



*Figure 5. A fortified line, circa 1925. A simple wire fence was erected in 1918 by the U.S. government after hostilities erupted between U.S. and Mexican guards at Ambos Nogales, precipitating the so-called Battle of Nogales, a one-day clash on August 28. Officially, Mexico and the United States announced the conflict was stirred by German spies. Unofficially, Mexicans insisted that the exchange erupted after months of resentment stemming from ill treatment of their countrymen by Americans. The American consul in Nogales, Arizona, refused to acknowledge that story, preferring to believe that Mexican border guards created the disturbance. Brigadier General D. C. Cabell, dispatched to Nogales from his post in Douglas, Arizona, recommended the construction of a fence, which was built entirely on the U.S. side of the boundary. As seen here, several sentry kiosks and the fence filled the buffer space between the towns. In time seven gatehouses were built, four near the Elías-Morley crossing, two others set back near the railroad crossing (hereafter referred to as the main gate), and one on the Mexican side near Calle Arispe (the present Avenida Obregón) beyond.*