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Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca:
The End of an Era, 1930-1939

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Huachuca's Changing Landscape: World War I and After, 1918-33

Col. Frederick T. Arnold and his family drove from San Francisco to Fort Huachuca in February 1918 in his Hudson. He took command of the post and the 10th Cavalry on 1 March. It had been a long drive in which the colonel had received a speeding ticket, dented his new car, and bogged down innumerable times in flooded arroyos. Arriving exhausted, his wife takes up the narrative. She gives a description of the old post quadrangle in 1918.

Our quarters were very old, a typical old commanding officer's house, high ceilings and rambling. Downstairs is so roomy we will never be able to furnish it completely even though we have the mahogany quartermaster furniture. There is a downstairs bedroom and bath for guests. There is a hall, library, parlor, dining room and ballroom besides the conservatory, butler's pantry, kitchen and laundry and four fireplaces. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom and many closets. Outside is a house for servants with a bathroom, another house for a striker, a large chicken yard, a coop, a garage, stable for four horses, a granary and a corral.

We are eating our meals at the Post Exchange Restaurant which is run by a Chinese and a very good mess for officers. We are looking for a cook and have a fine striker already.

Our screened front porch is all covered with ivy. The trees are budding and soon the post will be green. There is a little school here with two white teachers and a colored teacher. The state of Arizona furnishes the teachers and all the school supplies, books and desks.... There are several girls and boys the ages of our children here on post. Lt. Col. and Mrs. Rodney have three boys and they live next door.

This post is built on the same plan as all frontier posts used to be, in a square [rectangle] with the officers' line on one side and barracks across on the other. The flag staff is right in front of our quarters. We have cement walks and electric lights. There is an ice plant and an electric light plant right here and our fine clear water comes right down from

the mountains. We also have a wireless station.¹⁴⁹



Frederick T. Arnold, Colonel, 10th Cavalry. Commanding Officer of Fort Huachuca from 1 March to 10 July 1918. Photo courtesy Mrs. Frederick T. Arnold.



The family of Col. Frederick T. Arnold with their automobile, shipped out by wagon. Photo courtesy Mrs. Frederick T. Arnold.



Garrison Flag at halfstaff on Memorial Day at Fort Huachuca in 1918. At the curb is the Hudson Super 6, 7-passenger, belonging to Col. Frederick T. Arnold, commanding post. Photo courtesy Mrs. Frederick T. Arnold.

After World War I, the Army abandoned many of the outposts along the Mexican border. The dismantling of two of them, at Douglas and Lochiel, was mentioned by Captain Richmond.

I think it was E Troop he sent to Douglas to salvage the buildings, denail, size the lumber and bring the lumber up to Huachuca. ...All the escort wagons of the regiment were in a train. They went down stripped of their seats in three days, and came back in four days, loaded with lumber to reuse at Huachuca.

...Lochiel was a squadron post. They had four sets of barracks, four horse stables, a dispensary, one mess hall, one bachelor officers' quarters, a pumping plant, and a light plant. I had eighty-nine enlisted men, my wife and two-year-old son. The international boundary line was about two hundred and fifty feet from my mess hall. The salvage of the camp was about three-quarters complete. I had the water tower on the hill and three hundred yards of pipeline left. The set of quarters which I was occupying, the bachelor

officers quarters and one barracks building were left.



Cavalry returning to their stables at camp on the Mexican border.

Hugh B. Myers, Commanding Officer, said, "We will take off the uniforms and put on the fatigues."



Hu Blakemore Myers, commanded Fort Huachuca in 1923.

“Richmond,” he said, “you go to Lochiel and wash it off the face of the earth; add concrete footings to the temporary target range; take the pumping plant and the light plant and bring them on up here and relocate them on the target range.” That’s about half-way between here and Garden Canyon. We took the escort wagons down; we took the beds off

and sent one troop.

I went to Lochiel and salvaged the place and transported it over. ...I transported all the lumber, light plant pieces and the pumping plant pieces. I came back here and put concrete foundations out on the target range and set it up and pulled the switch. I was amazed when it worked.

...At that time there was only one adobe shack and a gate [at Lochiel], with a line rider and his wife. We had no fresh vegetables at the camp; however, there was a Chinese garden five miles south of a little town called Santa Cruz. We used to go down, myself and the Mess Sergeant, to the Chinese garden and buy fresh vegetables and potatoes which we brought back across the line.¹⁵⁰

In 1924 10th Cavalry and post commander, Col. J. C. Rhea, was writing to the commanding general of the 8th Corps Area headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The commander had been asked to appraise the real estate value of the post. The Army was apparently considering selling the property. Colonel Rhea's reply gives a glimpse of the post in the early twenties.

The matter of the real estate value of Fort Huachuca has been gone into carefully. There has been very little land sold in this vicinity recently, and the present obtainable prices do not furnish an accurate basis for estimation of prices on account of unfavorable business conditions. However, by comparing prices now with those received in more prosperous years, it is thought a fairly reliable estimate has been deduced. It must be remembered that any sales made in this vicinity are usually paid for over a long term of years, ten to twenty-five, and that payments depend on the prosperity of the cattle industry.

It is believed that the Fort Huachuca reservation and installations could not be subdivided. If sold it should be sold in its entirety as a cattle ranch. There is a large part which is good grazing land, with winter shelter and some grazing in the canyons and wooded hill sides. The principal factor that makes it desirable as a cattle ranch is the water system which has been developed here, and which would furnish sufficient water for the range included in the reservation. In case it were bought for a ranch the owner would have a surplus of buildings and plants for which he would probably have no use. In this case the land and water system would be the most valuable, while the value of the buildings would be lost.

It was considered selling the post proper as a tuberculosis sanitarium or a health and amusement resort. In this case the buildings and installations would be of greater value but the price of the land would be small, since it could hardly be sold as a cattle range without the water system.

There had developed in the last few years a fad for establishing "Ranch Resorts," a combination of ranch and pleasure resort, which seem to be well patronized and which are very profitable. A combination of that sort might be worked out for Fort Huachuca, as conditions are ideal. In that way the reservation might be sold as a whole. The purchaser establishing a ranch proper, and utilizing the existing buildings and other plants for the convenience of guests who would wish to ride and hunt, and possibly setting aside the hospital and other suitable buildings for a sanitarium.

The reservation is not suitable for agricultural or factory purposes, or for any other use than as above stated. It is possible that minerals may be developed in the mountains some

day, but there is no salable value at this time for that purpose.

...It is thought that, if a purchaser could be found, the reservation should be sold in its entirety as a combination ranch and resort, and that the property should be sold for cash:

Land and water system..... \$250,000

Buildings..... 50,000

Installations..... 25,000

Total..... \$325,000

It is believed this figure represents the salable value of this property, under most favorable conditions, within a variation of \$25,000.¹⁵¹

Paul J. Matte was a young officer in 1927 when assigned to the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca. He would rise to the rank of colonel. His son, too, would be a colonel, and in 1977 Robert G. Matte was assigned to Fort Huachuca as the assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School. He passed along to the post Historian his father's tape-recorded narration.

Fort Huachuca was an old Indian post and had been built right into the canyons of the Huachuca Mountains....

There were enough houses there, on this post, to take care of the regiment and dozens of shacks where the soldiers had taken their wives and were raising their families. These had been occupied for a number of years.... The post was built along the usual lines. Headquarters in the middle, officers' quarters on the left, barracks on the right and the parade ground in between. It was very difficult to get a place level enough for a parade ground where, apparently, it had been excavated. The line in front of the barracks was fairly level. At least, level enough for a parade ground. The post, at first [in 1927] was exclusively occupied by the 10th Cavalry. But, the second year, they moved over a battalion of [25th] Infantry from Nogales which meant a little squeezing on the part of both organizations. But, they were accommodated.

On the mountain side of the post there were a group of buildings which housed the moving picture facilities. Shows were shown twice a week. Then there was a room or two for the schools. They had the first and second grades where school was taught by Army personnel. And there was a restaurant run by two Chinamen. These Chinamen, incidentally, were always taken over on memorandum receipt from the post. The exchange was also included, situated in this group of buildings.

The commissary, however, was off by itself, beyond the stable line near the filling station. In those days, housewives could order all their supplies from the commissary, by

telephone, which were delivered later on in the day by trucks or horse wagon.¹⁵²



Delivery wagon in front of captains' quarters on Grierson.



Members of the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca in 1918 with ambulances. Photo courtesy Markel.

By 1931 the 10th Cavalry was replaced at Huachuca by the 25th Infantry Regiment which had been in the area manning the border outposts in Nogales and Douglas since 1918.

In her book *The Invisible Soldier* published by Wayne State University Press, Mary Penick Motley recorded countless interviews with black veterans of the U.S. Army. Some of those men had served at Fort Huachuca. First Lt. George Looney was a member of the cadre of the reactivated 368th Regiment, 93d Infantry Division. As a commissioned officer he served with the 25th Infantry Regiment, and he was transferred to the 368th in the last months of

World War II. Looney was the son of a 25th Infantry NCO and grew up at the fort.

Fort Huachuca's only entertainment that brought out all of the various groups living there was the movie. The picture show was in a large, old building. There was no separation of those in attendance. In 1931 a new movie house was built and to the surprise of the black soldiers an area had been roped off for them and their families. They boycotted the show, and to make sure no soldier showed the 'white feather' the largest and toughest men of the regiment were stationed along the pathways leading to the show. Blacks, being by far the majority in numbers, really hurt the new theater by their non-attendance. In less than one week the ropes came down and only four rows were reserved for the officers and their wives. There was a black chaplain on the post, so even that section was not entirely white.¹⁵³



Post theater No. 1 in winter.

Lt. Col. Matthew Henry Thomlinson was the commander of the 25th Infantry and the post commander from July 1932 to January 1933. He was actively involved in forming the CCC camps in southern Arizona. In 1960 the retired colonel wrote from El Paso, Texas:

I arrived at Fort Huachuca in early July 1932 for duty as post commander. Huachuca at that time was a one battalion post—3d Battalion, 25th Infantry.

Late in December 1932, the regiment, less one battalion eliminated as a result of the economy policy, was concentrated at Huachuca with Colonel R. S. Knox in command. The camps at Douglas and Nogales were abandoned.

...We had two groups of quarters in those days, the old adobe houses and what is the upper post now and two-story wooden houses in what we called the loop down to the northeast of the old post and that was all. There were two groups of barracks, those that were north of our old hospital and those that were south, the usual assortment of stables, sheds, and shops were west of the barracks. We had insufficient water. All of it came from the springs in Huachuca Canyon and in Garden Canyon and was piped to the old reservoir up on the hill. There were often serious shortages of water in the spring. We had electricity but the only fuel we had was wood that was chopped here on the reservation. The houses were heated with either fireplaces or wood stoves. Of course, the kitchen ranges had to use wood too. When I was [at Huachuca], there was a well drilled in Garden Canyon, and

*water was piped over, but that was never successful.*¹⁵⁴



Matthew Henry Thomlinson. Commanded Fort Huachuca from 1932-33.

Col. Wiltz Joseph Bethancourt got his start as a young reserve officer training on Fort Huachuca's ranges as part of the Citizens' Military Training Camp (CMTC), an officers' training program. He revisited the post in 1977 during its centennial celebration and shared these early experiences.

All my official duty at Fort Huachuca was as a CMTC student. I attended the Red, White, and Blue camps at Fort Huachuca...during the summers of 1934, 1935 and 1936.

The first two years of CMTC, our barracks was the one next to the hospital, just across the street from the post theater. We were close to the PX, which was just up from the Chinese restaurant on the other [west?] parade ground where the flagpole stood in front of

the Commanding Officer's Quarters.

The last year I was at Huachuca as a CMTC student, we camped in pyramidal tents down at the end of the [east?] parade ground just on the other side of the railroad tracks.

Bonnie Blink was Enlisted Married Quarters. It was on the north side of the post.

The old powderhouse housed the post tailor. He was good. He got sick and could not make the uniform I ordered when I was a 2d Lt.¹⁵⁵

In the early 1930s the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce made a case for the retention and enlargement of Fort Huachuca. In a package for members of Congress and the War Department, they pointed out the value of the post as a training area.

Fort Huachuca, no doubt, has the best year-round climate of any post maintained by the United States Army, as indicated by the enclosed climatological chart. This affords not only an opportunity for the Army to be in the field every day of the year, but likewise offers an opportunity for those members of the Army forces who have families in poor health to recover their health under most favorable conditions.

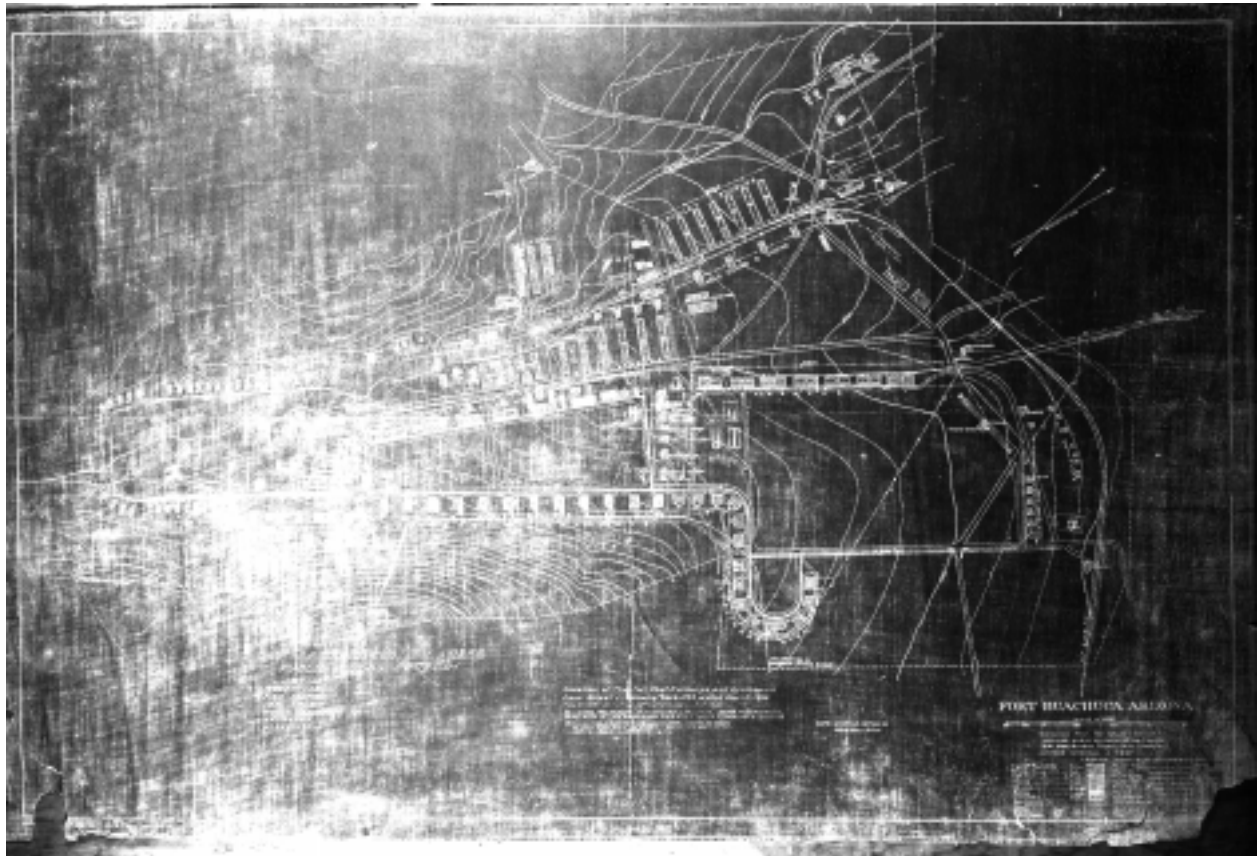
The military reservation at Fort Huachuca is the third largest reservation belonging to the War Department today¹⁵⁶ and every type of field training is obtainable. There is level land, rolling country, woody and rocky areas, some with desert growths of cactus and mesquite, deep ravines and high hills, in fact every type of combat country excepting swamps and rivers. The reservation is sufficiently large to permit the training of all branches of the service. The largest field pieces used by the Army may be fired entirely within the boundaries of the reservation. The size of this military reservation, its terrain and the unexcelled climate permit officers today to get actual experience in the field with men, which is preferable to the combat principles worked out on paper. Comparatively few officers in the Army today have had experience in the World War, or have they been in command of large units. Fort Huachuca affords the Army an opportunity to give officers practical field training. Fort Huachuca is likewise conveniently located, so that civilian components in the southwest area may take in their training there. As most of this civilian training takes place in the summer months, it is known that Fort Huachuca is many degrees cooler than any other post in the 8th Corps area, with the possible exception of Colorado, which is not readily accessible. These favorable conditions permit:

- 1. The training of officers and men of the regular Army in active field problems every day of the year.*
- 2. Affords the C.M.T.C. Reserve Officers and the R.O.T.C. unusual training opportunities at a most convenient location.¹⁵⁷*

The lobbying efforts of the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce paid off. On July 26, 1933, the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Douglas McArthur, wrote, "After carefully reviewing the entire subject of new construction at Fort Huachuca I have directed that the Army building program be amended to raise the amount desired there for \$372,478. This I know will give you satisfaction."¹⁵⁸



Blueprint map of Fort Huachuca, dated 31 January 1931.



"Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 1933."



Double officer's quarters forming what was then called "the loop." From the Markel Collection.



A view of the post with power plant in left foreground. From the Markel Collection.



Enlisted barracks. From the Markel Collection.



Original enlisted barracks. From the Markel Collection.



Building 22422 built in 1917 as the administrative building for the Post Engineer. From the Markel Collection.



Cavalry stables in 1918. From the Markel Collection.



10th Cavalry horses outside stables. From the Markel Collection.



Railroad siding with warehouses in background. From the Markel Collection.



Cavalry stables are on the right. From the Markel Collection.



Brayton Hall (bldg. no. 21115) in 1918. From the Markel Collection.



Mexican laborers' camp. From the Markel Collection.



Mexican laborers' camp. From the Markel Collection.



Post hospital in 1918. From the Markel Collection.



The telegraph office at Fort Huachuca in 1919. From the Markel Collection.



Shanty town for construction workers located near today's cemetery. From the Markel Collection. Capt. Jules W. Markel, QMC, was stationed at Fort Bliss for pay, orders and discipline, but was assigned to Fort Huachuca as Construction Quartermaster between 1918 and 1920.



View of Fort Huachuca in 1920.



View of Fort Huachuca in 1920.



Noncommissioned officers' quarters, frame, \$1,128.05, completed February 16, 1920. Original bldg. no. 150, renumbered in 1948 as bldg. no. 2065.



"Dental office, one chair, frame, \$500, completed June 30, 1920." It had a waiting room 12' x 12', an operating room 12' x 12', a laboratory 8' x 12', and a porch 8' x 12'. It is located in the rear of the present-day Finance Office, the former post hospital.



View of Fort Huachuca around 1915.



An interior shot of the officers' club around 1921. The building is now the Fort Huachuca Museum. Photo courtesy the Scott Collection.



The "S.P. Depot, Ft. Huachuca, Ariz."



Rodney Hall, bldg. no. 41402, built as post headquarters in 1917. It today fulfills its original purpose.



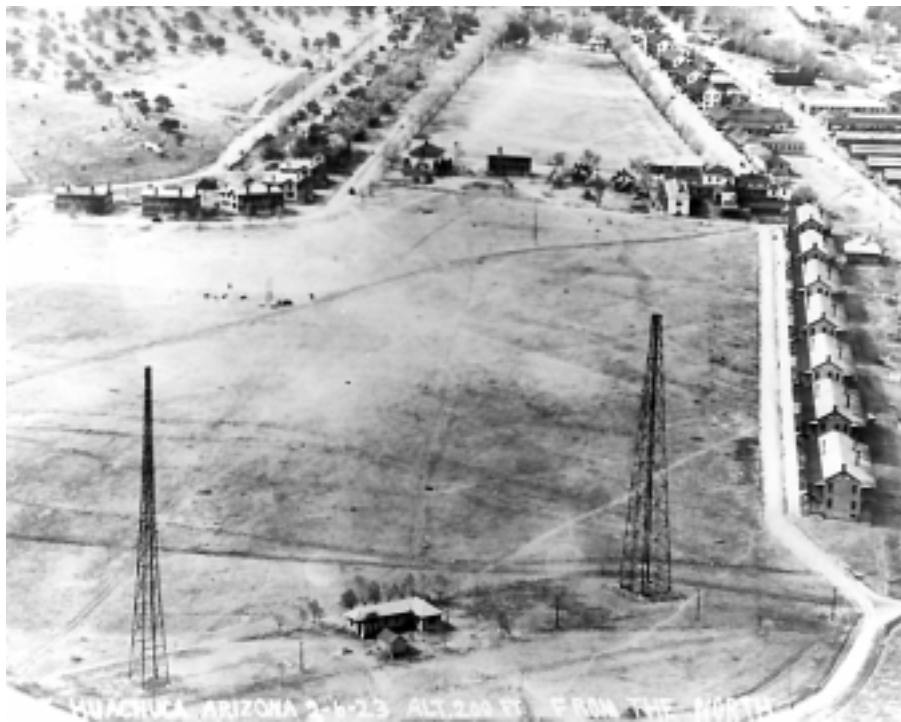
Fort Huachuca in the 1920s. Note the gazebo across from the present day museum, in the lower left of the picture. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo SC92047.



The officers' club in 1920. U.S. Army photo.



10th Cavalry officers in front of the officers club in 1923. General Winans, commanding, is in the front row, fifth from the left.



An aerial view of Fort Huachuca in 1923. U.S. Army photo.



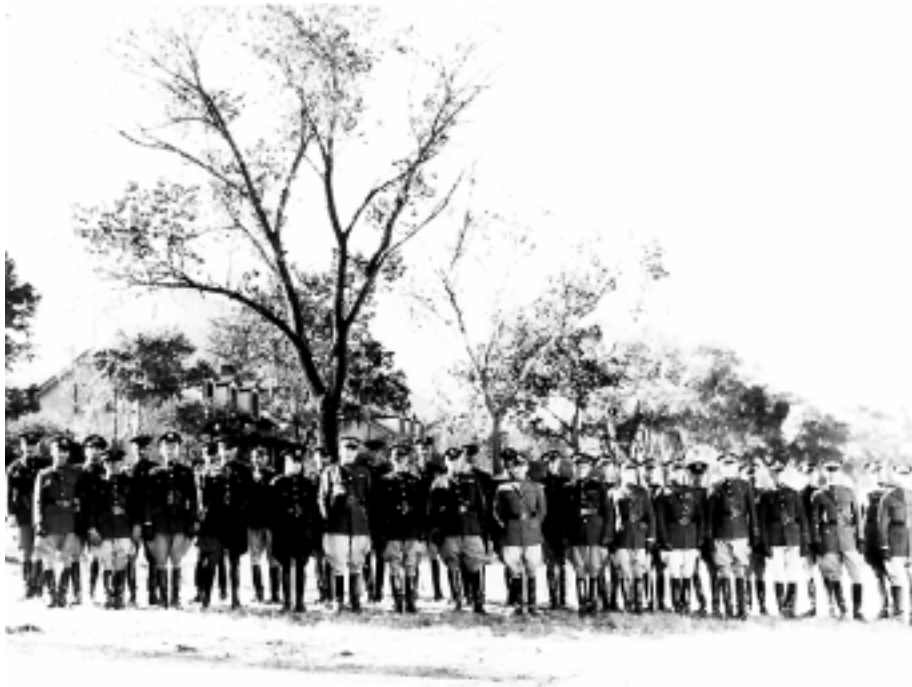
A view of Fort Huachuca in 1924.



A view of Fort Huachuca in 1924 with women and girl in foreground.



Aerial view of Fort Huachuca.



10th Cavalry officers in November 1925. Front row, left to right: Cpts. Maas, Fuller, Dornblazer (Vet), Fountain, Arnest (Medical), Baker (Medical), Col. George Grunert, Col. James Cooper Rhea, Maj. Chapin, Maj. Hohansen (QMC), Adlington (Dental Corps), Cpts Wales, Gregory, Lts. Schjerven, Swift and Wrenn. Back row, left to right: Lt. Nelson, Williams, Cpts. Taylor, Scott, Shamron, Everett, Lts. John H. Healy, Fake, Capt Lisle, Lt. Biddle, Lt. Kirk Broaddus, Connor, Maddox, Pitts, Thomas, Clausen, Chaplain Cover. Photo courtesy Mrs. Kirk Broaddus.



“Parade Grounds and Buildings at Fort Huachuca, Arizona—July 28, 1927.”



“Bird’s Eye View of Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 1928.” Photo courtesy Mr. Garcia.



The railroad station at Fort Huachuca in about 1928.



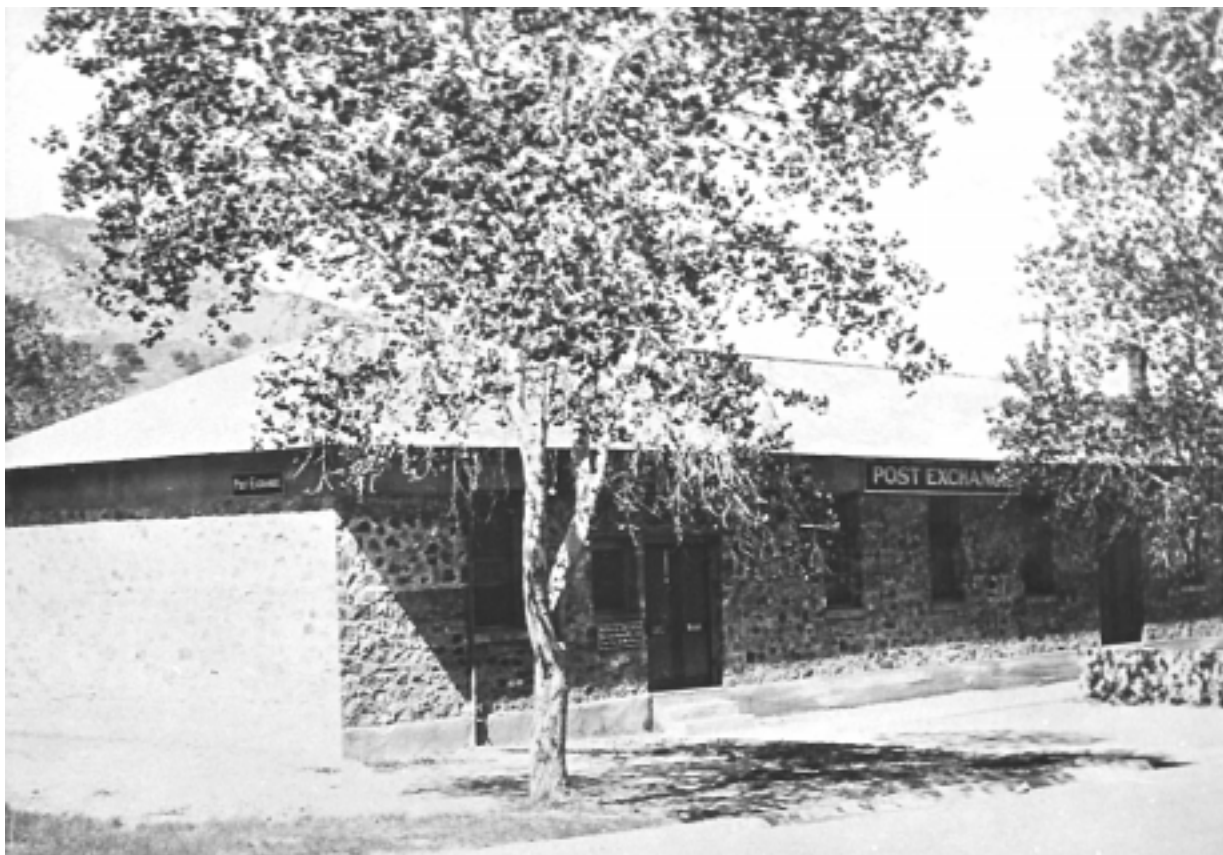
Men of Company M, 25th Infantry, drilling with bayonet in November 1928. Standing in the center is 1st Sgt. Thomas Werzontwerch.



A 1929 aerial view of Fort Huachuca looking south into Huachuca Canyon and Split Rock Canyon.



Post exchange restaurant and market, Fort Huachuca, in the early 1930s (note Model A Ford Coupe). Building was completed July 28, 1920. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Henry Jones, wife of Sgt. Henry Jones, 25th Infantry, ret. 1961.



Post Exchange in the 1930s.



Looking north along the barracks row to the Post Hospital, probably in the late 1930s. Photo

courtesy of Bisbee Daily Review.



NCO quarters, built in 1920, shown here in the 1930s. Photo courtesy Bisbee Daily Review.



Officers' quarters, 25th Infantry Regiment, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 1933. Looking north on Grierson Avenue. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Robert S. Knox.



Barracks row at Fort Huachuca, ca. 1933. These seven barracks were constructed between 1913 and January 1916. From a photograph mailed at Fort Huachuca postmarked February 9, 1934 to Capt. Leo L. Gocker, Fort Meade, SD. He had served at Fort Huachuca as a lieutenant from 1917-18. Photo courtesy of Col. Leo L. Gocker, USA ret., San Antonio TX (1965).



Fort Huachuca in 1933. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox.



Parade ground, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 1933, home of the 25th Infantry Regiment. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Robert S. Knox, widow of Colonel Knox, who in 1933 was post commander of Fort Huachuca.

Voices from the Canyon: Schooldays

Walter Markel's father, Capt. Jules Markel, was sent here in 1919 from Fort Bliss, Texas, to supervise new building construction at Huachuca. Walter was nine years old at the time. The family left the post in 1921. In a 1984 interview, Walter said:

I spent three years in the fourth grade because of the difficulty in finding teachers to stay on. ...On one occasion a boy threw a knife at the teacher and it stuck in the blackboard. She left shortly thereafter. There was a spell of several months before a replacement could be found.

*There was no better place a young boy could grow up, with the wide open spaces. My older brother would loose his allowance in crap games with 10th Cavalry soldiers until father forbid him to associate with the troops.*¹⁵⁹



Keeping a crap game honest. From the Markel Collection.



1918.00.00.155 The Markel family at Huachuca between 1918 and 1920. Photo courtesy Markel.



A Markel boy on his pony. From the Markel Collection.

Timeline

In 1922 Army strength totaled 148,763. Colonel Naylor, lecturing at the Army War College, reaffirmed Grant's contention that the object of warfare is to destroy the enemy's army, and that this can be achieved only by fighting. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics came into being. Mussolini seized power in Italy. In an article in the *Cavalry Journal*, George S. Patton, Jr., wrote: "Untutored courage is useless in the face of educated bullets." On 9 May the last U.S. Army troops left Fort Apache which had been converted to an Indian Agency. On 1 November General of the Armies John J. Pershing and his aide, Major George C. Marshall, visited Fort Huachuca. After the death of President Harding, Calvin Coolidge became president. William Butler Yeats won the Nobel Prize in literature. Army Lts. Oadley Kelley and John A. Macready became the first to fly across the nation non-stop. They flew from New York to San Diego in 26 hours, 51 minutes. The Russians and Germans signed the Treaty of Rapallo which gave the Russians military assistance and gave the Germans a chance

to secretly rearm on Russian soil. The Navy began five years of tests of the USS *Langley*, an aircraft carrier that had been converted from a collier. King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band played Chicago, with songs like *Room Rent Blues* and *Dippermouth Blues*, in their repertoire. American poet E. E. Cummings (1894-1962), who had volunteered as an ambulance driver in France during World War I and was mistakenly imprisoned in a French detention center, published *The Enormous Room*, based on his life as a prisoner.

In 1923 the strength of the Army dropped to 133,243. A fire destroyed some 400 acres in the Huachuca Mountains; it was started by a moonshiner's still. Whether or not to teach evolution at the University of Arizona was debated. After a failed attempt to take over the Bavarian government, Adolf Hitler was jailed and took the opportunity to write *Mein Kampf*. Ida Cox scored a hit with *Lawdy, Lawdy Blues*. Bessie Smith launched her career with her recording of *Down Hearted Blues*.

In 1924 the Army numbered 142,673. Called "disgusting and indecent," dances like the Turkey Trot swept the nation; a girl in New Jersey was jailed for doing the dance. A power struggle followed the death of Lenin in the U.S.S.R. The Soldiers' Bonus Act was passed. George Gershwin performed his *Rhapsody in Blue*. Adolf Hitler, jailed after an unsuccessful beer hall putsch the year before, wrote *Mein Kampf*. American servicemen were pulled out of the Dominican Republic. On 25 February bank robber John Dillinger was captured in Tucson. President Coolidge made the first nationwide address. The first Indian cast his vote in Arizona after Congress granted citizenship to Indians. In November a woman was elected governor of Texas. On 14 September Maj. Gen. John L. Hines replaced Pershing as Army Chief of Staff. Herman Melville published posthumously *Billy Budd*, about a merchant sailor impressed into the British Navy.

In 1925 Army strength was at 137,048. The Charleston dance craze was at its height. Theodore Dreiser published *An American Tragedy*. F. Scott Fitzgerald followed with *The Great Gatsby*. The trial of Clayton Scopes was held to defend him against charges of teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in violation of Tennessee law. General Billy Mitchell was court-martialed for outspoken promotion of an independent air force. At the Naval War College, Rear Admiral William V. Pratt introduced war games featuring amphibious warfare. A forest fire which destroyed 2,500 acres in the Huachucas was brought under control by soldiers of the 10th Cavalry. Talks in Geneva resulted in the outlawing of poison gas in warfare. On 14 October Dwight F. Davis replaced Weeks as Secretary of War. John Dewey published *Experience and Nature*. Louis Armstrong recorded *St. Louis Blues*.

The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Camped Along the Border in 1927 and 1928

Soldiering in the hot, dry, high desert of southeastern Arizona was always a trial. Captain Matte had something to say about the work routine and the weather.

As I remember, there didn't seem to be much time available for plain old ordinary drilling. They were always doing something else. For instance, we'd go on practice marches or night marches or, on occasion, some special job that was allotted to us. Actually, time did not hang on our hands. There was something to do every minute. The first summer, towards the end of the summer, I took my troop to Nogales, Arizona to supervise

the instruction of a CMTC [Citizens Military Training Camp] camp. The idea was to make officers out of civilians and it took three or four years, returning every summer, before they were able to get their commission.

The troops lived under canvas and the weather, during the day, the temperature became almost intolerable, always soaring around 100 degrees. Millions of flies seemed to be swarming around us. In view of this there was an amazing thing. The next morning we'd wake up and we'd find our buckets frozen and inside of our tents we'd find flies frozen against the canvas, be able to scoop them up by the hundreds because they were unable to move, and then, again, by noon the old temperature would start soaring again. However, the evenings were very comfortable.



10th Cavalry troopers looking for signs on the trail.

In 1929 the Escobar revolution had broken out in Mexico and the American troops along the border had a ringside seat.

During my second year as I would work out along the border, it seems that a rebellion was fermenting at Juarez and the fighting was going across the border from Juarez toward Nogales. At first it didn't interest us too much as we were out of the picture. But gradually they arrived opposite Naco, which is only a short distance from Fort Huachuca. Well, it isn't every day that people can go and watch a battle. So, one of the squadron commanders got a bunch of officers and their wives together and they went down to Naco to see what was going on.... There was a freight car out there that had been parked and they all piled on this freight car to get a bird's eye view of the combat.... The Federales were on the left and the rebels on the right. The rebels were dug in and they had their families with them. Wives would cook them their meals right behind the lines. Well, it seemed a little tame, I guess, for some of the ladies started pointing out the taggers to the Federales and the Federales took the hint and started shooting in that area.... That didn't please the rebels

any so they turned around and pointed their guns at the freight car and let a volley go. You never saw such a scrambling of officers and women in your life. Some of them almost fell off the car. They thought it was a bad act on the part of the squadron commander because this was a matter of life and death to these people. And there were dangers of severe complications afterwards. But the orders were put out preventing anyone from going into the war zone in the future.



Car bombed by rebels on U.S. soil, probably an incident of the Escobar-Tepete revolution in Mexico, March to May, 1929. Photo courtesy Jack Acord.

Actually, the combat crept towards Nogales.... Finally one day we received a call from Nogales [where the 25th Infantry was stationed] asking us to send the Cavalry down to help defend the border. The First Machinegun was not ordered down. But after a couple of days I received orders and we hurried down to join the troops on the border. It took us two days to get there but not long to get into position. The commanding officer at Camp Stephen D. Little met me and expressed how tense the situation was. And I guess he forgot the five paragraph order; he just told me to "Get in position, have your guns facing towards the border!"

We could see this plane that was circling over Nogales dropping bombs, could see a body lying on Main Street of the town, and everybody scurrying into position. The rebel threat was to come out on the American side and to try to catch the Federales in flank as they approached Nogales. Of course, our mission was to keep them bottled up in Nogales. Well, about noon we heard rumors that a treaty might be signed. And, sure enough, by late

afternoon the treaty became a reality and all the excitement died down.

The next morning the whole garrison turned out in parade formation for a salute to the visiting Mexican general. The Infantry on the right, Cavalry in the middle, and my Machinegun Troop on the extreme left. The commanding officer had sent my bugler up the road to see if he could get an advance signal as to when the Cadillac was coming.... He came galloping back with word that the Cadillac was in sight and we all sprang to attention: Infantry presented arms, Cavalry presented saber, and, as soon as the Cadillac approached, the troops commanding officer gave the command. And the guns BOOMED! BOOMED! and BOOMED! The car stopped and out stepped the Quartermaster captain that had just come up from Fort Huachuca to pay off the troops, it being payday. So, we had to go through the whole thing all over again. The bugler was sent out and we stood to attention when he came back. It was the Cadillac, all right, but we had already wasted three rounds of ammunition and I had to fill those in with my little 37mm gun that sounded like firecrackers. With that, it was a real musical comedy show.¹⁶⁰

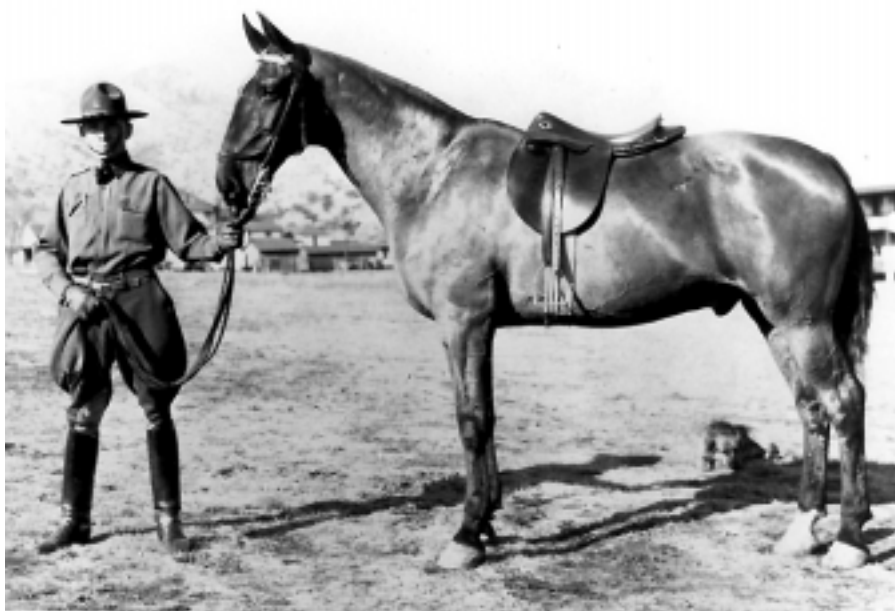
The revolutionary activities on the Mexican side of the border confirmed the wisdom of retaining Fort Huachuca as a border outpost. Its presence hard by the border, the only U.S. Army reservation between Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Pacific Ocean, provided a staging area for troops guarding the border and gave confidence to Americans living along that tense boundary.



Capt. Paul Matte on the parade field at Huachuca in 1928. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Retired.



Men of the Machine Gun Troop, 10th Cavalry, seated in front of their mounts loaded with gun components, at Huachuca in about 1928. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Ret.



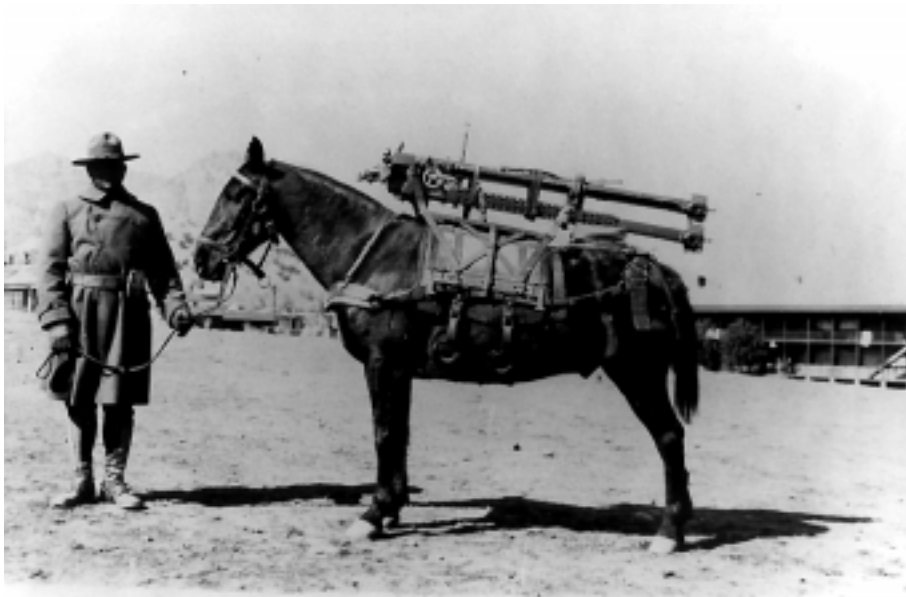
Capt. Paul Matte with his mount, about 1928. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Retired.



A Fort Huachuca trooper with machine gun tripod packed on horse. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Retired.



A .50 caliber machine gun of the Machine Gun Troop, 10th Cavalry, mounted on a U.S. Army spring wagon. Taken at Huachuca in 1927 or 1928. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Ret.



A side view of machine gun tripod packed on horse. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Ret.



10th Cavalry Machine Gun Troop at stables, ca. 1928. Photo courtesy of Col. Paul Matte, Jr., USA Ret.

Voices from the Canyon: Rich and Happy Memories of Huachuca in 1928

Col. Douglas McCaskey took command of the 10th Cavalry and Fort Huachuca in 1928. His son, John D. McCaskey, was a college student at that time and he remembered his summer visits to Fort Huachuca.

My memories of Fort Huachuca are rich and happy ones....

Dad was born at Fort Snelling [Fort Ripley, according to his Statement of Military Service], Minnesota in 1874, son of William S. McCaskey, later major general U.S. Army. He fought in Cuba, the Philippines, on the Mexican border, and in World War I. As a corporal, 6th Cavalry, he won the Silver Star at San Juan Hill.

Frankly, he was a trouble shooter for Gen. Malin Craig, then Chief of Staff. Due to lazy and/or inefficient officers, the 10th Cavalry in 1928 had a poor reputation. Dad, who was fair but firm, was sent out to make the regiment combat ready. The men, some of whom had fought in Cuba, needed only leadership.

From a social standpoint, Huachuca was a tough assignment for all except the married men. There were no colored civilians about, and the Mexicans, Indians, and whites would not associate with them.

There were two salient indications of the quality of officer personnel. Dad had a hard time finding a suitable adjutant. And, as far as I know, with the exception of a young West Pointer who had just joined, not a single officer of the 10th made general in World War

II.¹⁶¹

One of the first things Dad did when he took over was to assemble the regiment for extended field service in the middle of the night. It took six hours for even then most of the officers were not equipped. They had long since used toilet articles, etc. out of their "combat ready" bedrolls. When the Mexican alert came, the regiment was on the march in less than an hour.

One of the interesting customs of the regiment was the existence of "hunting and fishing" leave. This consisted of ten days in addition to the normal thirty and dated back to the Indian days when fresh meat and fish were needed to supplement QM rations.

The area was a sportsman's paradise. There were whitewing, turtle doves, quail, javelina, deer, bear, and lion. The bass fishing in the artesian tanks of the Mormon farmers along the San Pedro was terrific, as was the trout fishing in the White Mountains near Fort Apache. There was also Guaymas!

An interesting detachment was composed of venerable Apache scouts.... They, with numerous relatives, lived in a tepee camp. Sanitation consisted of my Dad ordering the Provost Marshal periodically to remove personal belongings and burn the shelters to the ground.



Shanties along Huachuca Creek for laundresses and camp followers. From the Markel Collection.

We also had what was probably one of the last mule pack troops in the Army.

For his uncanny ability to pick out flaws in uniform, equipment, or a formation, Dad was known as "bright eyes." He could not sleep well in that altitude and had a way of turning up in the middle of the night to catch the stable guards asleep or smoking.

If all this sounds like fun, it was, especially for youngsters who had all the privileges and none of the responsibilities of officers.

** * **

Our polo team, while not the best, gave us a lot of fun. We played the 7th and 8th, then at Fort Bliss, and also the University of Arizona and the New Mexico Military Institute. The "skin" fields did not make for the softest landings. I still bear some scars.

Finally, when Dad was buried at Arlington, there were so many retired friends around that we couldn't pick pallbearers without hurting feelings. As a result, we chose eight

*colored non-coms from a squadron of the 10th then stationed at Fort Myer. They had more than three hundred years of service behind them.*¹⁶²

Colonel McCaskey came to Huachuca after graduating from the Army War College in June 1928. Nine months later, after receiving commendations for improvements he brought about at Huachuca, he was taken ill. In March 1930 he was reassigned to the Army and Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and then moved to Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, D.C. He never fully recovered and died on 5 September 1932.



Colonel Douglas McCaskey, commanded 10th Cavalry and Fort Huachuca from 1928-29.



A reconnaissance wagon of the 10th Cavalry at Huachuca in 1929. Col. Douglas McCaskey, in campaign hat, stands on the other side of the wagon. Photo courtesy of John D. McCaskey, son of Col. Douglas McCaskey, post commander in 1929.

The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: The 25th Infantry on the Border

The 10th Cavalry was replaced at Fort Huachuca by the 25th Infantry Regiment which had been in the area manning the border outposts in Nogales and Douglas since 1918. Gone now were the horses that had been a part of the scene at this cavalry post since 1877. These men were foot soldiers. They marched to places like Douglas and Nogales. But they shared with their predecessors a pride in their unit. They, too, were one of the original four black regiments and they had earned their reputation for hard soldiering in the Indian-fighting West, and in the Spanish-American War. They wore the same campaign medals over the left breast pocket. Their regimental insignia bore a picture of the blockhouse at El Caney, remembering their gallant service in Cuba, along with an iron gauntlet holding an arrow and a bolo. The arrow symbolized their Indian service in the West and the bolo recalled their service in the Philippines. The regimental motto was "Onward."

The unit had shipped into Arizona from Hawaii in August 1918. They first took up stations along the border, with Companies B and C at Yuma; a detachment of sixty-two men from Company D at Ajo; and Companies A, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, Headquarters Company, Machine Gun Company, and Supply Company at Camp Stephen D. Little in Nogales. In 1922 the regiment was brought together at Nogales until December when the First Battalion moved out to take up stations at Douglas and Naco. Company A closed the station at Naco in December 1923 and moved into Douglas.



Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, Spring 1918. Large building to the left-rear is the commanding officer's residence. Left-front building is BOQ. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. John Healy, USA Retired.



Camp Harry J. Jones at Douglas, Arizona, in about 1918. Photo courtesy Dick Ross, 17th Cavalry.

In the Army reorganization of 1921, the 25th lost its regimental Machine Gun Company

to demobilization and had Rifle Companies D, H, and M changed into Machine Gun Companies, with the old regimental machinegun soldiers distributed throughout the newly designated units. New headquarters companies were formed in two battalions as were two howitzer companies. The name of the old Supply Company was changed to Service Company.

Under the reorganized Tables of Organization, the authorized strength of the regiment was 61 officers and 1,546 men. The actual strength was 33 officers and 1,464 men, with 145 men becoming surplus by virtue of the fact that they were in excess of the number authorized in their grade.

On June 29, 1921, the Chief of Infantry in Washington saw fit to commend the regiment on its low desertion rate. He wrote:

*A study of comparative desertions among Infantry regiments for the four month period from December, 1920, to March, 1921,...shows the desertion rate for your regiment during the period mentioned to have less than one-half the average rate for the Infantry as a whole. The low rate maintained in your regiment is very gratifying to this office and shows an appreciation, by yourself and your officers and non-commissioned officers, of the importance of reducing the desertion rate in an organization. It is desired to extend you and the members of your command the thanks of this office for your efforts in behalf of a lower desertion rate.*¹⁶³

The Chief's comments are ironic because the major source of worry in the 25th for black men who had chosen a military career was not how to get out of the Army but how to stay in it during this year of drastic reductions.



Company E, 25th Infantry, Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, in 1924.

A further reduction was ordered by Congress and, by July of 1921, the actual enlisted strength of the regiment was 1,145. In October their numbers were further reduced when a modified Table of Organization was circulated by the War Department. Now they were only authorized to have 1,312 men and their actual strength by the end of the month fell to 1,023. By the end of the year the actual strength had dropped to the point where 276 men were transferred in from the 10th Cavalry to fill vacancies. Year-end strength was back up to 1,322. On September 4, 1922, the 25th underwent another reorganization, this time losing its Battalion Headquarters Companies and the Howitzer Company. This reduced the strength of the regi-

ment to 1,150. Personnel affected by the cuts were transferred within the 25th. The strength of the command on December 31, 1924, was 43 officers and 1,023 enlisted.

During the decade of the '20s, the regiment kept busy with fighting a 1921 fire along the grassy plains around the Patagonia Mountains; excelling in athletics, especially baseball and track and field; winning marksmanship trophies; and performing the usual garrison duties. The regiment also marched in review for visiting dignitaries like Governor Thomas E. Campbell of Arizona, Assistant Secretary of War the Honorable J. Mayhew Wainright, the Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, and the Corps Area Commander Maj. Gen. John L. Hines. Also honored were Chief of Infantry Maj. Gen. Charles S. Farnsworth, and on October 28, 1922, Army Chief of Staff Gen. John J. Pershing and his aide de camp Maj. George C. Marshall, Jr. The regiment passed in review before Pres. Alvaro Obregon of Mexico in an international parade in Nogales held on June 8, 1924, that saw Mexican troops pass the reviewing stand on their side of the border while American troops marched by on their side.

Jazz bassist and composer Charlie Mingus was born in 1922 in Nogales, Arizona. His father, a staff sergeant with the Quartermaster, 25th Infantry Division, Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, was a postal worker from California who married a woman with part African-American and part Chinese ancestry. His father too was half white on his Swedish mother's side.

Much of the training during this time involved road marches to Fort Huachuca to make use of the Arizona District Machine Gun School there, or to conduct joint maneuvers with the 10th Cavalry. Colonel Rhea commanded both the 10th Cavalry and the joint maneuver camp in October 1925 and said this of the 25th Infantry:

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express with pleasure my appreciation for the splendid spirit displayed by both officers and men of the 25th Infantry during the period of the recent maneuvers.

The excellent discipline and sportsmanlike conduct of the regiment as a whole was particularly noticeable and is indicative of a degree of training, a sense of fair play, and such "Esprit de Corps" as is seldom obtained by a unit as large as a regiment.

*I trust that the pleasant association of the two regiments during the period of maneuvers and the Corps Area Commander's tactical inspection will result in bringing the personnel of the regiments into even closer personal relations in the future.*¹⁶⁴

The 25th Infantry was a valuable resource to the Arizona National Guard and a cadre from the regiment was also used to train reserve officers at the Citizens' Military Training Camps at both Camp Stephen D. Little and Fort Huachuca. The scope of their work might be seen in the following letter written jointly by the commanders of the 409th and 410th Infantry (Organized Reserve).

Upon the occasion of our departure from your command at the close of the period of training for the reserve officers of the 205th Infantry Brigade (Organized Reserve) we are requested by the officers of our respective regiments to express to you the genuine appreciation of the entire group of reserve officers for the most valuable course of training which they have taken under the instruction of the officers of your command. Each officer has expressed himself as having been amply compensated for both the inconvenience to his own affairs and the loss of time entailed in attending the course. The course as arranged at your direction was most practicable and was well-adapted to furnish to the reserve officers the

particular training most needed.

Every officer of your command—both of the camp and of the regiment--has shown that he is actuated by the real “One Army” spirit and their combined willingness to serve has brought about a most favorable reaction among the attached officers....

Your men are soldiers. That is the highest compliment that can be paid to men in the service. They have displayed a spirit of eagerness to serve that is found only in organizations of the highest standing in discipline and efficiency. We have found the reputation of the 25th Infantry to be richly deserved. To have the opportunity of further service with them would be a pleasure.

*Camp Stephen D. Little as at present officered and administered is an ideal location for the training of reserve officers. We trust that a much larger group can be sent here for future training.*¹⁶⁵



Marksmanship team of 25th Infantry at Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, in 1928.

The commander of the VIII Corps Area, Maj. Gen. Ernest Hinds, visited the regiment at Nogales for two days in early May 1927 for the Annual Training and Tactical Inspection. He liked what he saw and in his critique he had this to say:

As evidenced by the Corps Area Commander's inspection the training plans and methods of the 25th Infantry during the current training year and the results obtained therefrom are uniformly excellent and show a decided advance over last year.

The review was excellent and was the best seen so far on this trip by the Corps Area Commander.

Barracks and messes were neat and orderly. Latrines as a rule were the cleanest yet seen but one company had dirty toilet bowls.

Leather equipment for animals and stables are commended for their excellent conditions. Interior economy is apparently good and the morale of the organization is undoubtedly high.

As far as has been ascertained all important defects noted at last year's inspection appear to have been corrected.

The tactical inspection as a whole was highly satisfactory and shows a most marked improvement over last year. The march was well-conducted and the sergeant in charge of the point is commended for his prompt and efficient action on being fired upon by hostile

patrols.

* * *

The staff was properly employed. The entire regiment functioned smoothly as a highly trained combat unit.

Both friendly and hostile airplanes report that the work of the command is the best they have seen so far.

The entire command has made a most favorable impression upon the Corps Area Commander, and officers and enlisted men are commended for their hard and intelligent work and for the excellent result obtained.

*The readiness of the command for field service is satisfactory.*¹⁶⁶



The 25th Infantry band passes in review.

The regimental historian, Capt. J. H. Nankivell, said of relations between the soldiers and civilians during the 1920s in Arizona: "During its period of service in Nogales and Douglas, Arizona, the regiment has established an enviable reputation for soldierly qualities and good conduct, and any attempt to move it to stations elsewhere [out of Arizona] has met with strenuous opposition from the good people of Arizona. The regiment has now completed over seven years of service at Nogales, and the relations between the townspeople and the regiment were never better."¹⁶⁷

In March 1928 the Third Battalion and its Headquarters and Service Companies moved in at Fort Huachuca alongside the 10th Cavalry Regiment.



As recorded on her blanket, Myrtle was with Pershing in Mexico, with the 10th Cavalry and later transferred to the 25th Infantry. Retired in 1939, her only duty was to take part in re-

views. *U.S. Army photo.*



Regimental Train, Service Company, 25th Infantry, passing in review the day they honored famed U.S. law man Jeff Milton with a parade...and presented him with a Colonel's commission in the Arizona militia. Right, in the reviewing party is Jeff Milton; center is Col. W. F. Robinson, Post Commander. Photo by Earl Fallis, Chief Inspector, U.S. Border Patrol.

Courtesy Tombstone Courthouse Museum.



Colonel Knox reviews the troops of the 25th Infantry at Huachuca in 1934.

On January 6, 1933, the 1st Battalion at Camp Harry J. Jones in Douglas was inactivated and its personnel distributed to other organizations within the regiment. At the same time regimental headquarters, headquarters and service companies and the 2d Battalion abandoned Camp Stephen D. Little at Nogales and joined the 3d Battalion already at Fort Huachuca, the new permanent station for the regiment.



Company G, 25th Infantry, at Nogales, Arizona, in 1929.



25th Infantry Artillery at Camp Stephen D. Little in 1929.



A guard mount of the 25th Infantry at Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, in 1929.



The 25th Infantry Band at Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, 1929.



Company G, 25th Infantry, at Fort Huachuca in August 1937. Photo courtesy Mrs. Verna Barnes.



Parade at Huachuca in 1938 of the 25th Infantry. A Colonel's commission in the Arizona militia was presented on this occasion to Jeff Milton, former Cochise County sheriff. Photo courtesy Tombstone Courthouse Museum.

Voices from the Canyon: “One of the Finest Peacetime Outfits I’ve Ever Seen”

Shields Warren, Jr., was 15 years old when he accompanied his father to Huachuca in the Fall of 1931. His father, a lieutenant colonel, would command the 3d Battalion of the 25th Infantry. The younger Warren would also choose an Army career, becoming himself a Colonel of Infantry. In 1958 he wrote to the unofficial historian at Huachuca, Colonel Clarence O. Brunner, describing a period that he called “the happiest of my life.” About the 25th Infantry and their military bearing, Warren had this to say:

The 25th of those days was one of the finest peacetime army units I’ve ever seen, and it had good reason to be, since every man was a career soldier. There was a saying around the outfit that a man didn’t have sufficient seniority to get out of the rear rank until he had completed three hitches (9 years!). I cannot ever recall seeing a soldier whose brass didn’t gleam, or whose leather wasn’t perfect, and all uniforms, including fatigues, were tailor made.¹⁶⁸

Voices from the Canyon: Cavalry and Infantry Rivalry at Huachuca

There always existed within the U.S. Army a good-natured rivalry between various branches and units. Since 1918, the 25th Infantry at Nogales, and the 10th Cavalry at Huachuca shared border-patrolling duties and often conducted joint maneuvers. It made for a perfect rivalry. As early as 1918, the infantry commander was holding his nose when the cavalry was around. Lieutenant Wharfield of the 10th Cav has told us that, when a squadron of the 10th Cavalry was located a half mile away from the 35th Infantry's camp at Stephen D. Little, the infantry commander "let it be known that they were to encamp far enough away so that the horse smell and flies would not contaminate his barracks. We young Cavalry officers made the most of his proclamation by greeting his junior officers with such remarks as, 'Get some horse aroma on your uniforms and smell like men,' and other inconsiderate remarks."¹⁶⁹

After some joint maneuvers in 1925, the commander of the 10th and Fort Huachuca, Col. James C. Rhea was unofficially gloating in a publication of the Cavalry School: "There followed joint maneuvers with our rivals, the 25th Foot. Unbiased members of the press tossed laurels to the 10th Horse, much to the dejection of the doughboys. The 72-hour continuous problem that initiated the relations proved hectic to the self-termed Sore Feet, but left us jaded."¹⁷⁰ But officially he was commending the infantrymen. "I trust that the pleasant association of the two regiments during the period of maneuvers and the Corps Area Commander's tactical inspection will result in bringing the personnel of the regiments into even closer personal relations in the future."¹⁷¹

As a 2d Lieutenant, Elliott B. Gose began his career at Nogales with the 25th Infantry. He moved with his battalion to Fort Huachuca in 1928 and would serve at that post in a variety of positions until 1940. During World War II he commanded a battalion of the 317th Infantry, and the 422d Infantry Regiment. He retired with a disability in 1944 and worked in civil service at White Sands Proving Ground. He died in 1985 and is buried in the Fort Huachuca cemetery. He left this account of the rivalries that existed between the 10th Cavalry and the 25th Infantry which both shared the station at Fort Huachuca between 1928 and 1931.

In the summer of '28 when they had a fire, they made the 3d Bn, 25th Inf, march to the scene to fight the fire while the 10th Cav and their mounts relaxed. That summer, my Co M unloaded enough forage to last it a year and a half. As a matter of fact the 25th acted as valets for the 10th. That's the way it was in the old days when you got a CO from another branch. There was always grousing in the Army, but when you get an offbeat situation, brother "cut off your ears."

In '28 when I was looking over certain quarters so I could make a selection when my time came, we saw a little Cavalry boy playing in this gutter. He looked up, saw us and said, "Infantry! A Hell of a note." I reckon his dad maybe was sore at our moving in?"¹⁷²

The boy's father had reason to be sore. The 10th Cavalry in 1931 was fragmented and reduced to largely ceremonial roles. The 25th survived at Huachuca to train infantrymen for the fighting in World War II.



The massed standards and colors of the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry at Fort Huachuca in September 1926. Left to right: Col. Louis Charles Sherer, commanding 10th Cavalry; U.S. Senator Ralph W. Cameron of Arizona; Col. Andrew Jackson Dougherty, commanding 25th Infantry.

Timeline

In **1926** Army strength was 134,938. Ernest Hemingway published *The Sun Also Rises*. A liquid fuel rocket was tested. Adm. Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennet flew over the North Pole. The Air Service became the Army Air Corps. A Distinguished Flying Cross decoration was authorized. On 21 November Gen. Charles P. Summerall replaced Hines as Army Chief of Staff. Jelly Roll Morton recorded *Black Bottom Stomp*.

In **1927** the Army had 134,829 men. An Army Air Corps training base was opened in Tucson. Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs to set the record for a 154-game season. Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight from New York to Paris, and later in the year would land at Tucson. The Ford Model A replaced the Model T. Talking movies made their appearance with Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*. U.S. Marines landed in Nicaragua at the request of its

government to preserve order amidst revolutionary fighting. Werner von Fritsch of the German operations section concluded in January that “Armored, quickly moving tanks most probably will become the operationally decisive offensive weapon.” Ford Maddox Ford (1873-1939) published *The Good Soldier*. Duke Ellington performed *Bugle Call Rag* and composed *Black and Tan Fantasy*. Ma Rainey recorded *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*.

In 1928 there were 136,084 men in the Army. Walt Disney’s “Mickey Mouse” debuted and was called by the Russians a proletarian symbol. Hoover, campaigning on a platform of “rugged individualism,” was elected president. War was outlawed by the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Under Maj. Adna Romanza Chaffee, a prototype armor force was organized at Camp Meade, Md. The first Army Day, which would later evolve into Armed Forces Day, was celebrated. The Senate appropriated \$165,000,000 to build the Boulder Dam. The divorce rate in the U.S. doubled over 1910 figures. Writing in the textbook, *The Fundamentals of Military Strategy*, Col. Oliver P. Robinson said, “War means fighting; it has only one aim, to crush the enemy and destroy his will to resist.” Aircraft carriers *Lexington* and *Saratoga* were sent to sea. Ford Maddox Ford published *Parade’s End*. Stephen Vincent Benet (1898-1943) published his epic poem of the Civil War, *John Brown’s Body*. “Mississippi” John Hurt recorded *Frankie and Stack O’Lee Blues*.

Voices: Maneuvers with the 25th Infantry and 10th Cavalry, 1929

A graduate of the 1929 West Point class, James H. Gavin was assigned to the 25th Infantry at Camp Harry J. Jones in Douglas, Arizona, right after leaving the academy. He served there for three years before reassignment to the Infantry School at Fort Benning. In a letter to the museum director, General Gavin described his personal experiences in Arizona.

I joined the 1st Battalion of the 25th Infantry stationed at Camp Harry J. Jones on the outskirts of Douglas, Arizona, in December of 1929. I served with the regiment until the Spring of 1932. I served for a month each summer at the CMTC [Citizens Military Training Camp] Camp in Nogales, Arizona, where we had a battalion of the 25th Infantry and regimental headquarters. One battalion of the regiment was stationed at Fort Huachuca with the 10th U.S. Cavalry. My service took me in and out of Fort Huachuca with some frequency. I have walked from Douglas to Fort Huachuca on maneuvers. The usual pattern of the maneuvers was for the 25th to maneuver against the 10th U.S. Cavalry. In all of the maneuvers in which I took part, the 25th had the offensive role while the 10th U.S. Cavalry fought a delaying action. Incidentally, two troops of Chiricahua Indian scouts participated in those maneuvers. They lived in tepees just off the reservation to the north. There were two different tribes represented. All were Apaches. There were no revolutions in Mexico along the border while I was there. There had been trouble in Naco and Agua Prieta during the summer of 1929 just before I arrived.¹⁷³

As a colonel he led the 504th and 505th Airborne Regiments in the first major allied airborne operation of World War II near Gela, Sicily. He was the assistant division commander of the 82d Airborne Division on D-Day in Europe. At the time of his retirement, he was chief of research and development. He was later ambassador to France (1961-2) and an author of books on global strategy.



Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin in 1958. He was a captain in the 25th Infantry.



Camp of the 25th Infantry at San Antonio Ranch near Nogales, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, during joint maneuvers of the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. John H. Healy.



Officers of the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry. Photo taken after the maneuvers of September 1924, near Calabasas, Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

Timeline

In 1929 Army strength was at 139,118. Herbert Yardley's "Black Chamber," a code-breaking operation was shut down by Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson who believed that "gentlemen do not read each other's mail." Gandhi embarked on his civil disobedience campaign against British rule in India. William Faulkner published *The Sound and the Fury*. Tho-

mas Wolfe finished *Look Homeward Angel*. Richard E. Byrd flew over the South Pole. Wall Street crashed. Ads in *The Ladies Home Journal* showing women wearing lipstick and smoking were considered daring. Congress authorized the rank of General for the Army Chief of Staff. The Mexican Escobar revolution ended with the surrender of the rebels at Agua Prieta. The first “Oscars” were handed out for motion picture excellence. The dollar bill was issued in its present, smaller size. In its around-the-world trip, the dirigible Graf Zeppelin passed over southern Arizona. Cochise County moved its county seat from Tombstone to Bisbee. On 6 March James W. Good replaced Davis as Secretary of War. On 9 December Patrick J. Hurley replaced Good as Secretary of War. Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970), a U.S. novelist born in Germany, published *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Remarque himself saw combat in World War I and was wounded five times. Ernest Hemmingway (1898-1961) published *Farewell to Arms*. Bessie Smith appeared and sang in the movie *St. Louis Blues*.

In 1930 Army strength was 139,378. The planet Pluto was first observed. The London Naval Conference limited the number of noncapital ships that could be built by world powers. Grant Wood exhibited his painting *American Gothic*. Sinclair Lewis won the Nobel Prize for literature. The Veteran’s Administration was established. According to the census, there were 123,077,000 people in the U.S., 418,000 of them in Arizona. Coolidge Dam was dedicated by Calvin Coolidge. The submarine *Nautilus* was commissioned. The Mexican government announced its 40-year guerilla war with the Yaqui Indians had ended. On 21 November Gen. Douglas MacArthur replaced Summerall as Army Chief of Staff. Mao wrote: “Ours are guerrilla tactics.... Divide our forces to arouse the masses, concentrate our forces to deal with the enemy. The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue.... Arouse the largest numbers of the masses in the shortest possible time and by the best possible methods.” Eddie “Son” House recorded *Preachin’ the Blues*.

In 1931 the Army totaled 140,516. General Pershing published *My Experiences in the World War* and said, “...the success of a military commander depends largely upon his practical turn of mind, whether it be in planning and directing military operations in the field or managing the business of transportation and supply. Military science is based on principles that have been deduced from the application of common sense in the conduct of military affairs.... Military genius is really only the capacity to understand and apply simple principles founded on experience and sound reasoning. ...A competent leader can get efficient service from poor troops, while on the contrary an incapable leader can demoralize the best of troops.” Col. Joseph F. Siler led medical studies on marijuana and its use by soldiers in Panama. The British Commonwealth was created by statute. Spain became a republic. The Japanese invaded Manchuria. The *Star Spangled Banner* was officially declared the nation’s anthem. Citizens of southern Arizona were alarmed when they thought Fort Huachuca might be closed after the 10th Cavalry was withdrawn. An aviation school at Randolph Field, Texas, was opened and called “The West Point of the Air.” The Japanese seized Manchuria. Experiments on radio detection and ranging (radar) were begun at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, and by April 1936 a workable prototype would be developed.

U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1930s: Remoteness

Second Lieutenant David Bonesteel Stone describes his first thoughts on arriving at the remote post in 1935:

*After driving south [from Tucson] for several hours, turned off narrow, but at least graveled road, onto a new country road just south of St. David. After very bumpy drive over this for quite some time, I came to an obscure track leading off to the south toward some mountains. A small pegged board shaped into an arrow...was lettered "Fort Huachuca" in very faded paint. I looked up into the mountain foothills this seemed to lead to and could just make out a huddle of buildings, nothing, but nothing else in all that vastness of desert and sky. My thoughts at this rather tenuous time of my life...[were] "My Lord! Here they've ordered me to a place that has been abandoned long ago! Either the War Department doesn't know what's going on—or they have played a very dirty trick on me—an unsuspecting innocent little 2nd Lieutenant."*¹⁷⁴

Lieut. Stone had not been tricked. He had been assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, probably the U.S. Army's most remote and littlest known installation for most of the 20th century.



Fort Huachuca Main Gate.

1936.06.19.001 New paved highway from Bisbee to Fort Huachuca on June 19, 1936. Looking west toward the Huachuca Mountains. Photo courtesy of the Bisbee Daily Review.

U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1930s: Recreation

The commander at Huachuca in 1932, Lieut. Col. Matthew Thomlinson, said of the recreational opportunities for the black troops, “[the soldiers] had to go to Tucson for recreation because there was no colored areas in either Tombstone or Bisbee and nearby towns and in those days segregation was pretty serious around here, so the men had to go to Tucson, except for one or two restaurants and colored homes down near the East Gate. There was no other place they could go for recreation.... We had a good Post Exchange, good theaters, swimming pools, and so forth....”¹⁷⁵

But there would seem to be no shortage of entertainment for those who liked to dance. The chairman of the Enlisted Men’s Hop Committee, Master Sgt. Rudolph R. James, published the schedule of dances for the 1934 Christmas holidays. There would be eleven dances on the post in a one-month period, including one on Christmas Eve, a matinee dance on Christmas with another in the evening. Two of the dances were benefits and asked a 25 cents admission. 1925.14.00.001 The 25th Infantry band at Huachuca in the 1930s.

The pass policy established by post and regimental commander Colonel Robert S. Knox in 1933 allowed for soldiers “of exemplary conduct” to be issued a Special Privilege Card which entitled them to be absent from the post whenever off duty. The card did not allow them to visit Mexico, however. Special permission was required to do that. “When an enlisted man possessing a Special Privilege Card is awarded company punishment, or tried by court-martial, his card will be taken up and all *special* privileges forfeited until such time as he has reestablished himself as worthy of the privilege.” Company commanders were empowered to issue passes at their discretion to those men who did not have Special Privilege Cards. These were for specific off-duty hours.¹⁷⁶



Col. Robert S. Knox



Colonel Robert S. Knox (left), commanding officer, 25th Infantry, and Benjamin B. Mouer, Governor of Arizona (right). Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox, widow of Colonel Knox.

Timeline

In **1932** Army strength was 134,957; and it was the 16th largest army in the world, behind Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Spain, Romania, and Poland. A private earned \$17.85 a month. In January, Army bombers airdropped 10,800 pounds of rations to Navahos near Winslow, Arizona, who had been cut off by blizzards. In the World Series, Yankee Babe Ruth pointed to the center field bleachers and hit the next pitch to the spot. President Hoover ordered the Army, under Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur, to evict the “Bonus Army” from the nation’s capital where they had come to ask Congress for their World War I veterans’ bonuses. Vitamin C was discovered. The nation’s first unemployment insurance law was passed in Wisconsin. “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime,” became the popular song of the Depression. In a naval exercise off Hawaii, an American aircraft carrier eluded pickets and raided Pearl Harbor, sinking the fleet there in the simulated scenario. Uranium was used to

paint luminous numbers on clock dials until a New Jersey factory noticed that their employees were dying. A federal court determined that the Apache beer "tiswin" was a sacramental wine and therefore could be brewed on the reservations without violating prohibition. Franklin D. Roosevelt brought his "New Deal" campaign for president to Arizona in September.

In 1933 there were 136,547 men in the Army. The 1st Cavalry Regiment, Mechanized, was organized at Fort Knox, Ky. Speaking to the West Point graduating class, General Douglas MacArthur said, "A good soldier, whether he leads a platoon or an army, is expected to look backward as well as forward, but he must think only forward." The first All-Star baseball game was played. Philip Morris ads proclaimed "Call for Philip Morris." Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in Germany. The U.S. recognized the U.S.S.R. Prohibition was ended. Roosevelt was elected president. The Civilian Conservation Corps was established to accomplish forestry and other work, and to give work to some of the 13 million unemployed. The Army was soon ordered to supervise the program. Camp Harry J. Jones in Douglas, Arizona, was abandoned. The price of a one-pound loaf of bread in Tucson was raised to nine cents. Construction began on the Hoover Dam. On 4 March George H. Dern replaced Hurley as Secretary of War. In Germany Adolf Hitler was throwing books written by non-Aryans on a bonfire, including the works of Sigmund Freud. Ludwig Beck became chief of the German general staff and refined strategy by calling for rapid and decisive victories at the initiation of hostilities, using armored and mechanized forces, tactical airpower, and maneuver. James Thurber (1894-1961), who served as a civilian code clerk in France during World War I, published *My Life and Times*, which includes the stories "University Days," about R.O.T.C. experience, and "Draft Board Nights."

U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1930s: Training and Routine in the Garrison

Special orders detailing the men of the 25th to various jobs around the post give an idea of the kind of activities a soldier might be expected to perform in the 1930s. Enlisted men were assigned to the post Quartermaster to do road maintenance, build coal bins and garages behind the officers' quarters, help the carpenter, plumber, electrical and paint shops, do duty at the fire station, the wood yard, the ice plant, and become the assistant for the post stonemason and the post blacksmith. The Constructing Quartermaster received dozens of soldiers to act as truck drivers and assist with road paving. Other soldiers would pull duty as prison guards, librarians, janitors, military police, telegraph operators, radio operators, telephone operators, line-men, clerks, cooks, assistants to the Chaplain, mail orderlies, and, probably the most dangerous work, on the drilling and blasting detail.

Colonel Shields Warren, Jr. was a dependent at Huachuca in the early 1930s and remembered some of the training routine on the ranges.

...The military highlights centered around the annual range season, which determined which of the good shots would continue to receive expert pay, and the annual 100-mile march around the Huachuca mountains. The march would also have worked into it tactical exercises as they proceeded. This march, as I recall, generally took around two weeks, and the post was quite devoid of activity during it, since just about every man and officer participated, with the exception of a small guard detachment. Range season was especially

interesting to me, since I always went out and fired with my father's battalion, in spite of the very carefully rationed range season ammunition allocation. As I look back on it [in 1958], I'm surprised no one raised a ruckus about my firing, since ammo in those days was real hard to come by, even for the range season. The course fired was the old "D" course, with 600 yds slow fire, 500 yds slow and rapid, 300 yds slow and rapid, and 200 yds slow and rapid fire. A possible on this course was 350 points, and I felt real good about my 306 (either "low" expert or "high" sharpshooter) until 1st Sgt. Verble of "K" Co, in my father's battalion fired a phenomenal 343! I believe these scores were correct, because on the "high" experts received expert pay, since the army had insufficient funds to pay all experts, as they were supposed to. Competition for this expert pay was so keen that many of the better shots used micrometers in setting their sights on the '03 [Model 1903 Springfield rifle], rather than rely on the graduated markings on the rear sight. Pay was so low then...that the few extra dollars payed the expert riflemen was much sought after.¹⁷⁷

The post commander in 1932 and 1933 talked about the training at Huachuca. "There was a good deal of training and a lot of shooting. We had ranges...between old post and Garden Canyon.... We had a lot of trouble with fires in the mountains due to campers and careless people with cigarettes...."¹⁷⁸

The training program for the regiment during 1934 and 1935 was spelled out in General Orders published October 23, 1934. Objectives were to maintain each unit of the command in a state of constant readiness for extended field service, including border defense missions, to secure technical and tactical proficiency, and to be prepared for missions under general mobilization plans. Periods for collective training would extend from November 1, 1934 to May 31, 1935. From June 1 to October 31, 1935, summer camps, individual instruction, target practice, combat practice and proficiency tests, tactical exercises in small units, and chemical warfare training would take place.

Some of the specific instructions for the collective training period are quoted here:

During this period all commanders will endeavor to cut absentee lists drastically in order to insure as large attendance of officers and enlisted men as possible each day. Leaves, detached service and furlough (except reenlistment) will be granted for emergencies only.

Each battalion will conduct one field exercise per week during this period. The first Friday in each month...will be reserved for a regimental field exercise.

Anti-aircraft training will include both offensive and defensive measures against low-flying aircraft.... Training in offensive and defensive formations of troops against attack aviation will be frequently practiced.

* * *

Musketry combat practice and proficiency tests for 1934, not yet having been conducted, must be carried out in November due to change in training program. Training to include the section in rifle units and the platoon in machine gun units. Proficiency tests will be

conducted during the last week in November.



Bayonet drill for men of Company M, 25th Infantry, on Huachuca's parade ground in November 1928. 1st Sgt. Thomas Werzontwerch is on horseback.

Particular stress will be laid upon the distribution of fire over indistinct or invisible targets, the power of automatic weapons, formation and use of terrain to minimize losses from ground and air and defense against high-speed armored vehicles.

Marches and field exercises will be conducted by companies and battalions, simulating war conditions. Stress will be laid upon tactical formations, night marches, making and breaking camp under cover of darkness, concealment and security from ground and air, observation and attack, and method of supply. At least one field exercise during the year will include the actual construction of field fortifications in the Garden Canyon area.

Frequent short practice marches of not more than three or four hours duration will be conducted by each battalion in order that troops may be kept in hardy condition. Pack animals will be taken on these marches under loaded packs.

During these exercises prescribed marching methods will be taught and strictly adhered to. In order to include these marches without undue loss of time from other instruction, drill fields for the various units will be allotted at a distance of a mile or more from the barracks, such allotment to be made by this headquarters.

The regiment will be turned out on short notice, from time to time, as for extended field service. At such times all units will be inspected for completeness of equipment, arms, ammunition, rations, and forage.

Communications and Intelligence.... The headquarters company will train two enlisted men in communications work and two in intelligence work from each lettered company to augment the battalion communications and intelligence personnel for border defense mis-

sions.

Wire and radio nets will be set up and tested at least once each month. During this test personnel from both the headquarters company and other personnel assigned to operate this equipment will perform their assigned duties.

Machine gun training for Rifle Companies will include a thorough course of instruction for each rifle company in mechanical training and tactical use of machine guns.



Machine Gun Company, 25th Infantry, at Fort Huachuca in the late 1930s. Photo courtesy 1st Sgt. Samuel Baker.

...In order that junior officers and noncommissioned officers may have opportunity to exercise command in the next higher grade, battalion commanders will arrange a system of rotation of duties and command within their respective battalions.

...All animals will be regularly exercised. Frequent inspections of animals and stables will be made by battalion commanders and shoeing and feed charts will be kept in each stable under the supervision of the staff veterinarian.

Command Post exercises will be conducted frequently by battalions. Regimental exercises will be held during the periods set aside for regimental training.¹⁷⁹

Second Lieutenant David Bonesteel Stone remembered the lengths that they went to in order to achieve realistic training in the regiment.

We were necessarily quite resourceful and imaginative in troop training. I was expected to have the latest techniques of tactics of combat, being just come from that citadel of Army training—West Point! This facet was epitomized when my company commander, wonderful old guy...told me to act as the “enemy” and attack his “friendlies” with the latest in “mechanized warfare.” So I scuttled around the desert boondocks in my ’35 Ford convertible (roof down) with the company bugler as crew, and made wide sweeps around the

*beleaguered foot troops.*¹⁸⁰



An army car fitted with Signal Corps transmitter and receiver in 1932.

The only days the troops would get off were government holidays, including the week between Christmas and New Years, all Sundays, Saturday afternoons, and, except during range practice, Wednesday afternoons.

A listing of courses offered at troop and post schools was promulgated by General Order No. 50, September 13, 1934. An enlisted man at Fort Huachuca could learn more about these subjects at the Troop School: Training Methods and Principles of Teaching, Care of Animals, Use of Federal Troops in Civil Disturbances and Relief Work, Equitation, Mess Management, Horseshoeing, First Aid Treatment of Diseases and Injuries to Animals, Chemical Warfare, Truck Driving, Communications, Intelligence, and Advanced Mapping and Reconnaissance. At the Post School he could pick up some vocational skills or general education by attending classes in elementary or advanced reading, writing, arithmetic, music, typewriting and clerical work, construction, and maintenance of buildings and utilities.

Officers were required to read at least two books during the year, according to War Department Bulletin 44. The books must relate to historical, political, economic, or military subjects. A report certifying the completion of this reading, and embodying a brief analysis of each volume read, was required to be submitted by May 31, 1935.¹⁸¹

U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1930s:

The 25th Infantry Newspaper

The 25th Infantry published their own weekly newspaper in the 1930s called *The Bullet*. The paper was published at no expense to the government with paid ads from merchants in Nogales, Bisbee, Warren, and Douglas. The PX was also represented and offered leather jackets for \$8.75. The “Company News Note” covered events from bowling scores to impromptu fist fights in a style that could be clear only to an insider. Plans by a soldier to buy a new Ford, furloughs, hospitalization, or military stupidity were all sufficient reasons to get your name mentioned.¹⁸²

Voices from the Canyon: Events at Huachuca Between 1929-31

Col. Vance W. Batchelor, who retired in Tucson, was a captain with the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca. He set down these events which occurred between 1929 and 1931, the year that the 10th was replaced by the 25th Infantry.

The field garrison consisted of the 10th Cavalry and one battalion of colored Infantry [the 3d Battalion, 25th Infantry, which moved to Fort Huachuca from Camp Stephen D. Little at Nogales in March 1928], and two detachments of Indian Scouts, one of which was Apaches and I think that the other was Navajo.

The two tribes did not get along well with each other, so they were quartered in tepees and hogans as far apart as possible in the post. I was a captain in command of “A” Troop, 10th Cavalry. It was a white horse troop and it made a striking appearance, with the white horses and the black men.

One of the gala events of those days was the “Cake Walk.” It was similar to the old-fashioned promenade of 60 years ago. It was a march around the dance floor. The leader of the marchers led them around the hall making figures of the column. It was one number where all might take part whether or not they knew how to dance. The colored couples enjoyed it. If the tune were a popular number, they would throw back their heads and sing at the top of their lungs. The white officers and their ladies would sit around the hall and watch

the Cake Walk with interest. It was fun.



A band in front of Brayton Hall in the 1930s, probably men from the 25th Infantry.

The second number in the dance was for the white officers and their wives. The colored couples sat around the hall and enjoyed watching us. That number over, we went around and said goodbye, left the hall and the colored troops to their own night of merriment. These "Cake Walks" took place two or three times a year.

In those days it was not considered undemocratic for an officer to have an orderly. We all had two. One was "Horse Orderly" who took care of our horse and saddle equipment. The other one was "House Orderly" who cleaned the house and cooked. I wasn't much in favor of the orderly cook. He had learned from the troop cooks and it was like eating at the troop instead of eating at home. However, my wife thought that it was a grand idea. Our house orderly had a room of his own at the back of the house. Besides being a cook and cleaning the house, he was a business man. In his room he had a dozen new civilian suits which he rented out on pay day. He was a fine boy and we liked him. We still have one of his recipes, or rather one of the troop's recipes, using hot dogs, which we enjoy to this day.

The 10th Cavalry, being mounted, of course had a mounted band. The band horses were old, gentle, and easily managed. While the musicians were playing the reins were over the pommel and the riders guided their mounts with their legs and knees.

At parade or review the various troops were lined up with the band at the end and the command would be, "Sound off!" The mounted band would parade the length of the column, then reverse itself, and go back to the end of the line. I have always thought of that maneuver being similar to putting your hand in a sock and turning it wrong side out. Our mounted band would make this change of direction with the same precision as a dismounted band, playing all the while, and each column turning on itself and reversing direction. After

that came the march by, first time at a walk with "A" troop leading, second time at a trot, and the third time at a gallop, the band playing appropriate music. Then the troops would form at the lower end of the parade ground, draw sabers and prepare for the charge. The trumpet in the band would blow "Charge" and up the hill we would come at a dead run. That was fun for all. The fast horses got there first and there was great confusion. We had to reform before going back to the stables. That ended the band's part of the ceremony and all the band horses knew it. While we were reforming, the band departed for the stables in complete disorder. Every quiet and gentle horse became spirited, and had but one desire, and that was to gallop to the stables as fast as they could go. Imagine the scene, a bass drum player holding fast to his drum and with the other hand trying to control a runaway horse. The bass horn player had just as difficult a task. It was only the piccolo player that could put his instrument in his shirt and use both hands to hold his horse. We used to sit on our horses and watch that performance with glee. No one was ever hurt and I do not remember that anyone was ever thrown.



1921.01.13.002 10th Cav Drum Corps on 13 January 1921.

One year the 10th Cavalry went to Fort Bliss with the two detachments of Indian Scouts to take part in maneuvers with the 1st Cavalry Division. Payday came while we were there. One of the lieutenants was detailed to pay the Indians. As was customary, he took the money for the Scouts to the chief, and together they counted it, and then it was the duty of the chief to pay all of his braves. The lieutenant did not know one Indian from the other. But the chief took the money and went over to Juarez and blew it all in. The braves waited around all afternoon for their pay but the chief did not return. The lieutenant went to bed. In the middle of the night he awakened and looking out under the tent ropes he saw all the braves squatting around his tent. He figured out what had happened and he spent an uncomfortable night. He would turn over and look out from time to time and the braves were all there waiting to be paid. He had to promise them that he would make it all good if they would disperse and wait patiently. That ended the method of turning the pay over to the chief.

It was customary in those days that on Thanksgiving and Christmas all the officers and their families and all the enlisted men and their families ate dinner with the troops to which they were assigned. My troop clerk was the most intelligent soldier I had, so I told him that I would be there with my family and I hoped that all the other men would bring their families. I wanted everybody to be happy, and I told him that the men might bring their sweet-hearts too, but I warned him, "I do not want the men to go down to White City [now Sierra

Vista] and bring up a bunch of prostitutes.” “Well,” said the troop clerk, “sir, if they are dressed up, you can’t tell them from anybody else.” My reply was, “OK, you win.” It was a pleasant and orderly dinner and I certainly couldn’t tell one from the other.¹⁸³

Captain Batchelor was not the only officer who admits to being struck by the wisdom of an enlisted man under his command. The memoirs and reminiscences of Fort Huachuca officers is replete with examples of the lowly ranking confronting their seniors with irrefutable logic.

Voices from the Canyon: “I Watched Them Go”

In 1931 the 10th Cavalry left the post and ended its eighteen-year association with Fort Huachuca. It was dispersed to various Army schools. Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, and First Squadron went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The Second Squadron went to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. The Machine Gun Troop moved to Fort Myer, Virginia. They would not come together again as a unit until February 1, 1941, when the entire regiment was assembled at Fort Leavenworth.

“One day the inevitable happened, the War Department decided that horse cavalry was outmoded. One of the first regiments to be disbanded was the colored tenth. We loaded the horses on the freight cars and sent them away. Next day the Pullman sleepers backed quietly into the rail yard. The colored troops boarded the train with tears in their eyes and started their trip north to become service detachments at various military schools. I watched them go. I walked back to my quarters with a heavy heart. Memories of Fort Huachuca and the service there are some of the pleasantest memories of my service in the United

States Army.”¹⁸⁴



Golden State Limited at Stark Overpass on 8 February 1936.



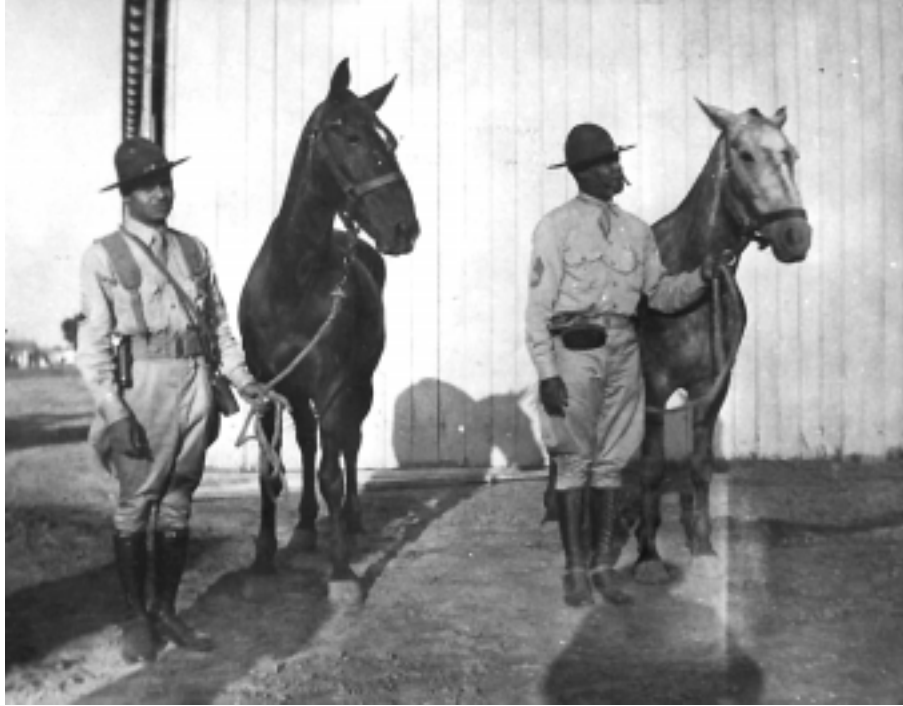
Col. Robert S. Knox, commanding 25th Infantry and Fort Huachuca, and staff reviewing the troops at Fort Huachuca in 1933. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox.

Uniforms: Huachuca in the 1930s

Uniform regulations at Fort Huachuca in 1934 called for the service hat, black tie with the end tucked into the shirt above the pockets, woolen olive drab shirt, breeches and web belt, leggings and service shoes to be worn from reveille to retreat. From retreat to reveille the soldier would wear a service cap, service coat, shirt, belt, breeches, service shoes, and leggings. The fatigue uniform, that is, denim working hat, denim coat, and denim trousers, was worn only when the wearer was engaged in work requiring its wear or while engaged in sport. Civilian clothing could be worn only off the reservation, except for the Saturday night soldiers' dances.¹⁸⁵



“The American Soldier, 1938: Cavalry Sergeant, General Chaffee. Officers and Enlisted men, Cavalry Brigade.” H. Charles McBarron.



10th Cavalry troopers with their mounts, "Tricky" and "Gray."

The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: The Abernathy Killings and the Heroism of Sergeant Peter Hardley

Tragedy struck right after Christmas in 1932. A Quartermaster private, James Abernathy, was working at the gas station on December 29th. When Captain Wesseley, his boss, pulled in for gas, Abernathy shot him twice with a .38 revolver. Then he took the captain's car and drove to officers' row where he went to Wesseley's house and killed his wife. Next he went to the home of Captain Palmer and killed both him and his wife. The next victim was Lieutenant Matthews, who was working in his garden. Matthews survived three shots in the legs. Abernathy's shooting spree came to an end when Sgt. Peter Hardley, Jr., a member of L Company, 25th Infantry and a provost corporal, came upon the scene. He put three shots from his service rifle into Abernathy's heart. No motive was ever found for Abernathy's actions.¹⁸⁶



The gas station at Huachuca in the late 1930s.



Captain David A. Palmer.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Arizona

Lieut. Col. Matthew H. Thomlinson, commanding Fort Huachuca and the 25th Infantry, was active in organizing the Civilian Conservation Corps in southern Arizona. According to him, in 1933 and 34 “The only important work performed...was the organization of the CCC camps in central and southern Arizona. I was in charge of the sub-district of southern Arizona during the construction of the camps.”¹⁸⁷

Colonel Thomlinson went on to describe the distribution of the CCC camps across southern Arizona.

...There were a lot of camps designated for Arizona, especially Central and Southern Arizona, but the great difficulty in locating these camps resulted from lack of water. No-

body apparently had ever figured on a water supply for a camp of 200 young men. The forest people were our advisors on camp locations and their experience had been limited to small working parties, probably 15 to 20 men to a party, and those fellows generally went home over the weekend to take a bath, so their demand for water was not very great. When we had 200 young fellows in camp working hard all day, they needed a bath more frequently than once a week and they needed it right there so we had a lot of trouble locating adequate water for those camps. One of the first we built was over in the mouth of Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains. There was one on the west side in Rucker Canyon that came a little later but it happened to be a veterans camp. Nobody could get in that camp unless he had been in World War I and we had one on the south side of these mountains in the Whitehouse Canyon, one on the east side of Tucson, one on the west side of the Tucson Mountains and there was another on the northeast section of Tucson put in a little later. Those were all of the early camps in this area, a few more came later. I remember one in Ash Canyon near the end of the mountain range when the camps were first organized, the young reserve officers who came out to be Company Commanders for all of the camps in Central and Southern Arizona. We were pretty well cleaned out of officers for a long time but after they had broken in the reserves, they came home and the reserve officers ran the camps from that time on. It was an interesting experiment but it didn't get much work done because nobody knew how long the camps would last and nobody had thought out work programs. So much of the work was of a temporary nature and could have been made much more valuable if they had known what the duration might have been. After I had finished with those camps, we had the usual post routine.¹⁸⁸

(The Civilian Conservation Corps was formed in March 1933 by the Roosevelt administration to give a quarter of a million unemployed men work planting trees, clearing firebreaks, digging irrigation ditches, reclaiming land, and performing other necessary tasks. The War Department was given the task of administering the CCC. The encampments in which the men lived were organized as a company, with a strength of 200. A captain or lieutenant served as camp commander and he had the assistance of a small contingent of NCOs and enlisted men to help.) A \$21-per-month soldier often found himself supporting the CCC indigents who made \$30 a month.¹⁸⁹

Timeline

In 1934 Army strength was at 138,464. The Army Air Corps asked for bids on a bomber that could carry 2,000 pounds of bombs, fly 200 miles per hour, with a range of 1,020 miles. Boeing Aircraft built a model that exceeded those specifications and in 1936, sold 13 B-17s or "Flying Fortresses" to the Army. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Housing Commission were formed. Earl Hines played the *Maple Leaf Rag*.

The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: 1935 Inspection by General Pershing

In March 1935 retired Gens. John J. Pershing and Charles G. Dawes, former vice-

president of the United States, visited Fort Huachuca and were honored with a nineteen-gun salute and a full review of the 25th Infantry. They were guests of the post commander, Col. J. F. Franklin, who later wrote about the occasion.

I shall never forget an incident which occurred while General Pershing and General Dawes were inspecting the troops in our little review for the general.

The troops were lined up with the mule transportation on the left. As we turned to the left to go behind the troops, the general stopped and asked the driver of the left wagon a question: "What have you on this wagon?"

Answer: "The wagon is stripped, sir."

Question: "What would you have on the wagon if you were going into the field?"

Answer: "I would have on the wagon the things we need in the field."

Then General Dawes burst out in a loud laugh. General Pershing just grinned. Then they went on until behind the wagons where they stopped and had a good laugh. General Dawes said, "You got just what you deserved when you asked that question." General Pershing replied, "That was one of my standard questions on inspection and I have asked it a thousand times but I never got that answer before." The incident seemed to put them in good humor for they seemed to enjoy the rest of the day.¹⁹⁰

The inspection incident is yet another example of officers getting a kick out of being surprised by the good sense of the enlisted man.



Colonel John F. Franklin, commanding 25th Infantry, poses in front of the officers club in 1935 with visiting John J. Pershing.



The Color Guard of the 25th Infantry Regiment in 1933. From left to right: Pvt. William Murchison, Company F; Sgt. Victor Motaun, Company E; Sgt. William M. Dean, Company K; and Pfc. John E. Watson, Company F. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert Knox, widow of Colonel Robert Souter Knox, who in 1933 commanded the 25th Infantry and Fort Huachuca.

Roll Call: George Looney's Life in the 25th Infantry

There were few vacancies in the black regiments but many applicants. A potential recruit had to undergo a long and complicated process to be accepted for enlistment. He would first have to discover where the regiment was stationed, whether or not it had any openings, and then petition the commanding officer for acceptance. Once accepted for enlistment, the recruit would have to reach the duty station at his own expense. Since two of the regiments were in Arizona, far away from any major urban center, it often entailed a long and expensive trip. As Ulysses Lee has put it, "The young Negro who successfully found his way into the Regular Army as an enlisted man was looked upon as an extremely fortunate young man." One of these lucky young men was George Looney who had that advantage of growing up at Fort Huachuca.

In the collection of interviews edited by Mary Penick Motley and published by Wayne State University Press as *The Invisible Soldier*, Looney gives a far-ranging description of the

lifestyles of families stationed with the 25th Infantry at Fort Huachuca during the 1930s.



Portrait of First Sergeant Werzontwerch.



The 25th Infantry passes in review on the lower parade field in about 1939.



Guard mount of the 1st Battalion, 25th Infantry, at Camp Harry J. Jones, Douglas, Arizona, in 1931.

My father was a Regular Army man serving with the old 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 25th Infantry. I was born in Douglas, Arizona October 28, 1923. When I was two years old the family moved to Fort Huachuca and there is where I grew up. My mother was a school teacher at the fort and my brother was born there, so you see Fort Huachuca was home. Was it isolated? Was it beautiful, ugly? Questions like this I can't really answer. It

was home and I had a relatively pleasant childhood there.

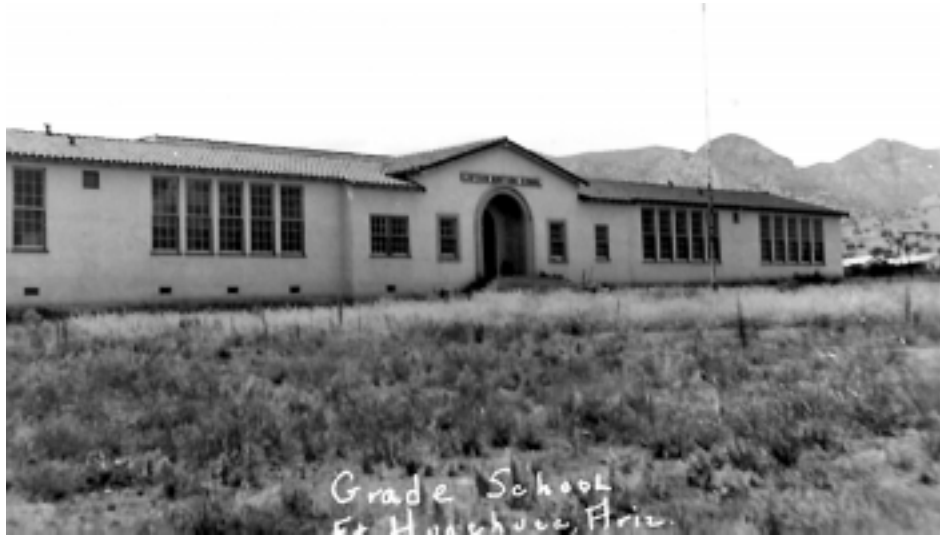
It should be pointed out that the United States Army, pre-World War II, was one big family; this was particularly true on permanent Army posts. Huachuca had about 800 men stationed there when I was a kid. There was no such thing as juvenile delinquency because all of the children belonged to all of the soldiers, so to speak, and if you were caught wrong your backsides were warmed by the person who discovered you up to no good.



The 25th Infantry Band on parade at Huachuca in 1933. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox.

I attended the all-black elementary school on the post. There was a white elementary school there also for the children of the officers and white civilian workers' young ones. Separation at the elementary level was Arizona law, which took precedence over federal law in that it could be imposed on federal land. Those of us young blacks who were continuing our education at the high school level were bussed twenty-eight miles to Tombstone High School in Tombstone, Arizona. It was an integrated high school, again Arizona law. Our bus was purchased by the soldiers chipping in. They bought the parts and assembled the bus at the motor pool. The only license plate the bus ever had was a tin plate that said Fort

Huachuca. The state never bothered about demanding a proper plate.



The grade school at Huachuca.

Tombstone High School was my first integrated experience. There were no breast beating and dire threats when the black kids from Huachuca went to Tombstone High. I played in the band and was a member of the football team, so the school was obviously well-integrated. I am sorry to say that my graduation class was the last to have blacks from Fort Huachuca; a high school had been built for black kids on post.

* * *

There were two (bugle) calls we knew but never practiced because they were only used during the real thing, the call for a fire and the call to arms. One day on my way to the drill field I was stunned by the sounding of the call to arms. Reacting automatically, I headed to the supply room on the double. There I grabbed by forty-five and was given a helmet full of old bullets. (In those days the white soldiers got all of the new equipment and the blacks got the cast-offs. This was true of everything, including bullets.)

It turned out Mexico was going to have an election, and these usually ended in rioting. Our job was to see that the Mexicans rioted on their own side of the border. We were to go to Naco and Nogales. For transportation the regiment had a handful of old Indiana trucks. Those going to Nogales were loaded on the trucks. The group going to Naco started marching. Once the Nogales group was deposited, the trucks doubled back and picked up those marching to their destination. Nothing happened at the border, and in about a week we were recalled. This time the men at Naco were loaded onto trucks and those at Nogales started marching back to be picked up by the trucks later.¹⁹¹

Looney was later commissioned a lieutenant and he served with the 25th Infantry and the 368th Infantry during World War II.

Huachuca's Changing Landscape: Work Progress Administration (WPA): Additions and Upgrades, 1934-39

In 1934 wide-ranging construction projects began at Fort Huachuca under the auspices of the Work Progress Administration (WPA). Supervising the work was Maj. S. J. Raymond, Q.M. Corps, the post quartermaster. In the fall of 1936 he wrote a summary of the accomplishments of the WPA program.

Before beginning a description of the character and extent of the work done at Fort Huachuca, it is necessary to add a word of explanation in regard to the handling of funds placed at the disposal of the post officials.

When money is allotted to a military post for expenditure, the amount is divided into two portions, one sum being set aside for accounting and distribution by the Post Quartermaster, and the other falling under the supervision of the constructing quartermaster. The first portion consists of all requirements for betterment and additions to existing structures, and the second is used for the creation of new units demanded by economic and military conditions of recent development.

Work falling under the supervision of the Quartermaster included rehabilitation and alteration of buildings, plants, and utilities; construction and installations required in existing barracks, in the theater, in the quartermaster warehouse, and in the quartermaster offices; placing of lightning arrestors on specific buildings; a fire look-out and cistern on Huachuca Peak; plumbing renovation and repairs; alterations and additions and replacements to existing electric lights, wiring and fixtures; and general repairs to buildings, plant and utilities.

The constructing quartermaster was given the responsibility for improvements to the emergency landing field; the construction of four miles of paved road from the post to Garden Canyon (White City); stone garages for garrison personnel; steel post and barbed wire fence about reservation; lavatory buildings at Training Camp area; concrete bases for tents at Training Camp area; and a septic tank and sewer line to serve the Training Camp area.

The post was advised of the availability of funds July 8, 1934. Work was started within 10 days, with eight men secured through the Bisbee Employment Office, and from that nucleus employment increased to a maximum of 358 men in April, 1936.

About September 1, 1935, about 60 men were placed on the payrolls of the constructing quartermaster. Increase of that number to 257 men in May, 1936, brought employment to a grand total of 615.

All work being done is the result of cumulative demands over a long period of time, covering necessary work tabulated and estimated by the various trade foremen at the post, but for which improvement funds always seemed to be lacking from the War Department in its usual distribution of appropriations.

As is generally known, the main part of the post structures were built some 50 years ago when construction materials were hard to get. Most of the officers' quarters, the civilian quarters, offices, guard house and many other buildings were constructed of adobe with insufficient foundations. While stone was plentiful, both lime and cement were difficult to

bring in.

Therefore, the quartermaster was enabled to begin at once on work of this character—rebuilding foundations, adding necessary rooms, rebuilding chimneys and fireplaces, replastering, installing electric wires and new plumbing fixtures, and building floors and stairways. Old shingle roofs were removed, rafters strengthened and the buildings covered with a good quality of asbestos shingle, making not only a much neater appearance and a more lasting structure, but at the same time decreasing the fire hazards.

This last feature has been a problem at this post in recent years as the demand for domestic water supply has constantly increased with no assistance from nature in the furnishing of additional water. A fire at the post in the dry season would prove a real calamity.

The problem of water supply seems to be finally solved in that a well drilled at the emergency landing field appears to have developed an enormous quantity of water that may easily be made available to the post requirements; this will be determined in the near future.

Two features of the quartermaster's improvements were decidedly opportune, both local schools, one white and one colored. As a result of haphazard growth, the schools had been unsatisfactory; they are now much more satisfactory to the children, teachers and parents.

In the department of the constructing quartermaster, materials were assembled for road paving as quickly as possible, and men were put to work delivering stone, oil and sand along the subgrades. For 75 percent of the distance the old road was improved to make it quickly available. The other 25 percent was changed to eliminate poor drainage, to make better curves, or to eliminate curves entirely.

Use of as many workers as possible and simultaneously to use what machinery was available efficiently, to give the post a good, durable, paved highway, was the aim. The basis of the structure was an excellent quality of limestone, mixed with asphalt and enough sand to make a good quality binder. The result appears to be a highway that will stand the hard wear of local automobiles, delivery trucks and trucks of the military establishments.

At the landing field, a new provost station house had been made to replace a ramshackle wooden structure. In it is built a cell to accommodate any obstreperous citizen or soldier who might evade regulations. The new building is located at a different point than that occupied by the old guard house, because of the reestablishment of the reservation boundary line.

The reservation fence was rebuilt and realigned on monuments and directions of the 1884 survey. In many sections there was practically no enclosure whatever; now there are steel posts every 20 feet with five strands of barbed wire clipped to the posts.

Previously the garrison has had to shelter its personally owned automobiles in shacks, most of them unsightly and in many cases difficult of accessibility. Consequently, most cars remained parked in the post streets. The new garages are neatly built, inexpensive, and properly located in regard to service roads.

Near the site of the local CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] camp, it was decided to increase accommodations so that a summer training school could be established for all local

military accessory schools.

Following War Department plans, a series of tent floors of reinforced concrete were laid, and to these were added three lavatories.

A sewer line was run out a distance of about a quarter mile and at that point a suitable septic tank was built. This work is now all completed and facilities await the arrival of students who will receive training here, from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

It appears that laborers have been fairly treated. A camp was established for these incoming civilians, and at this camp each employee was provided with a cot and blankets, and mess equipment. The food provided was regular Army ration and consequently substantial and at a very reasonable expense. The men have offered no resistance to local regulations, and have expressed a desire to be kept at work as long as funds permit.

As a result of these expenditures, the post has been greatly improved, a fact greatly appreciated by the garrison, and the work has been sufficiently varied to give all WPA workmen a good chance to make a fair return for the wages received.¹⁹²

Works Progress Administration construction continued at Huachuca through the 1930s, adding by 1939 the "Million Dollar Barracks," motor housing, new wells, a new reservoir, and a warrant officers' quarters. Maj. J. L. Brooks, Q.M.C., was the Construction Quartermaster in 1938 and he reported progress on all of these projects. He described the Christmas break granted to his WPA work crews.

In order to permit the workmen on these various jobs an opportunity to visit their homes for the Christmas holidays, it was arranged that a double crew of workmen would be placed in operation in order that the entire list would have an opportunity to finish their pay periods and to be paid off before they left for their various homes located in the southern half of the state of Arizona. It is a matter of note to state that, of over five hundred men employed, there were only twenty-five unable to leave for the simple reason that they had no homes. This particular feature was useful to the post in that it provided a very handy group of workmen to discharge the carloads of pipe and other heavy materials arriving in the last ten days of this month. Their use in this manner prevented the accumulation of demurrage charges usually placed by the railroad company on cars remaining unloaded after a forty-eight hour period. In order to provide a pleasant ending to the final period of work before the holidays commenced, the cooks at the camp where the men are being housed and fed provided a dinner in which the food served was more elaborate than the usual type of meal served both in regard to quantity and to the character and variety of the items. In fact, it was quite an elaborate dinner and one which pleased the workmen very much. There were five hundred eighty-five men served at this meal, the group being divided into two sections in order to fit the accommodations existing at this camp. This extra dividend to the men in the form of an unusual dinner was appreciated, remarks being made to the officer in charge of the mess indicating their pleasure at having been so served. It is a remarkable fact that, with the concentration of this large number of men, no serious disturbance of any sort developed in the camp, and although it was crowded, it was not overcrowded, and in general gave to the men the satisfaction both in regard to the food and the housing accommodations. The men left the post on the 23d of December and were scheduled to return on January 3d, a vacation of approximately ten days without any loss of pay.¹⁹³

In June 1938 the El Paso Natural Gas Company was proposing to the post quartermaster that they install 26.8 miles of high pressure line to the post so that Huachuca might convert

from fuel oil to natural gas. The gas company estimated that gas would cost the government about \$28,440 per year, a saving of approximately \$8,200 over the 1936 fuel oil bill. The estimated cost for the initial conversion of all the heating, hot water, and ranges was \$76,800. The post turned to natural gas shortly thereafter.



Blueprint map of Fort Huachuca dated 23 July 1936.



Repainted exteriors, NCO quarters, in 1936.



Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1934, home of the 25th Infantry Regiment. From the Knox Collection.



Officers' quarters, 25th Infantry Regiment, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. in 1934. From the Knox Collection.



Post theater (bldg. no 41305) about 1934. Today it is the Museum Annex. Photo courtesy of Col. Joseph J. Fraser, Jr., Chemical Corps; the son of Capt. Joseph Fraser, he lived at Fort Huachuca as a boy, 1932-35.



Barracks at Huachuca in the 1930s.



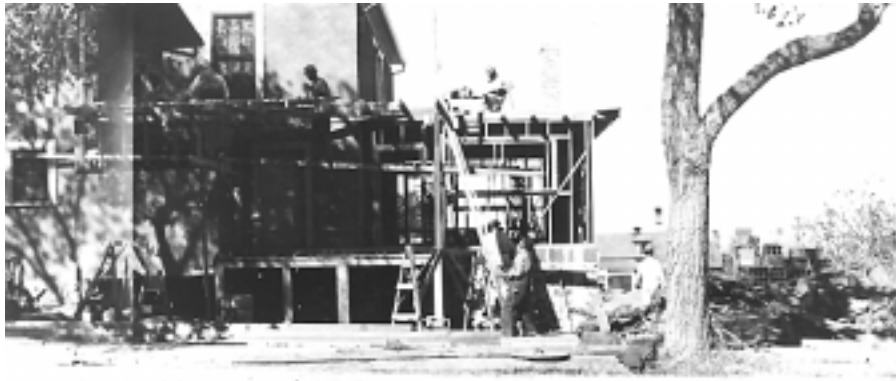
Aerial view of Old Post sometime after 1941 when the radio towers were scrapped.



View of the Old Post from Reservoir Hill. The theater, built in 1934, is visible.



Bldg. no. 22328 undergoing repairs in 1936.



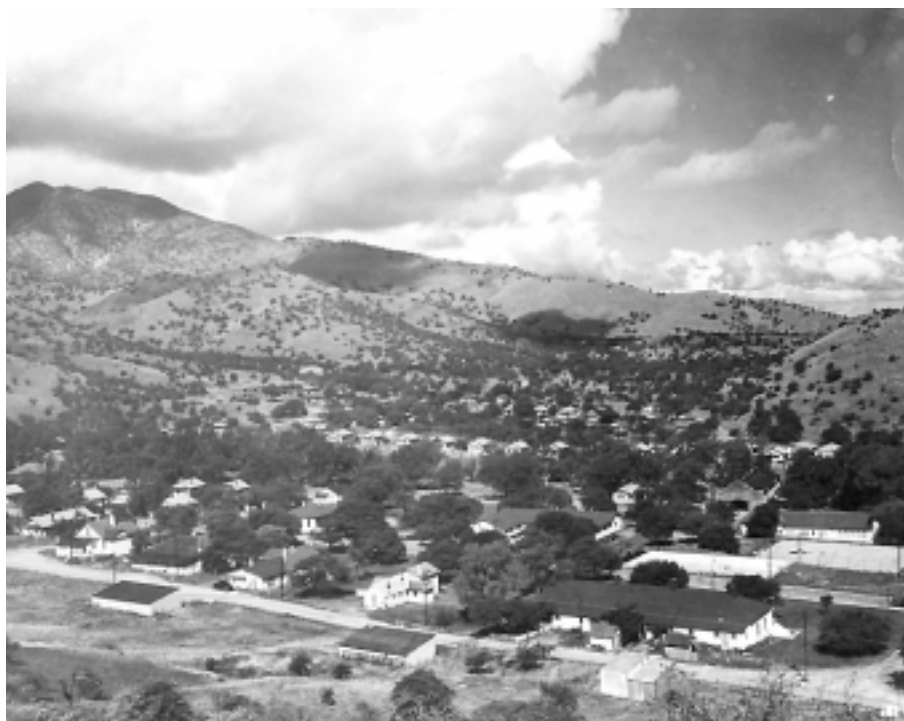
An addition to officers' club, a 1936 W.P.A. project. U.S. Army photo.



W.P.A. workers work on an addition to the officers' club in 1936. U.S. Army photo.



South end of Old Post area, Bonnie Blink and Cemetery Hill, looking North toward the Whetstone Mountains, in the Summer of 1938. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Elliott B. Gose, USA Ret.



A view of Fort Huachuca around 1938.



Ground-breaking for new barracks in July 1938. U.S. Army photo.



July 19, 1938 view of the post showing excavation for the new “Million Dollar Barracks.”



An officers quarters on Grierson is completely renovated by workers from the Works Projects Administration.



An airfield at Huachuca in 1938, with a U.S. Army B-10 Martin Medium Bomber parked. The pump house at the post's main gate is in the background. U.S. Army photo.



An U.S. Army B-10 Martin Medium Bomber at Fort Huachuca's main gate in 1938. U.S. Army photo.



Airfield at Fort Huachuca's main gate in 1938. A U.S. Army O-46 Douglas Observation plane is parked. U.S. Army photo.



Workmans' temporary quarters across from the "Million Dollar Barracks" in 1938. U.S. Army photo.



"Million Dollar Barracks" nearing completion in 1939.

Timeline

In **1935** the Army had a strength of 139,486. George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* was performed. The Army adopted the M-1 Garand rifle. Over 150,000 students took part in a nationwide demonstration for peace and many would sign a pledge that they would not serve if war were declared. Maj. Edwin Armstrong demonstrated the FM radio. Hitler instituted anti-semitic laws. Italy invaded Ethiopia. A Neutrality Act was passed imposing an embargo on arms sales to belligerents. The jitterbug craze was declared dangerous by many adults. The Social Security Act was passed. For the first time a radio compass was used to remotely pilot an airplane. Humorist Will Rogers died in a plane crash in Alaska. On 2 October General Malin Craig replaced Douglas MacArthur as Army Chief of Staff and undertook improvements that would prepare the Army for the coming war. F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) published his story *Taps at Reveille* based upon his military experiences in a Texas army camp.

In **1936** there were 167,816 men in the Army. *Life* magazine made its debut. Benny Goodman became the "King of Swing." The Spanish Civil War broke out. England's Edward VIII, in order to "marry the woman I love," abdicated in favor of George VI who would reign until 1952. Roosevelt won reelection by a landslide. John Dos Passos finished his trilogy, *U.S.A.* On the advice of her publisher, Margaret Mitchell changed the title of her novel to *Gone With the Wind*. Eugene O'Neill won the Nobel Prize for literature. Boulder Dam started generating electric power. On 7 December Caroline McGavock Whitside, the wife of Fort Huachuca's founder and the first woman to live there, died at Walter Reed Hospital. On 25 September Harry H. Woodring replaced Dern as Secretary of War. After Nazi and Spanish Fascists planes bombed the Basque town of Guernica, Pablo Picasso painted his huge canvas that expressed the painter's "abhorrence of the military caste which has sunk Spain in an ocean of pain and death." In violation of international agreement, Germany reoccupied the Rhineland.

In **1937** Army strength hit 179,968. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was Disney's first full-length animated film. Aviatix Amelia Earhart disappeared during a flight over the

Pacific. Japan went to war with China. Sit-down strikes in Flint, Michigan, won concessions for unions in the auto industry. Joe Louis won the heavyweight championship of the world, a title he would hold until 1949. Toscanini conducted the NBC Symphony Orchestra. The American gunboat U.S.S. *Panay* was dive-bombed and strafed by Mitsubishi planes, and sunk in international waters off Nanking, China. The FBI rejected Richard M. Nixon's application to become an agent. The radio shows of Jack Benny and Fred Allen were listened to faithfully. The Garden Canyon Post Office was changed to Fry, Arizona. Poet W. H. Auden enlisted as an ambulance driver for the Loyalists during the Spanish Revolution. Stalin purged the Soviet military, depleting the officer corps by 25 to 30 percent and eliminating many of the best military thinkers. The aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* was commissioned. Billy Holiday recorded *This Year's Kisses* with tenor saxophonist Lester Young.

In 1938 Army strength rose to 185,488. Hitler invaded Austria. The House Committee on Un-American Activities was formed. A synthetic fabric made from coal, Nylon, went into production. Orson Welles alarmed America with his radio show about an Martian invasion. Aaron Copeland's ballet *Billy the Kid* was staged. The Fair Labor Standards Act was passed. The Navy launched the carrier *Enterprise*. Washboard Sam recorded *CCC Blues*, and Big Bill Broonzy sang the *WPA Rag*.

Roll Call: Col. Louis A. Carter—A Shepherd of Buffaloes

*"Upon entering the Army, Chaplain Carter quickly concluded that personal contact with enlisted men is the key to winning their confidence and respect and to helping him understand their attitudes, behavior and problems. He attributed whatever success he had in his Army ministry to personal contact—in hospitals and guard houses, in garrison and field, in barracks and homes, and at places of recreation and worship."*¹⁹⁴

In an Army career that spanned three decades, Chaplain Carter served with each of the four black regular Army regiments at posts as far flung as the Philippines and the Arizona border. He was widely known and respected by the men of the 10th Cavalry and the 25th Infantry at Fort Huachuca, not only for the spiritual counseling which he was able to give, but also for his work as an educator, social activist, and champion of black pride.

He was 34 years old when he accepted his commission as a regular Army chaplain at Madison Barracks, New York. He had behind him extensive college schooling, a Bachelor of Divinity degree, a successful record as a Tennessee pastor, and the endorsements of several prominent citizens, including mayors and members of the US House of Representatives.

It wasn't long before he found himself at Fort Huachuca (1913-15) with the 10th Cavalry. Then it was service with the 9th Cavalry at Camp Harry J. Jones at Douglas, Arizona (1915). After a tour in the Philippines, it was back to Arizona for his longest stint, with the 25th Infantry Regiment, first in Nogales at Camp Stephen D. Little (1921-31) and then at Fort Huachuca (1935-40).

One of his first acts at Fort Huachuca in 1913 was to raise funds from among the troops to hire a lawyer for a 10th Cavalry trooper who had shot a cowboy to death in a Douglas bar. The cowboy had provoked the fight with racial slurs and, thanks to the lawyer that Chaplain Carter hired, the trooper was found innocent after a plea of self-defense.

In the Philippines in 1915 his reputation among the men spread even further when he

persuaded the commander to set aside an area for married men to build bamboo houses at their own expense and then convinced the quartermaster to loan money for construction. The ensuing village was named for its benefactor, Chaplain Carter.

He was known for his innovative programs such as “Letter Writing Week” just before Mother’s Day, and speaking programs which invited professional men as speakers. He actively promoted education among his charges, establishing literary societies, debating clubs, and historical programs on the contributions of black soldiers in the US Army.

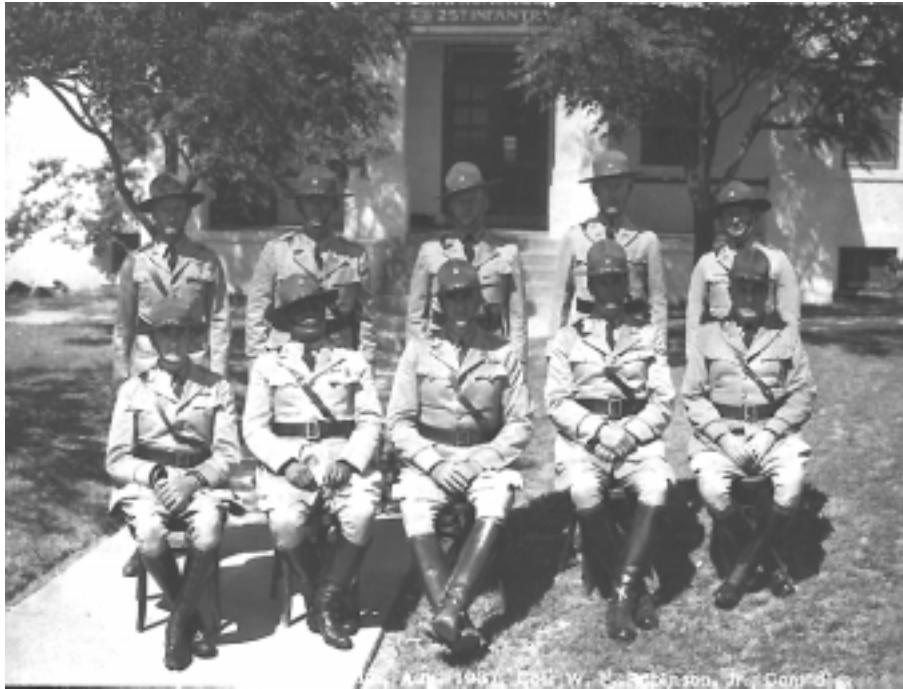
At Huachuca he served as post schoolmaster and librarian. He saw to it that *The Crisis*, the official journal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was made available to the troops and advocated that only through a knowledge of their past could blacks be made to have pride and hope for their futures. Commanders remembered him as a forceful public speaker who would attract large audiences and as a leader who exercised widespread influence over the men.

In 1936, while serving at Huachuca, he was promoted to full colonel, the first black chaplain to attain that rank. He retired in 1940 and one year later he died at the Veterans’ Hospital in Tucson. He is buried at Fort Huachuca’s cemetery, a fitting resting place for one who devoted his whole life to enriching the lives of the men who served at this historic post.¹⁹⁵



Chaplain Louis A. Carter, a colonel who served with the 25th Infantry Regiment at Camp Stephen D. Little in Nogales in the 1920s and at Fort Huachuca in the 1930s. His efforts on

behalf of the education and welfare of black troops will be long remembered.



The 25th Infantry staff at Huachuca in August 1937. Col. W. F. Robinson, Jr., commanding, is seated in the middle. Seated second from the left is Lt. Col. Louis A. Carter, 25th Infantry Regiment chaplain.



Officers of the 25th Infantry, Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, June 1921. Chaplain Louis A. Carter is seated in the front row on the far left. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. John H.

Timeline

In 1939 the Army's strength was 189,839. In FM 100-5, *Field Service Regulations (Tentative)*, Operations, Army doctrine was summed up as: "The *ultimate objective* of all military operations is the destruction of the enemy's armed forces in battle...." Only 1.2 percent of the Army's budget was spent on research and development. The War Department G2 was officially given the mission of providing estimates and annexes to war plans. In April General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff, ordered the War Plans Division to make a study of "steps to be taken in the event that war develops in Europe," which would become the basis of establishing war-time priorities. The Army tested a new divisional concept which would employ three regiments in the division instead of four regiments in two brigades; this new triangular division of 10,275 men would eventually replace the square division with 22,000 men. The Golden Gate International Exposition was held in San Francisco while the World's Fair opened in New York. Italy invaded Albania. Hitler and Stalin signed the Russo-German Nonaggression Pact. Germany attacked Poland on 1 September and Warsaw surrendered just under a month later, leading Britain and France to declare war on Germany. President Roosevelt proclaimed a limited national emergency and declared "that this nation will remain a neutral nation." American objectives in the Pacific were to grant the Philippines independence by 1946, keep the markets in China and Southeast Asia open to American industry, and to discourage Japanese expansion. Russia invaded Finland in November. The American Army issued the first Field Rations, Type C. Newly developed radar devices were installed on U.S. ships. A dozen congressman, including Senator Harry Truman, visited Fort Huachuca on 28 November. A British cruiser squadron bottled up the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* in Montevideo harbor, Uruguay; the German skipper scuttled the ship and committed suicide rather than face capture. John Steinbeck published *Grapes of Wrath*. Judy Garland starred in *The Wizard of Oz*. Hitler designed a \$396 Volkswagen. George C. Marshall was named Chief of Staff. Comparing the American Army with the armies of Europe, *Time* said "The U.S. Army looked like a few nice boys with BB guns." The American Army was ranked 19th in the world behind the forces of Greece and Belgium. Cavalry officers still carried sabers. Scientists split the atom. On 30 April NBC conducted an experimental broadcast of a picture that would become known as "television." On 1 September General of the Army George C. Marshall replaced Craig as Army Chief of Staff. Existentialist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre was drafted in the French Army and captured by the Germans while he was an artillery observer in Alsace; he escaped and became active in the underground Resistance Movement. Coleman Hawkins made his classic recording of *Body and Soul*.

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