

History of the 40th Division Special Troops, Medical Department Detachment, California National Guard 1936-1939

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

40TH DIVISION

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Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, Calif. Nat. Guard
Reference: Adjutant General Files
Location: Berkeley, Alameda County
Organized: April CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

40TH DIVISION

Post
George V. Cochran, Captain April 10, 1938
(Assigned to M.D.D., April 10, 1938)

Location
April 10, 1938

Freddie K. Van de Carr, Captain May 8, 1938
(Assigned to M. D. D. April 10, 1938)

May 8, 1938

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Organization

On April 10, 1938, under the provisions of General Order No. 13, the Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, was organized in the City of Berkeley and placed under command of Capt. George Cochran.

With the importance of their duties freshly impressed on them at the summer camp of 1937, members of the Medical Detachment were busy preparing themselves by serious study of the various phases of first aid. "The ultimate objective of this study", stated Capt. Cochran, "is to prepare the men of the Detachment for any emergency. I intend to see that every man in the unit is a holder of the American Red Cross advanced First Aid Card."

Several of the newer members of the unit who were holders of the Red Cross First Aid Card were rapidly finishing the course under the able instructions of Capt. Van de Carr, and endeavoring to stay in the advanced course with the older members.

The men of the Medical Detachment thought of the motto of the United States Postal Service, "For rain, for snow, for sleet our legs can keep these messengers of the mails from their appointed task". When in March of 1938 they gathered in the sun of mid, formally designated as the Lafayette Elementary School playground, to set up their tent lines and station.

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Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, was organized in Berkeley April 10, 1938, General Order 1938, C. N. G. No. 13.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

40th DIVISION

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Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, Calif. Nat. Guard

References: Adjutant General Files

Location: Berkeley, Alameda County

Organized: April 10, 1936 *

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George V. Cochran, Captain (Assigned to M.D.D., April 10, 1936)	April 10, 1936	April 10, 1936
Francis R. Van de Carr, Captain (Assigned to M. D.D. April 10, 1936)	May 8, 1936	May 8, 1936

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Activities:

On April 10, 1936, under the provisions of General Order No. 10, the Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, was arranged in the City of Berkeley and placed under command of Capt. George Cochran.

With the importance of their duties freshly impressed on them at the summer encampment of 1937, members of the Medical Detachment were busy preparing themselves by serious study of the various phases of first aid. "The ultimate objective of this study", stated Capt. Cochran, "is to prepare the men of the detachment for any emergency. I intend to see that every man in the unit is a holder of the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid Card."

Several of the newer members of the unit who were holders of the Red Cross First Aid Card were rapidly finishing the course under the able instructions of Capt. Van de Carr, and would soon be studying the advanced course with the older members.

The men of the Medical Detachment thought of the motto of the United States Postal Service, "Nor rain, nor snow, nor sleet can keep these couriers of the mails from their appointed task", when in March of 1938 they gathered in the sea of mud, formally designated as the Lafayette Grammar School playground, to set up their battalion and station.

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*Medical Department Detachment Special Troops, 40th Division, was organized in Berkeley April 10, 1936, General Orders 1936, G.O. No. 10.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

40th D I V I S I O N

Activities: (Continued)

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The trip to the school was made on trucks with full packs. Once at the school all went inside for lunch. There the medics suffered the indignity of eating from the third grade tables while seated in second grade chairs, full packs draped over the backs of the chairs and legs crossed Oriental fashion under the tables. The purpose of the occasion was to demonstrate the establishment and workings of a battalion aid station under actual battle conditions to the officers of the 22nd Hospital Center of the Medical Reserve Corps. The show, primarily for the benefit of the interested medical officers, was witnessed by several hundred spectators who braved the occasional barrage of hailstones and the pelting of raindrops.

Boy Scouts from Lafayette, simulating wounded soldiers, were tagged and classified and then taken to aid stations, where the minor wounds were dressed, and then returned to the front. The more serious wounds and the gas patients were given all possible treatment and then sent on to the field hospital.

Further treatment was given at the field hospital. The most serious cases were taken to the evacuation hospital, where they were sorted, given treatment for gas, sent to the surgical hospital for operation on the more serious wounds.

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS

40th DIVISION

Activities: (Continued)

Major Homer Crane, Med. Res., explained the intricacies of the field hospital while Capt. Cochran of the Detachment followed with an explanation of the battalion aid station and its place in the routine shifting of wounded men from the front to the base hospitals.

Concluding their part of the show, the men of the Detachment followed the wounded men through the various fields of medical service. At the end of the demonstration, the Detachment adjourned to the auditorium for refreshments and then proceeded to the Berkeley Armory.

Arriving home at 5:00 P. M. they were a tired but infinitely wiser group of soldiers. All day the elements had been consistently against them. Rain had soaked their uniforms, the cold had frozen their hands to their instruments, and the wind had upset their litters and bottles of medicine, but they had accomplished their mission—they had given a successful demonstration of their duties and had acquitted themselves creditably.

The Medical Department Detachment has, up to the present date, May, 1939, retained its original enlisted strength, and there has been no change in the command.

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