MARCUS AURELIUS SMITH MING

RESEARCHED BY: Stacey Trepanier

DATE OF BIRTH
December 17, 1891

DATE OF DEATH
November 13, 1962

HOMETOWN
Solomnville, Arizona

ENTERED THE MILITARY
January 30, 1915

BRANCH OF SERVICE
U.S. Army

UNIT
10th Field Artillery

RANK
Colonel

CEMETERY
Section PPNA, Site 183-A
San Francisco National Cemetery
San Francisco, California
BEFORE THE WAR

In 1886 Daniel Houston Ming married Margaret Marguerite “Mattie” Land, following the 1881 death of his first wife, Julia Heilemann. Daniel Ming’s grave lists him as a “Pioneer of Arizona” and he settled there with Mattie and Thadeus (Bud) Benjamin Ming, his son from his first marriage.

The family lived in the arid desert of Solomonville, Arizona, where daughter Lucille was born in 1887, followed by son Marcus Aurelius Smith Ming on December 17, 1891. Sadly, Mattie died in 1899, and the family spent four years living in the Philippine Islands.

After completing high school, Marcus attended the University of Arizona. He studied Animal Husbandry and Agriculture, while continuing to work as a cowboy and part owner of his family ranch in Douglas, Arizona.

Perhaps influenced by his father, a captain in the U.S. Army from 1875-1890, Marcus served in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and began serving with the Arizona National Guard in the Arizona First Infantry in 1910. He married Jane Ellen (known as Ellen) Thompson on April 11, 1912 shortly before graduation. Together, they had two daughters, Jane Ellen, born in 1912, and Mary Louise, born in 1913.

Daniel, Marcus, and Bid Ming photographed in Manila, the Philippine Islands, 1902. Ming Family Papers, Arizona Historical Society.
MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Ming rose as an officer in the Arizona National Guard and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army on July 12, 1917. He trained to command a field artillery unit and was stationed at the U.S.-Mexican border, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky before leaving for Europe.

On June 27, 1919, he deployed to France on the USS *Imperator* from Hoboken, New Jersey. After a stay in Paris he transferred to serve with the U.S. occupation force in Germany. Jane Ellen, his wife, and daughter Mary Louise joined him in Koblenz, Germany in early 1920, where they remained until they returned in April 1923. Passport records and the 1920 census indicate that their older daughter, Jane Ellen, did not travel to Germany with them, but she was living with the family in the 1930 census.

Fellow officers described Ming as a serious-minded, conscientious, and loyal officer. Ming moved up the ranks amongst his peers, advancing to the rank of captain while serving in Germany.

Ming returned stateside with his family and served honorably at duty locations from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Fort Lewis, Washington. He often found himself on special assignment in Washington, D.C.
PROFILE: MARCUS AURELIUS SMITH MING

Ming filled numerous capacities as an officer, including: field artillery officer, town/zone major, battalion training officer, intelligence officer, munitions officer, and head of the Branch Correspondence School. He served his country with honor and distinction, advancing to the rank of colonel and receiving the Presidential Commendation Ribbon in 1944.

During World War II he served stateside in a variety of roles.

VETERAN EXPERIENCE

Ming retired from active duty on January 31, 1947 after falling ill. When doctors found a medical condition and recommended limited service, Ming opted for retirement over limited duty. He spent his remaining years with his family in San Francisco, California.

COMMEMORATION

On November 13, 1962 Colonel Marcus Aurelius Ming died. He rests peacefully in San Francisco National Cemetery in San Francisco, California, with his beloved wife Ellen and his father, Daniel Houston Ming. Colonel Ming’s life is a true example of one man’s dedicated service to the nation he loved.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Marcus Aurelius Smith Ming, Official Military Personnel File, Photograph, VA Master Index Card, WWI Officer Pay Cards. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.


Ming Family Papers (MS1098). Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.