

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**MAJOR GENERAL
WILLIAM F. MARQUAT**

U.S. Army, Posthumous

Inducted April 24, 2026



In Saint Louis, Missouri, William Frederic Marquat was born on March 17, 1894. Throughout a career spanning over 37 years, Marquat retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of major general. Commissioned in the Coast Artillery Corps in 1916 following service in the Washington National Guard, he deployed to France during World War I, serving with the 65th Artillery and participating in the St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Defensive Sector campaigns.

Following the First World War, Marquat continued his career in the Regular Army, undertaking assignments in Coast Artillery units across the Continental United States, Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands, where he served as a direct advisor to the government. During the Second World War, as Chief of Staff, Philippine Coast Artillery Command, he demonstrated exceptional valor under fire on Feb. 1, 1942, earning the Distinguished Service Cross for his courageous leadership while directing artillery operations under intense enemy bombardment. He was subsequently selected by Gen. Douglas MacArthur to accompany him during the critical PT-Boat evacuation from Bataan in March 1942. He served on Gen. MacArthur's staff throughout the remainder of the war, later commanding the 14th Antiaircraft Command, participating in campaigns across the Pacific Theater.

Marquat's most impactful contributions stemmed from his leadership role in the post-war occupation of Japan. Appointed Chief of the Economic and Scientific Section of the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers in 1945, he directed a 650-person staff in the monumental task of rebuilding the Japanese economy. His initiatives encompassed infrastructure reconstruction, modernization of the tax system, re-establishment of international trade, promotion of fair labor practices, and a strategic redirection of Japanese industrial and scientific research away from military applications. Within five years, Japan's industrial capacity surpassed pre-war levels under his guidance.

Upon his return to the United States in 1952, Marquat assumed duties as Chief of the Office of Civil Affairs and Military Government. He strengthened the curriculum at the Military Government School at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Most significantly, he spearheaded the establishment of the Civil Affairs/Military Government Branch within the Army Reserve in 1955, ensuring the long-term viability of Civil Affairs as a core Army capability.

Marquat retired on Sept. 30, 1955, having been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, and numerous other decorations recognizing his service. His legacy is honored through the Marquat Library at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a lasting tribute to his enduring contributions to the Civil Affairs regiment.

Marquat passed away in May 1960 at the age of 66.