

An Inventory of the Records of the
Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense

Collection Number 198

A holding of the
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Processed by Aleks Humeyumtewa

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Historical Information

The Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense was a group of public-minded citizens who unselfishly gave their own time, money, and effort in order that the city of Denver might have a trained organization to supplement the city's depleted police force during World War II. The training they received gave these citizens instruction in civil defense in order that they might help others during any emergency.

On July 2, 1940, at Denver's East High School, a "Paper Regiment" was created by Lt. Col. Phillip S. Van Cise, Commanding Officer of the 411th Infantry Regiment (Reserve). This regiment contained approximately 125 citizens including a full compliment of reserve officers. Most of these men had previous military training and were further trained by the colonel and his staff to bring their military training up to date. This proved beneficial to both the men and the reserve officers as the men received the same training given the troops, and the officers were given experience in drilling men. Drills included close-order drill, small arms instruction and actual field maneuvers with dummy weapons, many of which were home-made.

As the national emergency grew, and more reserve officers were drawn into active federal military service, command of the "Paper" Regiment was progressively placed on civilians. On April 21, 1941, the "Paper" Regiment held its last meeting in the State Armory in Denver before it was disbanded.

Of the disbanded regiment, there remained a few men who were interested in public civil defense. On June 23, 1941, and in mid-September, organizational meetings were held in the Denver Police Station. The danger of United States involvement in the war was rapidly growing, and the Denver Police Department was slowly losing men to the military. As a result, the Denver Police Department approved the creation of an auxiliary police force.

On August 24, 1941, drills were started with four officers and thirty-one men. The drills were held in an excavated area owned by the Denver Water Board on Bear Creek Valley School Road about a half mile west of a federal correctional institution, southwest of Denver. This new "Company" arrived with garden tools and proceeded by hand to hew out a presentable drill field. A natural ravine was also cleared creating a suitable firing range. Regular drills were designed to stimulate interest and training was rotated. After drilling as a company, the company was divided into squads for squad drills, small arms instruction, self-defense instruction, and actual range firing for score. A number of company members were also National Rifle Association (NRA) members, and later the entire organization was made a member of the NRA for two years. For the sake of discipline, uniformity of dress, and mobilization, the organization, clothing, and instruction were kept as near a military basis as possible without coming into conflict with military rules.

On Defense Day, November 15, 1941, a practice mobilization of Denver's downtown area included the Auxiliary Police and the

Auxiliary Firemen. Both auxiliaries completed their assignments for the day without difficulty. This was the first public appearance of the Auxiliary Police, and thought was given to its expansion.

The United States entered World War II in December, 1941. During the winter of 1941-1942, the Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense was expanded to include 600 members, divided into five companies. The companies were lettered A, B, C, D, and E Company. A Company was made up of the old members of the "Paper" Regiment and of those who had trained during the summer and fall of 1941. Being the first company to be created, A Company was also known as the "Pioneer" Company.

As the cold weather of the winter of 1941-1942 set in, company drills were moved to the City Auditorium. During this time, the principle subjects of training were Red Cross First Aid, followed by Advanced First Aid. Other subjects included bomb recognition (both incendiary and gas), war gases instruction, bomb disposal, and mob control. The auxiliary policemen were also trained for police service including police practice, and directing traffic. Auxiliary members rode in patrol cars with regular officers to acquaint members with police problems. The auxiliary members were even trained in Yawara (self-defense) by a Japanese-American, Professor E.A. Matsuyama, an instructor of the Denver Police Department. By Spring 1942, Denver had 450 fully trained Auxiliary Police members. All members were issued batons and about one quarter were supplied with firearms.

On April 23, 1942, the Auxiliary Police were put to the test. The Platte River flooded due to spring run-off. As the river's banks rose, 150 Auxiliary Policemen were activated to help with the evacuation of the lower Platte River area. Within half an hour, 146 Auxiliary Policemen arrived at the City Auditorium Complex. These men were sent to assist the regular police. They drove along the streets near the Platte River, and using loudspeakers, warned householders to leave the area and seek shelter on higher ground. As people evacuated the area, the Auxiliary Policemen also patrolled the area to prevent possible looting. Following the flood, the Auxiliary Police were proven to be well trained and prepared.

On September 26, 1943, the Auxiliary Police were called out again when an Army B-24 bomber crashed in south Denver, narrowly missing Porter's Sanitorium. Auxiliary Police were sent to do traffic control work and guard the crash site.

During its existence from 1941-1945, the Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense was also involved in numerous other activities. These included parades, both as a marching unit and for traffic control, control during gatherings, assemblies and circuses, and instruction to others regarding air raid procedures. Other duties consisted of blackout enforcement, prevention of trespass during blackouts and other emergencies, prevention of looting, and assistance to other air raid protection services.

In the summer of 1944, it was suggested that the Auxiliary Police be retained after the war for an indefinite period. By this

time the Denver Auxiliary Police had expanded to six companies. Even though the Auxiliary Police had been of invaluable service to the Denver area, the idea of retaining their services was defeated.

The Auxiliary Police continued in their capacity until the War's end in August 1945. Within the same month, all six companies were dissolved, ending the Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense.

Chronology

- 1939 Sept 1: Germany invades Poland starting World War II.
- 1940 July 2: "Paper Regiment" is formed consisting of 125 civilians and a full compliment of reserve officers of the 411th Infantry Regiment (Reserve).
- 1941 April 21: "Paper Regiment" holds its last meeting in the State Armory in Denver before disbanding.
- June 23: Former members of the "Paper Regiment" meet with Denver police officials regarding the creation of an auxiliary police force for civil defense.
- August 24: Drill practice begins for the new Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense. Auxiliary consists of 150 men in one "company."
- November 15: Defense Day. Practice mobilization of downtown Denver using both auxiliary firemen and auxiliary policemen. First public appearance of the Auxiliary Police.
- December 7: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, base of the United States Pacific Fleet.
- December 8: United States declares war on Japan.
- 1942 Winter: During the winter of 1941-1942, the Denver Auxiliary Police is expanded to include 600 men, divided into five companies.
- Spring: Denver Auxiliary Police reach 450 trained members.
- April 23: Platte River floods due to spring run-off. Auxiliary Police activated to assist regular police in evacuation effort. Auxiliary Police prove to be well trained.
- 1943 September 26: Army B-24 bomber crashes in south Denver, missing Porter's Sanitorium by only a few hundred feet. Auxiliary police are called to assist in traffic control and to guard crash site.
- 1944 June 6: D-Day. Allied forces invade France.
- August: Proposal to retain Denver Auxiliary Police after World War II turned down.

1945

May 8: Germany surrenders to Allied forces.

August 14: Japan surrenders to Allied forces. World War II ends.

August: Following the surrender of Japan, within the same month, the Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense is disbanded.

Scope and Content

The Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense played a major role in Denver during World War II. The Auxiliary Policemen alleviated much of the time consuming and tedious duties of the regular police force. Even though the Denver Police Department had a manpower shortage during the War, law enforcement was still provided at pre-war levels thanks to the Auxiliary Police. The Auxiliary Policemen gave their own time and money so that others would not feel the strains of war.

The series include: Correspondence (1941-1945), including post card reminders of drill times and locations; Civil Defense Material (1943-1944), containing general informational charts, lists, etc., pertaining to the civil defense of Denver; Auxiliary Police Material (1940-1945), including drill schedules, role call lists, program information, and reports directly regarding the Denver Auxiliary Police for Civil Defense; Literary Material (1941-1945), containing the Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin, a combined newsletter and police report; Printed Material (1922-1945), containing various pamphlets and flyers as well as training manuals for auxiliary and regular policemen; and Miscellaneous Material (1941-1945), including photocopies of Auxiliary Police badges and photographs.

The collection was placed in scrapbooks and donated to the Colorado Historical Society by (Ret.) Captain Paul R. Peak and (Ret.) Sergeant A.J. Van Dusen of the Denver Auxiliary Police for

Civil Defense, Company A, in June 1946. Contents were removed from the scrapbooks in 1993 with the paper documents placed in acid-free file folders to prevent damage to the material. All photographs were transferred to the Photography Department of the Colorado Historical Society, and all cloth items were transferred to the Material Culture Department of the Society.

Series Descriptions

Series	File Folders
Correspondence (1941-1945).....	1-7
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Miscellaneous Material (1941-1945).....	122-125

Collection ContentsCorrespondence (1941-1945)

FF	Description	Date
1	Meeting and drill reminders	9/28/1941-2/2/1945
2	Letters	1942
3	Letter of reference	1/14/1943
4	Letters	2/2/1943-11/4/1943
5	Letters	1944
6	Letters	undated
7	Cards	undated

Civil Defense Material (1943-1944)

8	Denver Defense Council "Incident" schedule	5/23/1943
9	Air Raid Warden information memo	8/5/1944
10	First issued arm band	undated
11	Air raid signal chart	undated
12	Air raid procedures	undated
13	First aid station plans	undated
14	Chemical and explosives effects chart	undated
15	Chemical warfare chart	undated
16	Aerial bomb chart	undated
17	Denver Defense Council organizational chart	undated
18	List of important landmarks/buildings in Denver	undated

19	"What to Do in Case of an Air Raid" flyer (humor)	undated
20	Notes regarding sabotage and espionage	undated

Police Auxiliary Material (1940-1945)

21	Training schedule	Aug. 1940
22	Training schedule	Jan. 1941
23	Riot duty test problems	Feb. 1941
24	Programs and notes	8/24/1941-12/15/1941
25	Target shooting schedule	11/15/1941
26	Attendance booklet	1941
27	Drill schedules	1941
28	Company A role call book	Dec. 1941-Jan. 1942
29	Role call lists	1941-1943
30	Log and attendance record book, A and D Companies	1941-1944
31	Drill schedules	1/19/1942-4/20/1942
32	Member roster of the "Pioneer" Company	3/30/1942
33	Army Day Parade schedule and information	4/6/1942
34	Reports of A Company Pistol and Rifle Club	6/21/1942-6/30/1942
35	Test Alert report	8/7/1942
36	Call list	9/15/1942
37	Platoon leader instructions	10/14/1942
38	Members qualified in first aid	12/21/1942
39	Patrol car duty reports	1942

40	Instructors' hour accumulation list	1942
41	Assignment lists	1942
42	Traffic duty rosters and reports	1942
43	Log of police car assignments	1942
44	Financial records	1942
45	Programs and notes	1942
46	First aid attendance list	1942
47	Company breakdown charts	1942
48	Third Platoon attendance lists	1942
49	Annual report to the Denver Police Department	1942
50	Drill attendance lists	1942
51	Newly enrolled members	1942
52	Member rosters	1942
53	Certificates of membership	1942-1943
54	Member list of those who have entered the Service	1942-1943
55	Company A attendance lists	1942-1944
56	Miscellaneous receipts	1942-1944
57	Officer instructional information	1/31/1943
58	Meeting itinerary	4/14/1943-4/21/1943
59	Awards list	6/23/1943
60	Roster of Company A	June 1943
61	Company A news items	June-Dec. 1943
62	List of first "500 Hour" Auxiliary members	10/7/1943
63	Instruction class reports	1943

64	Programs and notes	1943
65	Order updates	1943
66	National Match Pistol League schedule	1943-1944
67	Member questionnaire	5/1/1944
68	Company A Headquarters attendance list	Aug. 1944
69	Denver map of Company districts	Aug. 1944
70	Memo regarding the reorganization of the Police Auxiliary	Aug. 1944
71	Fire box assignment list	Oct. 1944
72	Programs and notes	1944
73	Foot patrol reports	1944
74	Inactive lists	1944
75	Revised regulations	4/1/1945
76	Bomb and war gases notes	undated
77	Baton usage instructions	undated
78	List of deaths among the Police Auxiliary	undated
79	Member address lists	undated
80	Individual record form	undated
81	Black-out report	undated
82	Member lists	undated
83	Platoon roster	undated
84	Notes regarding drill	undated
85	Personnel address list and "Alarm" list	undated
86	Police Auxiliary symbol stickers	undated
87	Slow fire pistol targets	undated

Literary Material (1941-1945)

88	Diary extracts of Captain P.R. Peak	1941-1944
89	History of the Denver Police Auxiliary	1941-1945
90	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	10/30/1942-4/21/1943
91	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	4/28/1943-6/16/1943
92	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	6/23/1943-8/4/1943
93	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	8/11/1943-11/1/1943
94	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	11/15/1943-2/21/1944
95	<u>Denver Auxiliary Police Bulletin</u>	3/6/1944-1/27/1945

Printed Material (1922-1945)

96	"Individual Score Book for the Rifle"	1922
97	"Army Extension Courses Manual, Administration"	1934
98	"Army Extension Courses Manual, Mobilization"	1938
99	Civilian Protection Day flyer	11/15/1941
100	American National Red Cross certification cards (two)	2/25/1942-5/6/1942
101	Reserved section pass for the Victory Parade on Army Day	4/6/1942
102	First aid booklet	1942
103	"You and the War" booklet	1942
104	"Model Law of Arrest," introduction and synopsis	1942
105	Applications for supplemental mileage ration	1942-1943
106	Newspaper clippings	1942-1945

107	Yawara School membership card	1944
108	Extension training course for peace officers	undated
109	"Protection Against Aerial Bombs"	undated
110	"Manual for Civilian Defense	undated
111	"A Personal Message" pamphlet	undated
112	Insignia recognition pamphlets (two copies)	undated
113	"Denver Police Riot Formations and Mob Control" (two copies)	undated
114	"Ravaged Earth" film program	undated
115	"Course of Study for Prospective Patrolmen"	undated
116	"Advanced Procedures for Peace Officers, Lessons I-IX	undated
117	"Advanced Procedures for Peace Officers, Lessons X-Appendix	undated
118	Colorado Council of Defense membership card	undated
119	4th War Bond flyer	undated
120	National Rifle Association (NRA) pamphlet	undated
121	Map of Denver	undated

Miscellaneous Material (1941-1945)

122	Police Auxiliary Photographs (photocopies only)	undated
123	Cloth arm bands and insignia (photocopies only)	undated
124	Miscellaneous notes	undated
125	Empty envelopes (two)	1941-1943