

## Cavalry Armored Car Insignia

Cavalry collar devices with the letters AC were used by Armored Car units between 1928 and 1939. Armored car squadrons were the cavalry's initial efforts to modernize and mechanize. The National Defense Act of 1920 had sent tanks to the infantry, so cavalry mechanization was through organizing armored car squadrons. Each squadron was authorized a headquarters, a Headquarters Troop, and three lettered troops. For the 1st and 2d Armored Car Squadrons, only Troops A were active.

Troop A, 1st Armored Car Squadron, was organized in 1928. Early enlisted members wore gilt disks similar to that shown. During 1928 the unit moved to several posts in Maryland, then the army sent it to Fort Bliss, Texas in November 1928. During this time the enlisted collar insignia shown to the right was worn. The rest of the squadron was activated in January 1939 at Fort Bliss. This insignia ended in May.



Major John C. McDonald commanded Troop A between March 9, 1933 and January 24, 1935. Major McDonald is in the photo while he commanded Troop A. Interestingly, he is wearing plain crossed sabers. The A and C letters are not on his collar.

A separable disk for the unit, with squadron number, is shown. Until late 1928 the 2d AC Squadron had an initial history similar to that of the 1st AC Squadron. It had only Troop A active but unlike the other squadron's Troop A, this one remained at Fort Meade. It moved to Camp Knox in November 1931 and in 1933 was inactivated. It was redesignated the 2d Reconnaissance Squadron in 1939 and the entire squadron was activated in April 1941. An insignia possibly worn in the early 1930s is shown at the right. The letters AC above the sabers should indicate a squadron. One enlisted is also shown.



Officer insignia with an A and a C in horizontal angles are scarce. During the 1930s the reserves had six squadrons, one for each of the Organized Reserve cavalry divisions.

The National Guard had four Armored Car Squadrons allotted but none were organized between 1928 and 1939. During this same time the Organized Reserves had six squadrons.

