

History of the 80th Infantry Brigade, California National Guard 1929-1939

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Headquarters, 80th Brigade, 10th Division, California National Guard
Reference: Adjutant General Files
Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Organization: May 6, 1929 *

Commissioned Officers

Brigading Officers

| | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Rank | Rank | Commission |
| Walter P. Gray, Brigadier General | June 15, 1928 | July 3, 1928 |
| (Transferred from 75th Inf. Brigade May 9, 1928) | | |
| (Promoted, Major General July 7, 1927) | | |

HEADQUARTERS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Edward Harvey, Executive Officer | July 7, 1927 | July 7, 1927 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|

80TH BRIGADE

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

Executive Officers

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| Rank | Rank | Commission |
| William P. ... | Mustered in: May 6, 1929 | Mar. 25, 1929 |
| (Transferred to Headquarters, 80th Brigade, June 15, 1928) | | |
| Charles S. ... Major | June 5, 1928 | June 15, 1928 |
| -Executive Officer | | |
| (Promoted, Lt. Colonel and transferred to Headquarters, 40th Division, Apr. 15, 1929) | | |
| Walter L. ... Major | Apr. 15, 1929 | Apr. 15, 1929 |
| -Executive Officer | | |
| (Assigned Apr. 24, 1929) | | |

* Headquarters 75th Brigade, redesignated Headquarters 80th Infantry
Brigade, May 9, 1928,
Adjutant General Report, 1928-1929, page 2.

HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Headquarters, 80th Brigade, 40th Division, California National Guard
Reference: Adjutant General Files
Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Organized: May 6, 1929 *

Commanding Officers

Brigadier Generals

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Walter P. Story, Brigadier General (Transferred from 79th Inf. Brigade May 8, 1929) (Promoted, Major General July 7, 1937) | June 18, 1928 | July 2, 1926 |
| Harcourt Hervey, Brigadier General, | July 7, 1937 | July 7, 1937 |

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Executive Officer

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| William F. Daugherty, Major- -Executive Officer (Transferred to Headquarters, 40th Division, June 15, 1933) | Mar. 11, 1929 | Mar. 25, 1929 |
| Charles M. Reading, Major- -Executive Officer (Promoted, Lt. Colonel and transferred to Headquarters, 40th Division, Apr. 18, 1939) | June 5, 1933 | June 15, 1933 |
| Snyder L. Peebles, Major- -Executive Officer (Assigned Apr. 24, 1939) | Apr. 18, 1939 | Apr. 18, 1939 |

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* Headquarters 79th Brigade, redesignated Headquarters 80th Infantry
Brigade, May 6, 1929,
Adjutant General Report, 1928-1930, page 9.

HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Commanding Officers (Continued)

Adjutants

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Charles M. Reading, Captain- -Adjutant (Promoted, Major June 15, 1933) | Apr. 26, 1927 | Apr. 29, 1927 |
| Briant H. Wells, Jr., Captain- -Adjutant (Transferred to Nat. Guard Reserve Mar. 12, 1934) | June 5, 1933 | June 15, 1933 |
| Joseph W. Vincent, Captain- -Adjutant (Promoted, Major and transferred to Headquarters, 40th Division Jan. 14, 1939) | Apr. 12, 1934 | Apr. 12, 1934 |
| Snyder L. Peebles, Captain- -Adjutant (Assigned Feb. 13, 1931) (Promoted, Major Apr. 18, 1939) (Assigned as Executive Officer Apr. 24, 1939) | May 4, 1931 | May 11, 1931 |
| Homer O. Eaton, Captain- -Adjutant (Assigned Apr. 24, 1935) | Aug. 30, 1935 | Aug. 30, 1935 |

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Aide

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Briant H. Wells, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Promoted, Captain June 15, 1933) | Apr. 5, 1927 | Apr. 8, 1927 |
| Thomas J. Holmes, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Resigned Dec. 13, 1929) | Dec. 20, 1927 | Dec. 23, 1927 |
| Joseph W. Vincent, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Promoted Captain Apr. 12, 1934) | June 8, 1931 | June 8, 1931 |

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HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Commanding Officers (Continued)

Aides

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Kenneth M. Barager, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Transferred from Headquarters 185th Infantry Regiment Feb. 9, 1935) (Transferred to Inactive Nat. Guard Mar. 26, 1936) | Febr. 29, 1932 | Mar. 4, 1932 |
| Ralph D. Maxfield, 2nd Lieut.- -Aide (Transferred from 160th Inf. Reg. Aug. 7, 1935) (In lieu of 1st Lieut. Aug. 7, 1935) (Promoted, 1st Lieut. June 22, 1936) (Transferred to Headquarters 40th Div. as Aide, Oct. 31, 1937) | Apr. 3, 1933 | Apr. 6, 1933 |
| Ralph D. Maxfield, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Transferred to Headquarters 40th Div. Oct. 31, 1937) | June 22, 1936 | June 22, 1936 |
| Henry R. Thompson, 1st Lieut.- -Aide (Transferred from 160th Inf. Reg. Aug. 25, 1933 Sept. 9, 1936) (Transferred to Headquarters, 160th Inf. Sept. 7, 1938) | Aug. 25, 1933 | Aug. 25, 1933 |
| Harding Palmer, 2nd Lieut.- -Aide (Transferred from 160th Inf. Reg. Dec. 20, 1937) (Promoted, 1st Lieut., Jan. 20, 1938) | Apr. 29, 1936 | Apr. 29, 1936 |
| Harding Palmer, 1st Lieut.- -Aide | Jan. 20, 1938 | Jan. 20, 1938 |

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HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Activities

The history of the 80th Brigade began May 6, 1929 when the 79th Brigade Headquarters, located in Los Angeles, was redesignated Headquarters, 80th Brigade. The 160th Infantry Regiment was withdrawn from the 79th Brigade and attached to the 80th, and the newly organized 185th Infantry was also attached to the new brigade. Brigadier General Walter P. Story was transferred from the 79th Brigade to the 80th. The organization of the new brigade was made possible when the Militia Bureau of the United States War Department allocated to California a new regiment of infantry.

General Story, who was in command of the newly designated Brigade, played an important part in the reorganization of the California National Guard in the southern part of the state after the World War. On December 4, 1920, he was commissioned Captain of the Fourth Separate Company, Infantry, located in Los Angeles. Two months later, on Feb. 2, 1921, he was promoted, Major and placed in command of the Third Separate Battalion of Infantry. The Third Separate Battalion was redesignated Second Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, August 23, 1921, and on the same day Major Story was commissioned Colonel and assigned to command the 160th Infantry Regiment.

On July 2, 1926 Colonel Story was promoted to Brigadier General and placed in command of the 79th Brigade, which rank he held when transferred to the 80th Brigade. Eleven years later, on July 7, 1937, Brigadier General Story was commissioned Major General, 40th Division.

General Story was succeeded in command of the 80th Brigade by Colonel Harcourt Hervey, 160th Infantry Regiment, who was promoted to Brigadier General, 80th Brigade, July 7, 1937.

Brigadier General Hervey had a splendid World War record. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery on November 29, 1916; First Lieutenant December 4, 1916; Captain August 5, 1917; Major August 17, 1918, and Colonel October 27, 1918. He was transferred to the Officers Reserve Corps March 17, 1921, where he remained until July 20, 1926, when he was commissioned Lt. Colonel of the 160th Infantry Regiment. One week later, on July 27, 1926 General Hervey was promoted and became Colonel of the 160th Infantry Regiment. After serving eleven years as Colonel he was, on July 7, 1937, appointed Brigadier General, 80th Brigade.

Activities:

For his services during the Meuse Argonne Offensive, while a Lieutenant Colonel, commanding the 1st Ammunition Train, 6th Field Artillery, General Hervey was awarded the United States Meritorious Services Citation.

He was awarded the Croix de Guerre for services in action during the Soissons Offensive in July, 1918. He served in all actions in which the First Division, A. E. F. took part in France.

General Hervey graduated from the University of California in the class of 1918. While attending the University he was an instructor in fencing. *

Perhaps the best test of the efficiency of a brigadier headquarters staff would be during the period of time just preceding and during the annual encampment of the Brigade. The opinions of men who are qualified by experience and training are generally reliable, so the views of Colonel Reynold J. Burt, United States Army Operations Officer, Militia Bureau, War Department, will be given.

The particular encampment referred to was held in July, 1931, when the 80th Brigade, the 40th Tank Company, the 40th Military Police Company and Company D, 115th Engineers, camped for two weeks at San Luis Obispo.

After attending the camp and noting the various operations of the encampment Colonel Burt made the following remarks:

"I came here on a very long trip from Washington, which included visits at a great many camps before reaching the Pacific Coast, and find here the National Guard very wonderfully situated in a camp on a military reservation which is particularly advantageous for training to produce progressive military efficiency.

"I take great pleasure in seeing the type of men that I find here in California, and I believe that they are efficiently carrying out the plans of the National Defense Act under which they are organized. The plans for training and the manner in which they are carried out, as well as the type of officers and men, please me particularly. I find that the commissioned and non-commissioned officers and a great number of enlisted men are working together in sincere cooperation toward those military ideals which the nation calls for and needs in its national defense. I only hope it will be my great pleasure to visit here again.

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HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Activities:

"I shall report to the Chief of the Military Bureau on my return, most favorably in regard to the training which is being conducted and the splendid type of personnel which I have found here in the camp at San Luis Obispo."

Colonel Burt further stated that his immediate interest is in the National Guard, and that it is the business of the Militia Bureau to assist the Guard in attaining maximum efficiency amongst the aggregate of one hundred ninety thousand officers and men as they constitute a very remarkable force in the national defense plan.

When one considers that one day all these men are working in their civilian capacities as bankers, mechanics, storekeepers and draftsmen or in the various professions in civil life, and the next day finds literally thousands of them transported to camp, re clothed in uniforms, fed and quartered in well disciplined organizations, it constitutes a very remarkable and a very interesting part of the general scheme for the country's defense. Then at the end of two weeks they are re clothed as civilians and go peacefully about their regular pursuits.

Surely the National Government and the War Department and those who are in charge of the various units of the National Guard can feel proud of this efficient force. * To Brigadier General Story and his Staff belongs the credit for the splendid administration and conduct of the camp.

During the latter part of 1936 the National Guard was rapidly becoming motorized. Inasmuch as no motorized kitchens were provided by the Militia Bureau, General Story and his staff undertook to develop their own until such time as the Federal Government should provide such equipment. The new kitchens, in order to meet the need, must possess great mobility and sturdiness, and equipment for the rapid preparation of food in large quantity.

The assignment of motor trucks to infantry units and the general mechanization of the army had made the old type rolling kitchens obsolete.

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* California Guardsman, August, 1931, page 5.

HEADQUARTERS, 80th BRIGADE

Activities:

The construction of a rolling kitchen suitable for modern use involved several problems. One was the designing of axles, wheels, and tires, capable of carrying heavy loads at high speed over rough terrain.

Another problem was the supply of sufficient water for immediate needs while on the road.

The modern kitchen must provide facilities for the preparation of food while enroute. That was possible in the old horsedrawn kitchen, but there is a difference between cooking while the vehicle is moving at the rate of four miles per hour and cooking while traveling over rough ground at perhaps forty miles an hour.

A new portable electric generator was also constructed under the direction of General Story. This unit was mounted on a four wheel chassis. The power was furnished by a gasoline motor connected to a three phase, heavy duty generator. The electric power output is sufficient for lighting a brigade camp, and large spools of cable are carried for making temporary installations. *

Another problem that confronted the Brigade Staff in 1936 was that of writing a detailed mobilization plan, to be used in the event that National Guard troops of Southern California were ordered to duty in a local emergency.

General Story had been assigned a sector composed of eleven counties in Southern California, including the cities of San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernadino and a number of smaller communities.

The mobilization plan provided the general details of intelligence mobilization and employment of troops in the entire sector, and would be followed by special plans applicable to specific emergency situations and definite locations.

The full cooperation of various civic and industrial organizations was obtained and General Story is confident that Southern California would be prepared to cope with any emergency. **

The foregoing items illustrate to some degree the working of the 80th Brigade Staff. Added to these are the routine matters of transmitting orders to the units in the brigade, especially during encampments and emergencies.

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* National Guardsman, May 1937, page 5.

** California Guardsman, February 1937, page 10.