3rd Division, and continues to be a loyal member of the family.

Important Notes:

Although not involving himself with political matters, Chen very much admires Xu Shuzheng as a man who is both a capable military and civilian leader.

Li Jincai

Born:

1866

Sima Village, Zhili

Courtesy name Jiesan

Military Career:

Hailing from a humble rural background, Li Jincai joined the army at the age of sixteen to escape the village life. He would be trained by Yuan Shikai in Tianjin, where the relationship he built with Yuan would see Li be put in charge of the military affairs of Daming. A man loyal to his hometown and with a strong heart, Li Jincai would provide disaster relief to his hometown despite his less than glamorous means. However, Li's mediocre command would not last, as Yuan saw it fit to promote him to the middle route commander of the Gongweijun in Rehe. Serving under Duan Zhigui, it was here where Li first started aligning with the newly forming Anhui clique. He would soon be given command of the whole army, when Duan Zhigui was transferred to Beijing. However, with Yuan's

attempt for the throne, Li refused the promotion, and any other titles Yuan threw at him. Seeing their shared opposition to Yuan, Duan Qirui took note of Li Jincai and started courting him. Li would be promoted by Duan in 1916, when the Gongweijun was reformed in the 13th Division with Li as division commander. The division would be transferred to Beijing soon after, with Li now stationed in Xiyuan – on the outskirts of Beijing. A veteran commander, he is certainly a worthy lieutenant general.

Important Notes:

Although part of the clique and willing to follow orders, Li Jincai does not share the strong teacher-student bond that many of the leading figures have with Duan Qirui due to his older age.

Liu Xun

Born:

1881

Hejian, Zhili,

Courtesy name Runtian

Military Career:

A graduate of both the Baoding Military Academy and the 3rd Infantry Department of the Imperial Japanese Army Academy, Liu started his military career under Feng Guozhang who is from the same Hejian Prefecture as him. He took part in the suppression of the Second Revolution in 1913. He was appointed Military Commissioner of Huaiyang in September 1914, and promoted to commander of the 15th Division of the Central Army in 1917. After following Feng Guozhang to Beijing, Liu was made the commander of the President's Guard Army, a prestigious and new republican position. Liu would stay loyal to his benefactor for the rest of Feng's life, but when Feng's death, he knew he had to re-evaluate his position. The Zhili warlords had the bulk of their army down in Hunan, and Liu's division was encompassed by tens of thousands of Anhui soldiers. Seeing the way the wind was blowing, Liu has come aboard to the Anhui Clique.

Important Notes:

Although Liu Xun knows the Zhili will never fully trust him again, and there is no place for him in their clique, his subordinate officers have no such barrier.

Ma Liang

Born:

1875

Qingyuan, Zhili

Courtesy name Zizhen

Military Career:

A traditional martial artist enthusiast, Ma Liang was called to a military life early on in his life. He graduated from the Beiyang Military Academy and started off as a battalion commander in the Beiyang Army. He was well known for encouraging the troops under his command to take up martial arts as part of their training despite the modernising aims of the army. Ma would eventually be promoted to a brigade commander in 1912, serving under Jin Yunpeng. After a few years, he was transferred to command the Shandong 47th Mixed Brigade, then in 1916, promoted to the Military Commission of Jinan, where he still holds office. When Duan created his War Participation Army, Ma Liang was given the honour to command the 2nd Division, and he has continued to command the unit to this day.

Important Notes:

As Military Commissioner for Jinan, the capital of Shandong, Ma Liang is stuck right in the middle of the politicking going on in Shandong. Despite the various forces at play, he is staunchly loyal to the Anhui Clique, though the support he can lend is dependent on those in power in Shandong.