



20TH INFANTRY DIVISION 1918-1919

RECORD OF EVENTS

Organization and Training 1918

On July 31, 1918, the War Department directed organization of the 20th Division at Camp Sevier, South Carolina. On August 2, 1918, organization of the 20th Field Artillery Brigade at Camp Jackson, South Carolina was ordered. Formation of the division began in August after the 48th Infantry and 50th Infantry had been concentrated at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, Colonel Louis J. Van Schaick assuming temporary command August 12th.



Camp Sevier, Greenville, South Carolina, World War I

On September 30, 1918, the strength of the Division was about 8700 officers and men. At the end of October the strength totaled approximately 9,200 and, on December 31, reached a peak of some 15,400 officers and men.



Camp Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina, World War I

Systematic training began as the various units were formed, 20th Field Artillery Brigade training at the Field Artillery Brigade Firing Center, Camp Jackson, South Carolina. The 220th Engineers joined the Division at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, in November.

Post-Armistice Activities and Demobilization 1918-19

On January 17, 1919, demobilization of emergency personnel and of all units, except the 48th Infantry, 50th Infantry, 89th Infantry and 90th Infantry, was ordered. These four Infantry Regiments were detached from the Division on February 28th, 1919. Demobilization of the Division was accomplished as follows: At Camp Jackson, South Carolina: HQ 20th Field Artillery Brigade Feb. 28th; at Camp Sevier, South Carolina: HQ 39th Infantry Brigade Feb. 10th, HQ 40th Infantry Brigade Feb. 12th, Division HQ February 28th.

COMPOSITION

39th INFANTRY BRIGADE: Headquarters organized Oct. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

- ~ 48th Infantry Regiment: Organized June 1917 at Syracuse, NY, from Cadre 9th Inf.
- ~ 89th Infantry Regiment: Organized Aug. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC, from Cadre 48th Inf.
- ~ 59th Machine Gun Battalion: Organized Sep. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

40th INFANTRY BRIGADE: Headquarters organized Aug. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

- ~ 50th Infantry Regiment: Organized June 1917 at Syracuse, NY, from Cadre 23rd Inf.
- ~ 90th Infantry Regiment: Organized Aug. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC, from Cadre 50th Inf.
- ~ 60th Machine Gun Battalion: Organized Oct. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

20th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE: Headquarters organized Oct. 1918 at Camp Jackson, SC.

- ~ 58th Field Artillery: Organized Oct. 1918 at Fort Ethan Allen, VT., from 310th Cav.
- ~ 59th Field Artillery: Organized Oct. 1918 at Fort Ethan Allen, VT., from 310th Cav.
- ~ 60th Field Artillery: Organized Aug. 1918 at Forts Myer, VA. and D. A. Russell. WY, from 312th Cav.
- ~ 20th Trench Mortar Battery: Organized Oct. 1918 at Fort Ethan Allen, VT., from M.G. Tr. 310th Cav.

DIVISIONAL TROOPS:

- ~ 58th Machine Gun Battalion: Organized Oct. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.
- ~ 220th Engineers: Organized Sept. 1918 at Camp A. A. Humphreys, VA.
- ~ 220th Field Signal Battalion: Organized Aug. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.
- ~ Headquarters Troop: Organized Sept. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

TRAINS (Logistics and Support):

- ~ 20th Train HQ and Military Police: Organized Sept. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.
- ~ 20th Ammunition Train: Organized Nov. 1918 at Camp Jackson, SC.
- ~ 20th Supply Train: Organized Sept. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.
- ~ 220th Engineer Train: Never organized.
- ~ 20th Sanitary Train (Amb. Cos. and F. Hosps. 277-280): Organized Sept. 1918 at Camp Sevier, SC.

COMMAND

DIVISION COMMANDERS

1918

Aug. 12: Col. Louis J. Van Schaick (ad interim)
Aug. 18: Col. Lawrence B. Simonds (ad interim)
Aug. 27: Col. William F. Grote (ad interim)
Sept. 30: Brig. Gen E Leroy Sweetser

1919

Jan. 3: Maj. Gen. Harry F. Hodges
Jan. 26: Brig. Gen E Leroy Sweetser (ad interim)
Feb. 6: Col. Louis J. Van Schaick (ad interim)
Feb. 13: Maj. Gen. Harry F. Hodges
Feb. 20: Col. Louis J. Van Schaick (ad interim)
Feb. 22 to Feb. 28: Maj. Gen. Harry F. Hodges

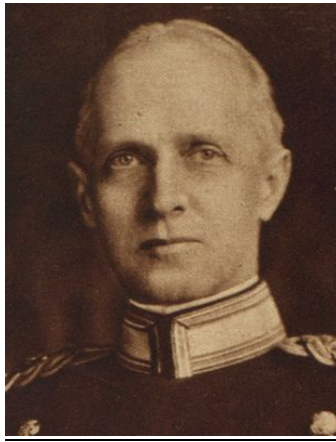
CHIEFS OF STAFF

1918

Aug. 15: LTC Carl F. Von Dem Bussche (acting)
Aug. 17: Col. William M. Connell
Sept. 6: LTC Carl F. Von Dem Bussche (acting)
Oct. 3: Col. Louis J. Van Schaick (acting)
Oct. 6: Col. William M. Connell
Dec. 23: LTC Dorsey R. Rodney (acting)

1919

Jan. 6 to Feb 28: Col. William M. Connell



**MAJOR GENERAL HARRY F. HODGES
COMMANDING GENERAL, 20TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

COMMANDERS 39th INFANTRY BRIGADE

1918

Oct. 1: Col. William F. Grote (ad interim)

Dec. 15: Col. John L. Bond (ad interim)

1919

Jan. 3: Brig. Gen E Leroy Sweetser

Feb. 6 to Feb 10: Col. John L. Bond (ad interim)

COMMANDERS 40th INFANTRY BRIGADE

1918

Aug. 28: Col. Lawrence B. Simonds

Nov. 5: Col. Henry S. Wagner

Nov. 15: Col. Lawrence B. Simonds

1919

Jan. 2: Brig. Gen Robert E. Steiner

Jan. 11: Col. Lawrence B. Simonds (ad interim)

Jan. 15: Brig. Gen Robert E. Steiner

Jan. 25 to Feb. 12: Col. Lawrence B. Simonds (ad interim)

COMMANDERS 20th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

1918

Nov. 3: Col. Thomas D. Osborne (ad interim)

Nov. 29: LTC Ira T. Wyche (ad interim)

Dec. 4: Col. Thomas D. Osborne (ad interim)

Dec. 16, 1918, to Feb 28, 1919: Brig. Gen William E. Cole



Of particular interest among those who held various command positions with the 20th Division, Louis J. Van Schaick (Pronounced "Van Scoy") , during the Philippine-American War (1899-1902), near Nasugbu, Batangas, Philippine Islands, November 23, 1901, as a young lieutenant, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His Citation reads: "*While in pursuit of a band of insurgents was the first of his detachment to emerge from a canyon, and seeing a column of insurgents and fearing they might turn and dispatch his men as they emerged one by one from the canyon, galloped forward and closed with the insurgents, thereby throwing them into confusion until the arrival of others of the detachment*".