

History of the 79th Infantry Brigade, California National Guard 1922-1939

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HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE

Headquarters, Seventy Ninth Brigade, Fortieth Division, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County

Organized November 25, 1922*

Restationed March 16, 1925**

Restationed October 16, 1926***

Redesignated 80th Brigade May 6, 1929****

New Brigade Headquarters organized March 18, 1930 designated 79th Infantry Brigade and stationed at Sacramento*****

Brigadier Generals

Commanding Officers

Name

Rank

Commission

J. J. Borree, Brig. Gen.

Nov. 16, 1922

Nov. 16, 1922

(Resigned December 13, 1924)

David P. Barrows, Col.

Oct. 17, 1921

Oct. 19, 1921

(In lieu of Brig. Gen. Apr. 8, 1925
to June 18, 1925)

(Promoted Brigadier Gen. June 18, 1925)

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*Brigade Headquarters organized in Sacramento, November 25, 1922, and designated Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division. General and Special Orders, 1922, General Order No. 20, page 39.

**Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division, located in Sacramento, re-stationed March 16, 1925, and located in Berkeley. General Order No. 6, dated March 16, 1925. Adjutant General's Office.

***Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division located in Berkeley. Re-stationed October 16, 1926, and located in Los Angeles. General Order No. 27, dated October 16, 1926. Adjutant General's Office.

****Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division, redesignated 80th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division. General Order No. 9, dated May 6, 1929. Adjutant General's Office.

*****Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division, organized and stationed at Sacramento, March 18, 1930. General Order No. 7, dated March 22, 1930. Adjutant General's Office.

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (Continued)

<u>Brigadier Generals</u> (Continued)	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>		
David P. Barrows, Brig. Gen. (Assumed Command of 40th Division, June 18, 1926) (Promoted Major General July 2, 1926) (Placed on retired list June 27, 1937)	June 17,	1925	June 18, 1925
Walter P. Story, Brig. Gen. (Trans. to 80th Brigade May 6, 1929)	June 18,	1926	July 2, 1926
Wallace A. Mason, Brig. Gen. (Assumed Com. of 40th Div., Nov. 6, 1937) (Placed on retired list Sept 30, 1938)	Mar. 18,	1930	Mar. 18, 1930
R. E. Mittlestaedt, Brig. Gen.	Oct. 1,	1938	Oct. 1, 1938
<u>Majors</u>			
Leon L. French, Major (Trans. to Officers Reserve, April 27, 1923)	Aug. 23,	1922	Feb. 5, 1923
Charles E. Lutz, Major (Promoted Lieut. Col. of Infantry June 18, 1926) (Trans. to 40th Div. June 18, 1926)	May 7,	1925	May 16, 1925
Frank C. Tillson, Major (Trans. to N. G. R. Jan. 17, 1929)	Oct. 12,	1926	Oct. 18, 1926
William F. Daugherty, Major (Trans. to 80th Brigade May 6, 1929)	Mar. 11,	1929	Mar. 25, 1929
Arthur C. Huston, Major (Trans. to Hdqtrs, 184th Infty Oct. 5, 1937)	Apr. 3,	1930	Apr. 7, 1930
<u>Captains</u>			
Edmund P. Stone, Captain (Trans. from 159th Infantry May 1, 1923) (Trans. to N. G. R., Nov. 16, 1923)	Apr. 13,	1923	Apr. 28, 1923
Frank L. Webb, Captain (Trans. from Co. I, 159th Infty, Jan 11, 1924) (Trans. to Q. M. C., July 10, 1924)	Nov. 16,	1921	Dec. 5, 1921
Charles E. Lutz, Captain (Promoted Major Hdqtrs, 79th Brig., May 16, 1925)	Mar. 15,	1923	Apr. 1, 1923
Doak E. Carter, Captain (Trans. to unassigned list Jan. 1, 1926) (Resigned Feby 4, 1927)	Nov. 8,	1924	Nov. 12, 1924
Arnold F. Smith, Captain (Trans. to N. G. R., June 15, 1925)	Dec. 15,	1924	Dec. 18, 1924

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (Continued)

Captains (continued)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Paul W. Richardson, 2nd Lieut. (In lieu of Capt Jan. 4, 1926, to May 14, 1926) (Trans. to M. G. R. May 14, 1926)	June 3, 1925	June 3, 1925
Embree F. Hockenbeamer, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. from Hdqtrs Co., June 23, 1926) (In lieu of Capt., June 23, 1926 to December 1, 1926) (Trans. to Signal Corps Dec. 1, 1926)	June 11, 1925	June 15, 1925
Willard C. Johnson, Captain (Trans. to unassigned list Nov. 1, 1926)	Jan. 8, 1926	Jan. 8, 1926
Charles M. Reading, Captain (Trans. to 80th Brigade May 6, 1929)	Apr. 26, 1927	Apr. 29, 1927
Arthur C. Huston, Jr., Captain (Trans. from Co. E, 184th Infty., Apr. 1, 1930) (Promoted Major April 7, 1930)	July 2, 1927	July 2, 1927
Ralph A. Tudor, Captain (Resigned December 22, 1931)	Apr. 1, 1930	Apr. 1, 1930
Andrew Sorensen, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co. A, 184th Infty, Jan. 20, 1932) (In lieu of Capt., Jan. 20, 1932 to Apr. 2, 1932) (Promoted Captain April 2, 1932)	Oct. 26, 1929	Oct. 26, 1929
Andrew Sorensen, Captain (Resigned Feb. 5, 1936)	Apr. 1, 1932	Apr. 2, 1932
Carl H. Aulick, Captain	Feb. 27, 1936	Feb. 27, 1936
Hal P. Skemp, Captain (Demoted to 1st Lieut at own request Feb. 10, 1938)	Apr. 29, 1936	Apr. 29, 1936
Royal G. Brooke, Captain (Trans. to 184th Infty Apr. 23, 1938)	Feb. 10, 1938	Feb. 10, 1938
<u>First Lieutenants</u>		
Edward E. Moran, First Lieut. (Resigned June 2, 1923)	Mar. 30, 1923	Apr. 3, 1923

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (Continued)

<u>First Lieutenants</u> (Continued)	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>		
Walter R. Heyneman, First Lieut. (Trans. to unassigned list April 15, 1924) (Resigned April 15, 1924)	May 30, 1923		Apr. 3, 1923
Doak E. Carter, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co., K, 159th Infty May 28, 1924) (Promoted Captain and assigned to 79th Infty Brig., Nov. 12, 1924)	Jan. 25, 1924		Feb. 9, 1924
Paul B. Williamson, First Lieut. (Trans. to N. G. R. Jan. 11, 1926)	Nov. 6, 1923		Nov. 9, 1923
Arnold F. Smith, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co., I, 159th Infty, Oct. 8, 1924) (Promoted Captain December 18, 1924)	May 5, 1924		May 20, 1924
Lester K. Born, First Lieut. (Trans. to Hdqtrs, 40th Div., July 29, 1926)	Nov. 8, 1924		Nov. 12, 1924
Floyd H. White, First Lieut. V. G. (Trans. to N. G. R., Apr. 11, 1927)	May 19, 1925		May 20, 1925
Ralph Cook, First Lieut. (Trans. from Service Co., 160th Infty Apr. 2, 1927) (Trans. to N. G. R., Oct. 28, 1927)	July 13, 1926		July 17, 1926
Briant H. Wells, Jr., First Lieut. (Trans. to 80th Brig., May 6, 1929)	Apr. 5, 1927		Apr. 8, 1927
Thomas J. Holmes, First Lieut. (Trans. to 80th Brig. May 6, 1929)	Dec. 20, 1927		Dec. 23, 1927
Carl H. Aulick, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. from Co., A, 184th Infty Reg., Mar. 26, 1930) (In lieu of 1st Lt. Apr. 1, to Apr. 10, 1930)	Dec. 19, 1928		Dec. 24, 1928
Carl H. Aulick, First Lieut. (Promoted Captain Feb. 27, 1936)	Apr. 9, 1930		Apr. 10, 1930
Douglas H. Greeley, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. from Service Co., 184th Infty Apr. 1, 1930) (In lieu of 1st Lt. Apr. 1, to Apr. 10, 1930)	Apr. 1, 1929		Apr. 3, 1929

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (continued)

First Lieutenants (continued)

<u>Name</u>			
Douglas M. Greeley, First Lieut. (Trans. N. G. R., December 5, 1931)	Apr. 9, 1930	Apr. 10, 1930	
Ralph A. Tudor, First Lieut. (Promoted Capt and Trans. to 40th Div. Mar. 27, 1934)	Dec. 23, 1931	Dec. 23, 1931	
Hal P. Skemp, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co., A, 184th Infty May 22, 1934) (Trans. to Hdqtrs Co., 79th Brig. Apr. 12, 1936)	Dec. 2, 1930	Dec. 4, 1930	
Royal G. Brooke, First Lieut. (Trans. from Hdqtrs Co., 3rd Bn, 184th Inf. Reg., (Redesignation) Mar. 12, 1936) (Relieved from duty Feb. 10, 1938) (Promoted Captain Feb. 10, 1938)	Oct. 1, 1935	Oct. 1, 1935	
John S. Stephens, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co. A, 184th Infty, Apr. 21, 1936) (Resigned May 3, 1937)	Nov. 16, 1933	Nov. 16, 1933	
Edward J. Planting, First Lieut. (Assigned June 1, 1937) (Trans. to 184th Inf., Sept. 16, 1937)	Sept. 25, 1933	June 1, 1937	
Arthur W. McMillan, First Lieut. (Trans. from Co. B, 184th Infty, Sept 17, 1937) (Trans. to Hdqtrs Co., Apr. 24, 1938)	Jan. 13, 1937	Jan. 13, 1937	
Hal P. Skemp, First Lieut. (Demoted at own request from rank of Capt Feb. 10, 1938)	Dec. 2, 1930	Feb. 10, 1938	

Second Lieutenants

Carroll S. Miller, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. to N. G. R. June 5, 1925)	Nov. 8, 1924	Dec. 11, 1924	
Paul W. Richardson, 2nd Lieut. (In lieu of Capt., Jan. 4, 1926)	June 3, 1925	June 3, 1925	
Carl H. Aulick, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. from Co., A, 184th Inf. Mar. 26, 1930) (Promoted in lieu of 1st Lieut Apr. 1, 1930)	Dec. 19, 1928	Dec. 24, 1928	

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (continued)

Activities:

On November 25, 1922, the 79th Infantry Brigade, California National Guard, consisting of the 159th and 160th Regiments of Infantry together with the Medical personnel attached thereto was organized in Sacramento. All returns and other papers pertaining to the Regiments and Brigade Headquarters were required to be sent to the Adjutant General through Military channels.

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Brigadier General J. J. Borree, the Adjutant General of California, was assigned to command the Brigade.* General Borree resigned December 13, 1924, and Colonel David P. Barrows was assigned to command the 79th Brigade in lieu of Brigadier General. Colonel Barrows remained in command of the Brigade, as Colonel, until June 18, 1925, at which time he was promoted Brigadier General and assigned to command the 79th Infantry Brigade. General Barrows remained in command of the Brigade until June 18, 1926, when he was assigned to the command of the 40th Division, California National Guard, which was organized on that date.

Upon the resignation of General Barrows, Colonel Walter P. Story, commanding the 160th Infantry Regiment, was promoted Brigadier General and assigned to command the 79th Infantry Brigade. General Story remained in command until May 6, 1929, when the Brigade was redesignated and became the 80th Brigade.**

On March 18, 1930, a new Brigade Headquarters was organized, stationed in Sacramento and designated Headquarters, 79th Infantry Brigade.*** Brigadier General Wallace A. Mason was placed in command of the new organization. General Mason remained in command of the Brigade until September 30, 1938, at which time he was placed on the retired list. Upon the retirement of General Mason on October 1, 1938, Brigadier General R. E. Mittlestaedt was assigned to command the 79th.

Headquarters, 79th Brigade was restationed and located at Berkeley, March 16, 1925, and on October 16, 1926, was again restationed and located at Los Angeles, where it remained until the 79th was redesignated as the 80th Brigade on May 6, 1929.****

When the 79th was redesignated the 80th Brigade in Los Angeles, the 160th Infantry Regiment and the 185th, a newly organized unit, were assigned to the 80th Brigade. To the new 79th Brigade was assigned the 159th Infantry, San Francisco, and the 184th with Headquarters in Sacramento.

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*General and Special Orders 1922. General Order No. 20.

**General Order No. 9, dated May 6, 1929. Adjutant General's Office.

***General Order No. 7, dated March 22, 1930.

****General Order No. 9, dated May 6, 1929. Adjutant General's Office.

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (continued)

Activities: (continued)

The 79th Infantry Brigade attended all annual training encampments at San Luis Obispo.

On July 5, 1934, Brigadier General Howard, the Adjutant General of the State, authorized Major General David P. Barrows, Commander of the 40th Division, to call for emergency duty in San Francisco during the water front strike, the 250th Coast Artillery, the 159th Infantry Regiment and Company D of the 184th Infantry Regiment. The calls were completed about 1:30 P. M., and mobilization started immediately. Companies E and H of the 159th Infantry and Company D of the 184th Infantry located at Gilroy, completed mobilizing by 4:25 P. M. The 1st Battalion of the 159th Infantry in Oakland, completed mobilization by 4:30 P. M. The 159th Infantry units in Berkeley had completed mobilization at 5:00 P. M. Units in San Francisco had sufficient troops to enable them to move out at 5:00 P. M.*

see 79th
Following the original call, General Barrows determined that certain other units of the 184th Infantry should be mobilized and ordered into service. Company L, 184th Infantry, Napa, and Company K, 184th Infantry, Santa Rosa were ordered to duty. The 159th Infantry and 184th Infantry units were placed under the command of Colonel R. E. Mittlestaedt of the 250th Coast Artillery and Senior Colonel of the three regiments and all movements of these units to the docks were made under his instructions.**

On Governor's Day at the 1934 annual training encampment at San Luis Obispo, Governor Frank F. Merriam received a stand of colors, the National Flag and the Four-Star Flag of the Governor, Commander-in-chief of the California National Guard. The Governor, who had gained a profound respect and regard for the National Guard, had expressed a desire to visit the 79th Brigade Camp at San Luis Obispo. "Governor's Day" was, therefore, established for August 9th. Governor Merriam was met at the main entrance of the Camp by a battalion escort of honor from the 159th Infantry, Company A, 184th Infantry and Company G, 159th Infantry. These units escorted the Governor to his quarters at the officers' Club where he was officially greeted by General Barrows, Camp Commander, and General Seth Howard, the Adjutant General. The Governor then proceeded to the main parade grounds where troops were drawn up in line of battalion masses. All available parking space along California Drive was occupied by cars of visitors who had waited since early morning to witness the ceremony. Troops were called to attention, and presented first to the Commander of Troops and then to the Governor. Organizations stood at ease as an escort composed of a Company from each of the two Infantry Regiments marched to the center, thence to the East end of the

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*California Guardsman July-August 1934, Page 8.

**California Guardsman July-August 1934, Page 8.

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY NINTH BRIGADE (continued)

Activities: (continued)

parade ground where the colors were being unfurled to the breeze. After the ceremony of receiving the colors had been concluded, the regiments returned to the center of the grounds where officers and guidons of the command had been formed. With bands playing and colors flying, officers, guidons and escort marched forward, halting ten paces from the reviewing stand. Officers and guidons saluted. General Barrows stepped from the reviewing stand and in a few well chosen words presented the Governor with the colors, explaining that it was a custom long observed by the National Guard of California. Governor Merriam responded briefly, expressing his appreciation of the courtesy, also complimenting the National Guard on its performance of duty during the waterfront strike in San Francisco.*

all 79th
Governor Merriam's remarks to the troops of the 79th Brigade were in part as follows: "The presentation of flags to me upon reaching the beautiful grounds where you are located is indeed a surprise. I know of nothing finer you men could do; I appreciate them not for what they cost, but for the things they represent, and I am sure that you appreciate this great flag that is flying over there, the flag under which you march. That is the spirit in which I appreciate them, not the material of which they are made but those things for which they stand.**"

Complimenting the men of the 159th Infantry and the 184th Infantry Regiments, which make up the 79th Brigade, the Governor stated he was exceedingly happy to be able to mingle with the men who had been in a great crisis, not only in the State of California, but in the entire nation. "You probably did not realize it -I didn't realize it - I mean the real crisis that confronted the people of the State of California. I am proud of the way in which you men by your fine spirit, by the fine manner in which you met the emergency and the splendid part you played, in subduing it. The decisions that you men were able to make compelled recognition of the authority of the State of California, and I desire to convey to you men and to the men who are assembled on these grounds today, the greetings of the State of California and the compliments of the people of California and I say that you deserve it.***"

The 79th Brigade was also complimented by Army and Navy Officers on its appearance. Following the presentation of the colors to the Governor, the troops passed in review in a long column of massed battalions, with bayonets and helmets gleaming in the sun. A fine spectacle which aroused the enthusiastic admiration of the Governor and all who witnessed it.****

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- *California Guardsman September 1934, page 4.
- **California Guardsman September 1934, page 4.
- ***California Guardsman September 1934, page 4.
- ****California Guardsman September 1934, page 6.

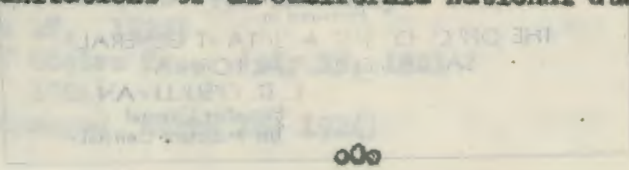
HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTY-NINTH BRIGADE (continued)

Activities: (continued)

The 79th Infantry Brigade had many noted visitors during the encampment, among whom were Colonel Geary, the National Guard officer for the Ninth Corps Areas, General Walter P. Story, commander of the 80th Brigade, Colonel Harcourt Harvey, Commanding officer of the 160th Infantry, and many others including Professor Eugene Neuhaus of the Art Department of the University of California, whom many remembered for his fine paintings of the mountains surrounding the Camp at San Luis Obispo.*

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Since the organization of the 79th Brigade in 1930, its activities have been limited. The units of the Brigade including Headquarters hold an enviable record for attendance at drill. The idea was that if a man was not at drill he could not learn how to be a soldier, and if a soldier was not interested enough in his organization to attend drill he ought not to be in the National Guard. This is the main reason for the high record established by the 79th Brigade as one of the leading organizations of the California National Guard.



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*California Guardsman September 1934, page 6.