

The Manila Provost Guard and its Badge

In 1899 during the Philippine Insurrection the army established the Manila Provost Guard to maintain order and act as a military police force in the capital city. Members showed their status by wearing a silver colored 6-pointed star generally 1-1/2 inches wide. These hand engraved badges had as their central design an overlaid MPG monogram with MANILA spelled out in each point of the badge. These lasted through World War I and in 1918 the Philippine Department again listed the MPG's duties and noted "Its enlisted members will wear a distinctive badge."¹

Units initially assigned to the MPG were Companies A, B, E, F, and I, 13th Minnesota Infantry, which served as guards at lease between April 22 and May 26, 1899. The regiment departed the Philippines on August 1899, and afterwards a good many units rotated through as provost guards.²

An early ornate badge worn by C. Treat Spear, who was from St. Paul and assigned to E Company, 13th Minnesota, is ornate and is at the left, below.³ Another MPG badge, also from the Twin Cities area, is at the right.



¹ General Orders Number 55, HQ Philippine Department, August 28, 1918, which modified General Orders 41, 1916.

² www.spanamwar.com/13mn. *The 13th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry* by Kyle Ward.

³ www.spanamwar.com/13mnroster.