

History of the 40th Division, Headquarters Detachment, California National Guard 1927-1939

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, California National Guard
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
 Organized: June 15, 1937 *
 Disbanded: September 30, 1937 **
 Reorganized: October 15, 1937 ***

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

* Headquarters Detachment organized in Berkeley June 15, 1937.]
 Adjutant General's Report, 1936-1938, page 19.

** Headquarters Detachment, disbanded September 30, 1937,
 General Orders, 1937, General Orders No. 25.

*** Headquarters Detachment reorganized and stationed at Los
 Angeles October 15, 1937.] General Orders, 1937, General Order
 No. 25.

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Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Morris Draper, Captain (Assigned to Headquarters, 40th Division, as Assistant Adjutant General, 11-30-36) (Relieved of command Mar. 9, 1931)	Nov. 27, 1930	Nov. 30, 1930
John E. Guarrard, 1st Lieut., (Detailled to command Head- quarters Detachment, 40th Division, Mar. 10, 1931) (Promoted Captain June 6, 1933)	Dec. 20, 1930	Dec. 29, 1930
John E. Guarrard, Captain, (Relieved of command, Sept. 9, 1933)	May 29, 1933	June 6, 1933
Morris Draper, Major (Detailled to command Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, Sept. 10, 1933) (Promoted Lt. Col. April 15, 1935)	March 4, 1931	Mar. 7, 1931

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

✓ Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, California National Guard
Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Organized: June 15, 1927 *
Disbanded: September 30, 1937 **
Reorganized: October 18, 1937 ***

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- ✓ * Headquarters Detachment organized in Berkeley June 15, 1927.]
Adjutant General's Report, 1926-1928, page 10,
- ✓ ** Headquarters Detachment, disbanded September 30, 1937,]
General Orders, 1937, General Orders No. 28.
- ✓ *** Headquarters Detachment reorganized and stationed at Los
Angeles October 18, 1937.] General Orders, 1937, General Order
No. 28.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank-</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Morris Draper, Captain (Assigned to Headquarters, 40th Division, as Assistant Adjutant General, 11-30-26) (Relieved of command Mar. 9, 1931)	Nov. 27, 1926	Nov. 30, 1926
John W. Guerard, 1st Lieut., (Detailed to command Head- quarters Detachment, 40th Division, Mar. 10, 1931) (Promoted Captain June 6, 1933)	Dec. 20, 1930	Dec. 29, 1930
John W. Guerard, Captain, (Relieved of command, Sept. 9, 1935)	May 29, 1933	June 6, 1933
Morris Draper, Major (Detailed to command Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, Sept. 10, 1935) (Promoted Lt. Col. April 15, 1936)	March 4, 1931	Mar. 7, 1931

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Morris Draper, Lt. Col.	April 15, 1936	April 15, 1936

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Activities:

- ✓ On June 15, 1927 Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, was organized in Berkeley and placed under command of Captain Morris Draper. A Division Headquarters Detachment, as its name implies, consists of the personnel required to carry on the work at Division Headquarters under the control of the Division Commander and his assistants - the members of the General Staff and the Special Staff.
- ✓ At war-time strength the Detachment is composed of twelve Warrant Officers and eighty-eight enlisted men; at peace-time strength fifty-one enlisted men; and at maintenance strength thirty-five enlisted men, divided among ten sections as follows: General Staff, Signal, Adjutant General, Inspector General, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Judge Advocate, Finance, Chaplain and Postal.
- ✓ In time of peace the Headquarters Detachment is considered as a separate organization and is commanded by a designated member of the Division Staff. In time of war it is attached to the Division Headquarters Company for administration, rations and quarters, but each section is actually commanded by the senior staff office of the section.
- ✓ Nine sections of the Detachment function directly under control of the Chief of the various sections of the Special Staff, (formerly known as the Technical Supply and Administration Staff). These sections are composed entirely of office men. The remaining section, - the General Staff Section - is under the direct control of the G-2 (Intelligence) Officer of the General Staff, and is composed of observers.

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Activities:

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- ✓ This section, armed with rifles without bayonets, while the remainder of the detachment is armed with pistols. The detachment, as a whole, is divided into a forward and a rear echelon, the General Staff and Signal Sections comprising the former.
- ✓ A Division Headquarters Detachment must be composed of the highest type of personnel. They must be capable of assimilating a great deal of instruction, learn readily and become proficient in a great number of duties. Much of their knowledge must be acquired by laborious study. The personnel of each section must have a general knowledge of the duties of each of the other sections so that they may be readily interchangeable. Every man must be loyal and willing, even eager, to work for long hours, day or night, without complaint.
- ✓ The training of the Detachment is at once interesting and difficult. It is interesting because of the wide and varied scope of the training required, and for the same reason is exceedingly difficult. In addition to the training in office work, considerable time must be devoted to individual basic training as a soldier, to disciplinary drill (close order) and to army organization.
- ✓ The latter subject requires a great deal of study, as every man must be familiar with the organization and functions of every unit composing the Infantry Division. He must also be familiar with the organization and functions of the staff of subordinate and higher units.
- ✓ Another subject requiring universal proficiency is military courtesy. Habitual courtesy, tact, and good manners are exacted as a matter of daily routine in order that individuals may deal with officers of high rank, with whom they are in daily contact, without embarrassment or hesitation.

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Activities:

From the foregoing it will be seen that care must be taken in the selection of personnel for the Detachment. Every effort must be made to select men of the right caliber who will carry on "under conditions of little convenience and much excitement" such as are of everyday occurrence in time of war.

The loyal willing man, having inherent or acquired ability is the type required and lack of any one of these qualities should be sufficient cause for rejection of an applicant.

On Sunday, April 21, 1929 Headquarters Detachment concluded its regular target practice season, all members having completed firing the dismounted course with the forty-five caliber pistol. Results of the practice were satisfactory, four men having qualified as experts, four as sharpshooters and eighteen as marksmen.

In nearly all cases individual scores were higher than they were the previous year. The few men who failed to get into the classified list missed qualification by small percentages. Instruction and record firing had been held nearly every Sunday during the two months just preceding the regular practice, the company having been divided into small groups for that purpose.

Before actual range firing commenced five successive drill nights were devoted exclusively to completion of the prescribed course of preparatory instruction, and it was believed that method was largely responsible for the excellent showing made.

Early range practice before the range became crowded and the system of firing by only a few men at a time in order to provide a competent coach for each man on the firing line, were also contributing factors. A supplemental practice was to be held in September, /October when men who joined the Detachment after the regular season would have opportunity to fire.

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Activities:

Officers of the Division Staff were scheduled to fire record practice on May 19.

On March 10, 1931, 1st Lieut. John W. Guerard, succeeded Captain Draper as commander of Headquarters Detachment. Captain Draper was promoted Major and assigned as Assistant Adjutant General, 40th Division. During the World War Major Draper served as Captain in the 30th Division; following the War he served as Sergeant Instructor, 3rd Battalion, 159th Infantry, until appointed to the 40th Division Staff.

Lt. Guerard, who enlisted as a private in 1926, had a varied career. Working his way through the ranks to the non-commissioned grades, he was appointed 2nd Lieut. in the 159th Infantry in 1928, and assigned to Company D, Alameda. After serving with the Alameda machine gun unit Lieut. Guerard was transferred to the Howitzer Company; thence to the position on the 40th Division Staff.

Following his return from the summer encampment in 1930, Lt. Guerard took the examinations for promotion and was advanced to the grade of 1st. Lieut. He was one of the few officers in the California National Guard to be commissioned while still a student in college. He recently graduated from the University of California where he held the highest military position, "Colonel of Cadets".

Beginning in 1928 and extending over a period of four years, Headquarters Detachment was awarded sixty-three medals or bars for one hundred per cent attendance at drills. One man, Master Sergeant W. C. MacPherson, had a collection of all the bars issued. Starting with Regimental Headquarters Company, 159th Infantry, he received his first bar in 1926; he transferred to Headquarters Detachment early in 1927, and from then on had not missed a drill, two hundred eighty-eight drills and six camps without a miss.

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HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

40th DIVISION

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Activities:

Tech. Sgt. G. F. Danskin had five bars. He started in the Howitzer Company, 159th Infantry, and received his first bar while in Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division. Three more men, Master Sergeants, H. T. Malone and E. G. Weed, and Sergeant P. A. Gutierrez, received the award four years in succession. Master Sergeants, H. D. Sherrill, A. W. McCarthy and Sergeant Emery Weed, Jr., each had three bars to their credit. The rest of the bars were distributed as follows:

Four men had received two bars each, and ten men had received their first award. Thirty per cent of the men in the Detachment had two bars or more.

✓ From July 5 to July 21, 1934, Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division was on emergency duty in San Francisco during the Water Front Strike. The Company was stationed aboard the S.S. Fort Sutter at Pier 3, and rendered valuable service in maintaining law and order.

✓ On September 30, 1937, Headquarters Detachment, 40th Division, was disbanded in Berkeley. On October 18, 1937, a new Headquarters Detachment was organized in Los Angeles and placed under command of Lieut. Col. Morris Draper. In May, 1939, the Detachment is still stationed at Los Angeles.

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