

Cavalry Machine Gun Units

The army organized machine gun troops during June 1916. Like for Headquarters Troop (HQ) and Supply Troop (S), capital letters **MG** went in the lower angle of crossed saber enlisted collar disks.

Budget constraints required the army to reduce the army in 1921. Especially hard hit was the cavalry. Authorized cavalry strength slid from 20,000 to less than 10,000. To accommodate this reduction, cavalry regiments went to only the 1st and 2d Squadrons. Lettered troops were A, B, and C, and E, F and G. Except for the 13th Cavalry, MG Troops were eliminated.

At this time the cavalry also had separate machine gun squadrons. One was for each cavalry brigade. In the Regular Army the only two active brigades were in the 1st Cavalry Division, which was organized in 1921. These were the 1st and 2d Machine Gun Squadrons. In addition, the active army had one separate troop as part of the Philippine Scouts. This was the 2d Machine Gun Troop (PS). Separate squadrons had MG in the upper angle. By placing the MG above, the troop letter could go below the sabers.

In 1928 the army decided to eliminate machine gun squadrons. The army moved the men and equipment from each of the three troops in each squadron to a cavalry regiment. The remaining regiments created their own Machine Gun Troop, although the 9th Cavalry at Fort Riley did not activate a troop.



During the time separate machine gun squadrons existed, gilt insignia replaced bronze colored insignia. As a result, gilt insignia with designs of MG above sabers exist in several varieties, including those with the background of lines and shields.

Machine Gun Squadron insignia exist for more than A through D Troops. While the Regular Army had only two active MG Squadrons, the National Guard had eight, six of which were organized. The 51st through the 56th MG Squadrons were active from 1921 until 1928 or 1929, depending upon the squadron. One or more of these squadrons may have had troops with other letters.

was organized in June 1921 and was demobilized in 1929. An officer's 1921-1924 high collar coat insignia is shown. Officers' MG squadron insignia exist in gilt and in the small shirt collar size.

One part of the Texas National Guard was the 56th Machine Gun Squadron. It



As late as 1942 cavalry regiments included a Machine Gun Troop of three platoons each. By this time many soldiers had switched to disks with a separable design that was easily polished. These came in many varieties, one of which is shown.

