40th Division Strength Climbs Toward Goal, Says Commander

Strength of the 40th Armored Division, Southland National Guard organization, has climbed from 6112 to 6871 men and officers since Jan. 1, a gain of 759, it was revealed Saturday by Maj. Gen. Homer O. Eaton Jr., division commander.

This is the largest gain ever registered by the Southern California unit in any comparable period since the Korean conflict, he said.

Immediately before its call to active duty in 1950 for service in the Far East, the division set a similar record. Eaton explained, by boosting its standing from 23rd to 3rd place among the more than 20 National Guard divisions across the country. The 40th, then an infantry division, boasted slightly more than 10,000 members when it reported to Camp Cooke for combat training in September, 1950.

Doubled Yearly

Eaton said the division reformed here in September, 1952, following completion of its front line service in Korea with approximately 1200 men and officers. Since that date, it has approximately doubled its strength each year.

Goal of its present drive," Target Ten Grand," is as the name implies, a strength of ten thousand at the earliest possible date. Eaton estimated the 40th will number at least 7500 by the time it journeys to Camp Roberts in August for its annual field training.

"But this is not the end of our recruiting nor of our gains," declared the National Guard commander today. "Top division in the nation is Wisconsin's 32nd, with 11, 706 men, and we're not slowing down until we reach that figure!"

Intermediate goal will be to pass Northern California's 49th Division, which now numbers 9741, Eaton also stated.

The local commander, vice principal of a Los Angeles high school in civilian life, pointed out that the National Guard offers the quickest and most "painless" method existing under which a military-age youth can discharge his service obligation.

Join the nearest 40th unit, volunteer for six-months active duty training at Ft. Ord (at full Army pay and at a time of your choosing), and serve 7½ years in your own home town on a one-drill-per-week basis. Add two weeks field training each summer, said General Eaton, and you have fulfilled the nation's requirements for military service with loss of only a negligible amount of time (six months) from school or other civilian pursuits.

Gains Noted

Eaton said the 40th is currently showing an average gain of approximately 35 men per week, or about one man per week for each of its 50 Southern California armories.

The 40th fought valiatly on Leyte, Panay and in other Pacific battles during World War II, then was recalled to duty in 1950 to join Unitde Nations forces fighting the Communists in Korea. The division colors were finally returned to the State of California in 1954, after the Korean truce, and only weeks later, the division was redesignated as armored.

Ferrari Gets Airline Post

A. C. "Al" Ferrari, of 23419 Shadycroft Ave., has been appointed director of budgets and cost analysis in the western region operations offices of American Airlines at Los Angeles.

Ferrari joined the American Airlines in New York in 1948 in the finance and planning department. He is married to a former American Airlines stewardess, Irene Semlar, and the couple has one child, Lisa Maria, 7 months.

DOUBLE CHECK . . . Starting off the American Cancer Society's annual Crusade last week were Twins Maryanne and Charlotte Guice, 19, who are calling attention to the dual slogan of "A checkup and a check." Volunteers are urging people to fight cancer by having physical exams and by giving to raise $742,000 in the county.

Some New Words Creeping Into Everyday Language

"When xanthagizmos react to form plasmoferms, the twupdilies cause production of bifurcated hubglubs."

What does that mean? Well nothing, really. But it might be what some people think an explanation of the causes of smog sounds like.

When they read that a photochemical reaction takes place between hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen to produce ozone, aldehydes, organic acids and other noxious material, it may not mean much. In fact, they may even think that someone is dodging the issue.

A New Language

Actually, such language is necessary and eventually one day will be common household talk, just as we have come to understand and use words and phrases like "radar," "sound barrier," "nylon," "jet-propelled," and, more recently, "automation," or the science of automatic control.

Air pollution is a relatively new science, however, just in its infancy. Terms used to describe various reactions and to name various substances, are as unfamiliar to most persons as were the Latin names of plants and animals when they took beginning biology in high school.

The people of Los Angeles County probably have a better knowledge of these terms than persons living elsewhere, but many are still unfamiliar with such a basic smog word as "hydrocarbon."

Some Definitions

So — clip the following definitions and place them in a handy spot for ready reference the next time you are reading about smog. It will not only help you to understand the problems of the area in which you live, but you can probably achieve the standing of an "expert" the next time the coffee conversation gets around to smog.

Here are some of the basic terms used in air pollution control:

AEROSOL (air-o-soll)—These are tiny particles, liquid or solid, which float in the air. Often too small to see, they cause visibility reduction. They are produced by rubbish burning, manufacturing and other sources.

ALDEHYDES (al-de-hides)—A colorless liquid composed of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. There are many different types, but all come from incomplete burning, as in auto engines. Sometimes, they smell something fierce!

CATALYST (cat-a-list) — A substance which can speed up a chemical reaction without being affected itself. Used in refining of gasoline, for example, to make higher grade fuels. In smog production, bright sunlight serves as a catalyst to cause chemical reactions that produce irritating substances.

FOG—A water aerosol.

HYDROCARBONS (hi-dro-karbons)—A compound of hydrogen and carbon atoms which compose most of our modern fuels, such as natural gas and gasoline. They are considered to be the single most important smog-maker when allowed to escape into the air as a gas or vapor. Over 2200 tons a day are estimated to be emitted to our atmosphere.

INVERSION When used to describe the local atmosphere inversion, it simply means that the air above the ground is warmer than that at ground level. The effect is to prevent air contaminants from diffusing upward into the atmosphere as cold air containing contaminants will not rise above warm air.

NITROGEN OXIDES — Gaseous compounds of oxygen and nitrogen formed during any burning process. Believed to be one of the key elements in conversion of hydrocarbons into irritating smog.

ORGANIC ACIDS — Acids formed from carbon, oxygen and hydrogen and found in Los Angeles air. Primarily derived from burning of organic (something which lives or has lived) materials, such as paper, food, wood, etc. Citric acid, found in fruit, is an organic acid.

OXIDANTS (ox-i-dunts) — Any substance containing oxygen which causes deterioration (oxidation) in other substances. Ozone is an example.

OZONE—A special kind of oxygen producing rubber cracking, plant damage, eye irritation. Formed during catalytic conversion of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides into "smog." In turn, it will also cause oxidation of hydrocarbons.

PHOTOCHEMICAL REACTION — A reaction (change) which ocurs on exposing a substance to sunlight. Your box camera uses this principle to produce pictures.

SMOG—A result of chemical reactions which take place in the atmosphere to cause eye irritation, reduced visibility, plant damage, and odor.

SULFUR DIOXIDE :— A heavy, pungent gas used in bleaching, refrigerating and as a preservative. It also is derived from burning of high sulfur-content fuel oil. It can also cause plant damage, reduced visibility, and when concentrated enough, health damage.

Okay; ready for your graduation exam? See if the third paragraph of this story makes sense. If it does, go to the head of the class. If not, call the Air Pollution Control District at MAdison 9-4711.

Radio Classes Open Tuesday

A program of instruction for persons interested in Civil Defense communications or amateur radio licenses will begin here tomorrow evening at the Civil Defense Control Center, 1523 Cravens Ave., it was announced Saturday by D. C. Grayson, radio officer and trustee of the city's Civil Defense organization.

Qualified instructors will conduct the program each Tuesday evening, Grayson said.

Classes will include radio and telegraph code work, practice in Civil Defense operations and on-the-air instruction, examinations for licenses and on prior instructions, Federal communications laws, and discussions on radio theory.

City employes who will be expected to handle emergency communications assignments at any time are being urged to attend the meetings.

Proper credentials from the FCC will be obtained for all interested persons after they have demonstrated their knowledge and ability to conduct the required operations, Grayson said.

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