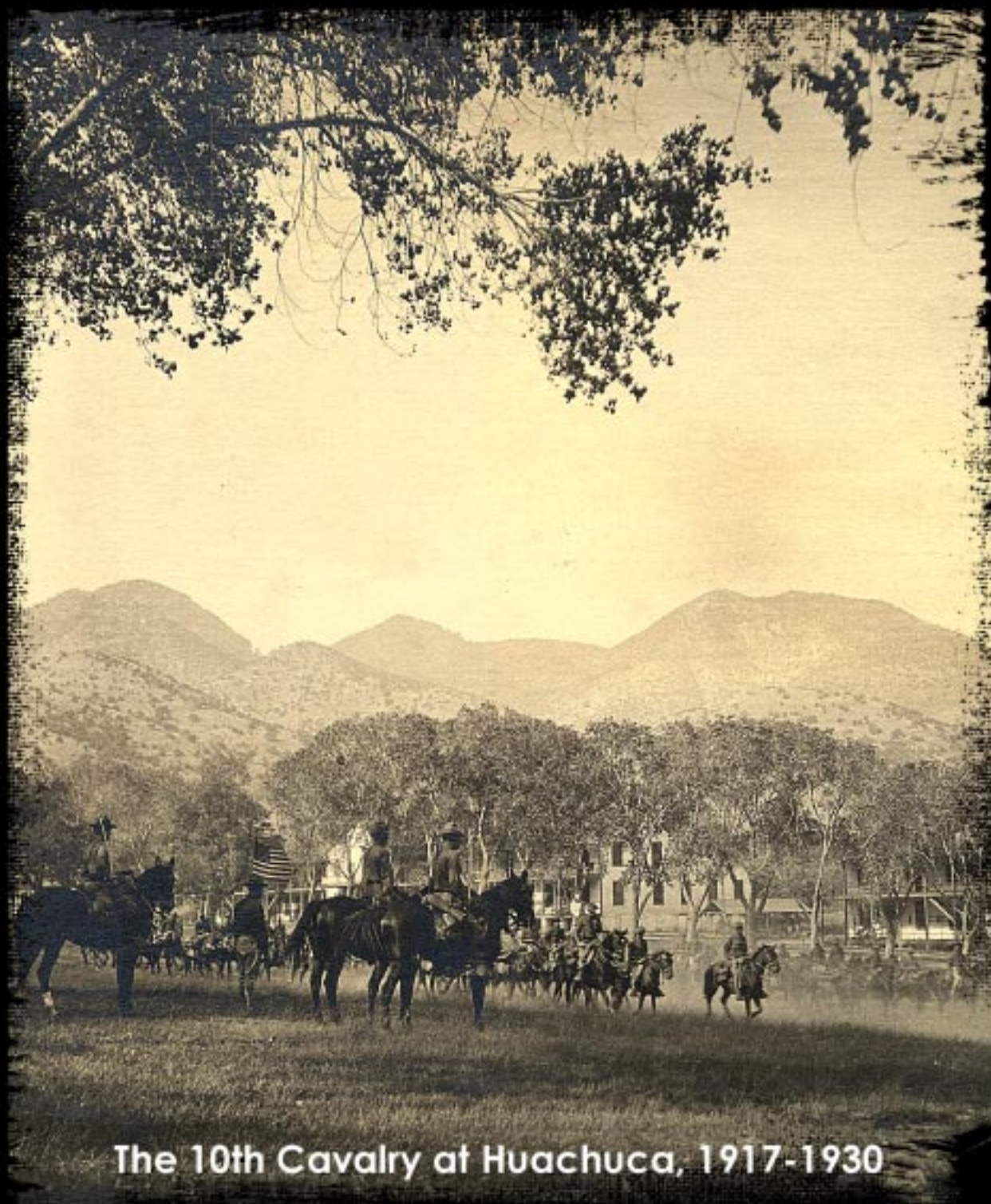


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# Huachuca Illustrated

A Magazine of the Fort Huachuca Museum



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## Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: 10th Cavalry Contributions to the Punitive Expedition

The first month and a half of this campaign, from March 16 to April 30, were the most eventful days that the men of the Punitive Expedition were to experience. The trail was hot; *villistas* were reported to be everywhere. It was during the first five months of campaigning in Mexico that the expedition inflicted its greatest losses on Villa's forces. Villa himself was hiding in the mountains. But his Army had broken into small raiding bands under various of his lieutenants and operated widely throughout Chihuahua.



*10th Cavalry on the march in Mexico.*

The services of the 10th Cavalry and its commander, Colonel William C. Brown, were especially noteworthy during this time. A leading participant in the expedition who would also become its historian, Major Frank Tompkins, had this to say about the contributions of Fort Huachuca's 10th Cavalry:

...The 10th Cavalry under Colonel W. C. Brown marched considerably farther than either of the 11th Cavalry columns, as their start was made at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and was practically continuous.

*...Colonel Brown left Dublin five days ahead of Howze with two day's rations and a pack train, but not a cent of government money. He received no more supplies until April 20th, just 32 days from the time he left Dublin. In addition, on the way south his pack train, except six mules, was taken from him at San Antonio, but he kept going and joined Tompkins*

*at Santa Cruz de Villegas in time to turn back the Mexican attack, and three days ahead of the other two columns. I have always felt that the conduct of Colonel Brown in this campaign has never received the recognition it was entitled to. My trail crossed his on several occasions, and I know the quality of his work. I saw him under most trying conditions performing in a way decidedly creditable to his country and the army, doing his job in a workmanlike manner without any thought of reward, but with the knowledge that he had done his duty and done it well.*<sup>80</sup>

The campaigning had taken its toll on Colonel Brown. In May he was recuperating from the exhaustion brought on by the incessant marching. From a letter postmarked "Fort Bliss, Texas," dated May 17th, Brown writes from a hospital bed to his sister in Denver:

*...The newspapers credit me with killing 30 or 40 Mexicans. My regiment (not myself) killed 3. I get thoroughly tired and disgusted with the newspapers. In this campaign we fortunately kept them pretty well suppressed.*<sup>81</sup>

As for the hardships endured by the 10th Cavalrymen along the Mexican trail, Captain George B. Rodney, one of the troop commanders, kept a diary that presents a bleak picture of that first month.

From March 19 till April 20 we never saw any article of the ration. No sugar, no bacon, no meat, no salt, no flour; not one single article of the ration. We had each, one blanket, and a saddle blanket that was always wet with horse sweat when we tried to sleep. For cooking utensils we had three iron pails for the entire five troops; that meant that each troop had the use of the pails for three days out of five. ...The daily routine was this. We would march soon after daylight, when we found a patch of grass we halted to allow the horses to graze which they rarely did. Excelsior would have been equally nutritious. Then about mid-afternoon a herd of cattle would be sighted on the distant range and a detail of men would be sent to drive them into camp where they were killed and butchered with a celerity that would have filled a packinghouse with envy. If that was our night to have the camp kettles, we had boiled meat, if not, we burned the meat on sticks over the fires or else tried to fry it without grease in our meat cans, while some parched corn and water boiled in our tin cups. I seem to have been hungry from the middle of March till the end of April and I doubt if any man during that time was really warm. We had no overcoats and snow caught us from time to time, the last on May Day.

*No matter how hard the service nor how great the privations those men were always good-tempered, joking about the hardships, but that joking in camp was so noisy that no one could sleep. As long as the fires were kept up the men gathered about them trying to get and stay warm. They knew by experience the discomfort of one thin blanket on cold ground.*<sup>82</sup>

First Sergeant Vance H. Marchbanks had this to say about his regiment's trials during the expedition:

*[The 1916 Pershing Punitive Expedition] was the most trying ordeal any body of soldiers had ever experienced. For more than 11 months the [10th Cavalry] was in the field, part of the time living on the country. Native beef and parched corn was the principal ration and for many days the men were without salt. They were in the mountains of Mexico following the hot trail of Mexican bandits. Men wore out their clothes and shoes, and were obliged in many instances to use their shelter tents for patches, and their stirrup hoods tied around their feet to keep them from being absolutely bare-foot.*<sup>83</sup>

Over the next ten and one-half months, Pershing's flying columns would scour the hostile Chihuahua countryside as far south as Parral, Villa's hometown. They would engage not only *villistas*, but the government forces of Carranza as well. They defeated and killed principal lieutenants of Villa and captured many of those who participated in the Columbus raid, sending them to the U.S. for trial



and eventually the death penalty. Villa's fighting force was effectively scattered and Villa would go into hiding, never again to emerge as a serious threat.

Colonel Frank Tompkins, a participant in the fighting in Mexico, summed up the expedition's accomplishments.

Our first contact of any importance with the enemy was at Guerrero, where Dodd administered to them a crushing defeat, killed General Hernandez, and caused the band to disperse into smaller units seeking safety in flight, and again at Tomochic on April 22nd he administered another dose of American justice. Then Howze at Ojo Azules practically wiped out the band of Julio Acosta, Cruz Dominguez and Antonio Agua; and Brown at Agua Calientes scattered Beltran's forces; while the different flying cavalry columns kept the Villistas constantly on the jump running away from American retribution.

*So the bands were dispersed, and a number of villa's principal lieutenants were killed, viz: General Hernandez at Guerrero; Pablo Lopez wounded at Columbus, captured by Carranzistas, and executed in April; Captain Silva killed by Howze at La Joya April 10th; Lieutenant Beltran killed by Howze at Santa Cruz de Herrera April 11th; Cervantes, Villa's chief lieutenant in the Columbus fight, killed May 25th by an infantry scouting party; Colonel Cardenas killed May 14th by Lieutenant Patton.<sup>84</sup>*

The question of whether or not the Punitive Expedition was a success has been one that depends largely upon your point of view. In the mind of most American military men, the U.S. Army had accomplished what it had been ordered to do under most trying conditions. Remember General Funston's orders had been: "The work of these troops will be regarded as finished as soon as Villa's band or bands are known to be broken up...."<sup>85</sup> And broken up they were. They would not again emerge as an organized threat.



*Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing in front of his tent. His aide, Lieutenant J. Lawton Collins is on the*

right.

## Timeline

In **1916** the Army totaled 108,399 men. On 1 January the British Army established a camouflage service which organized the manufacture of the material. The Army bought 500 trucks and formed them into 22 truck companies which became the first motorized supply effort. A National Defense Act was passed on 20 May that expanded the peacetime strength of the Army to 175,000 and allowed, in case of war, for its buildup to 286,000. The Act created the tactical brigade and division, with three brigades to a division and three regiments to a brigade. American aviators joined the French Air Force and were formed into the Lafayette Escadrille in April; they downed a total of 776 enemy aircraft and lost 289. The experiences of T. E. Lawrence in the Arab Revolt of 1916-1918 against Turkish rule provided an example of the effectiveness of waging guerilla warfare rather than trying to counter it. Lawrence wrote that the rebels would succeed “granted mobility, security...time, and doctrine.” Woodrow Wilson was reelected president with the slogan “He Kept Us Out of War.” A National Defense Council was created. U.S. exports set a record with \$5.4 billion. The National Park Service was formed. “Preparedness parades” were held in American cities. The Army established a Veterinary Corps. Train robbers hit the Golden State Limited at Apache, north of Douglas. On 11 February Hugh L. Scott became the *ad interim* Secretary of War, replacing Garrison. On 9 March Newton D. Baker replaced Scott as Secretary of War. Throughout the year the Germans used zeppelins to bomb London. Bertrand Russell wrote in *Principles of Social Reconstruction*, “The ultimate fact from which war results is not economic or political, and does not rest upon any mechanical difficulty of inventing means for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The ultimate fact from which war results is the fact that a large proportion of mankind have an impulse to conflict rather than harmony, and can only be brought to cooperate with others in resisting or attacking a common enemy. ...War is surrounded with glamour, by tradition, by Homer and the Old Testament, by early education, by elaborate myths as to the importance of the issues involved, by the heroism and self-sacrifice which these myths call out.”

In **1917** Army strength reached 421,467. Screen actress Mary Pickford, “America’s Sweetheart,” was reported to be making nearly a million dollars a year. The armies of Europe began to use camouflage netting over gun positions and ships were painted in what were called “dazzle” patterns. The U.S. Army, in the interest of standardization with their British ally, adopted the terminology “military intelligence” to replace what they had called “information.” On 27 August a fire at the Presidio of San Francisco claimed the wife and three daughters of General Pershing. The U.S. declared war on Germany in April and Fort Huachuca became the mobilization center for all servicemen in the state. Margaret Sanger was jailed for operating a birth control clinic. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Red Cross headquartered in Geneva. The Bolsheviks emerged in control after the Russian Revolution. Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship. On 16 August Fiorella La Guardia, future New York mayor, was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. With the Selective Service Act of 19 May, the country adopted conscription and required all males between the ages of 21-30 to register for the draft. More than 10 million registered. A popular song expressing America’s wish for neutrality was “I Didn’t Raise My Boy To Be a Soldier.” George M. Cohan’s song “Over There,” was published. By the end of the year there were 180,000 American servicemen in France, but they had yet to be committed to the fighting. The Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark for \$25 million. The Army formed the Intelligence Police and organized its first

Antiaircraft Artillery units. On 26 December President Wilson nationalized the railroads. On 22 September Maj. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss replaced Scott as Army Chief of Staff. In October, F. Scott Fitzgerald was commissioned a second lieutenant and at Fort Leavenworth he met at a camp dance Zelda Sayre; he would be honorably discharged in February 1919 after uneventful stateside duty. William Faulkner enlisted in the British Air Force at the age of twenty because he was afraid if he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps he would be bossed around by “Yankees.” Ernest Hemingway went to France to join an ambulance unit and then transferred to the Italian infantry where he was badly wounded. His experiences led to *A Farewell to Arms*. Czar Nicholas II abdicated in March in the face of the Communist revolution. The Bolshevik revolution began in November with the revolt in Petrograd. On 6 April, a month after German submarines sank four American merchant ships, the U.S. declared war. In June the 1st U.S. Infantry Division landed in France and Gen. John J. Pershing was named commander of the American Expeditionary Force. American songwriter Irving Berlin (1888- ) was drafted and wrote a number of songs with a military theme, including “Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning.”

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the Teens: Women at the Fort**

Mrs. Esther Buchanan Smith lived at Fort Huachuca from 1908-21. She was the niece of Ida E. Carty who was the postmistress at Fort Huachuca and she succeeded Mrs. Carty in that job in 1920. She remembered that the post commander kept a train ready in 1916 to evacuate women and children in the event that Pancho Villa raided Fort Huachuca. The 10th Cavalry was away from the post then on the Punitive Expedition into Mexico.



*Civilian families in front of the sutler's store at Huachuca around 1916.*

In a 1961 interview, Mrs. Smith talked about the uneasiness and described the precautions. “All civilians wore a .45 and I believe twenty-five or fifty rounds of ammunition. In case of invasion [by the Villistas] the women and children were to flee to the Guard House. The train was kept in readiness there to carry them away.”<sup>86</sup>



*Smith, Esther Buchanan, postmistress of Fort Huachuca from February 1920 to May 1921. She came to Huachuca in 1908 to live with her aunt, Ida Carty and succeeded her as postmistress upon her aunt's death. She resigned in 1921 to go to Fort Leavenworth to marry Capt. Bailey G. Smith, Quartermaster Corps. This picture was taken in 1916 or 1917. Photo courtesy Mrs. Esther Buchanan Smith.*





*Ida Eldora (maiden name Mitchell) Carty, was postmistress from 11 January 1903 to 25 July 1904, and again from 22 June 1908 to her death on 3 February 1920. Her niece Miss Esther Buchanan succeeded her as Postmistress. Photo courtesy Mrs. Esther Buchanan Smith.*

But in the decade 1910 to 1920, Mexican bandits were not the only preoccupation. It was a time when women's rights were on every American's mind. Women at Fort Huachuca had only to pick up the *Ladies Home Journal* to read about Grover Cleveland's views. The former president wrote in that magazine: "Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote. The relative positions to be assumed by men and women in the working out of our civilization were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence."

A delegate at the Arizona constitutional convention, P.F. Connelly of Douglas, Arizona, introduced a bill in 1910 that would allow women to vote on the matter of suffrage. He was advised by his supporters not to return to Douglas, called a "bum," and threatened with shooting.



*Mrs. Lucretia Abby with the Grierson sisters, Agnes and Alice in 1915. Photo courtesy Alice and (Sarah) Joy Grierson.*



*The Grierson sisters at the officers' pool at Huachuca in 1914. Photo courtesy Alice and (Sarah) Joy Grierson.*



*Women on the steps of the Grierson residence in 1915. Photo courtesy Alice and (Sarah) Joy Grierson.*

In 1913 some progress was made when a law establishing an eight-hour work day for women went into effect. And finally, on August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the constitution was ratified by the decisive thirty-sixth state [Tennessee] and women had won the vote. The victory capped 72 years of campaigning by such heroic women as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul.

One month earlier Ila Harrison of Lochiel married a young cavalry officer, John Healy, in Tucson. Lieutenant Healy was stationed at Fort Huachuca. Ila Harrison Healy would be an eyewitness to national and local events for the next several decades. But she would be more than just an interested bystander. She became a force in the life around Huachuca. She established a reputation as a huntress, ornithologist, snake collector, rancher, world traveler and lecturer. No woman knew the Huachuca Mountains better. She was the foremost huntress of mountain lions in America, having killed dozens of the cats, both by herself and as a member of a hunting party. According to Ila Healy, she even brought them back alive—treeing them with her dogs, roping them from horseback and tying them over the pommel of her saddle.



*Ila Healy, wife of Lt. Col. John Healy, on her horse "Red," and with her dog "Blue," a Rhodesian ridgeback lion hunting dog. U.S. Army photo.*





*Ila Healy on horseback in the Huachucas around 1960. Photo courtesy Ila Healy.*



*Capt. John H. Healy, 10th Cavalry, at Lochiel, Arizona, in 1918.*

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles in the Teens: Recreation**

John B. Brooks, a second lieutenant with the 10th Cavalry in 1914, had this to say about the recreational opportunities at the remote post of Fort Huachuca.

...In those days there were very few movies. Perhaps we had a movie once a week. The movie house was used largely for minstrel shows put on by the men themselves and they were, some of them, very good. You could always get fine singers out of a colored command. They liked to sing and they liked to have people come and applaud.

...[White City] was the only place anywhere around here where a man could go to have a little fun off the post and there wasn't any place for officers. It was called White City because, I think, it was originally probably adobe and then they put stucco over it and then they white-washed it.

*...It was my understanding that the girls there were largely white girls when the white soldiers were here, but when the 10th Cavalry came, why the white girls left and the colored girls came in very promptly. I think they were probably on the next train behind us.*<sup>87</sup>



*The official title for this photo in the National Archives is “Two more Mexican beauties.” The photo was taken by a Signal Corps photographer during the Pershing Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916. National Archives Series, 94-UM-203860.*

During the Punitive Expedition, in the camp at Colonia Dublan, a special stockade surrounded with barbed wire was maintained for prostitutes from El Paso and elsewhere. A gate guard checked to see if soldiers entering had the proper fee and each man exiting had to take a prophylactic. The incidence of venereal disease was kept low in this way. On Thanksgiving the stockade’s women prepared a banquet and Capt. Julien Gaujot, the Provost Marshal and ad hoc commander of the facility, was the honored guest.<sup>88</sup>

## **The Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Huachuca: The Yaqui Fight in Bear Valley**

*Reported from Douglas, Arizona, January 10, 1918, that a detachment of American Cavalry sent into Bear Valley, 25 miles west of Nogales to observe trails, clashed with a band of Yaqui Indians, captured ten, one of whom died in a hospital at Nogales of wounds, according to a telegram from the commander at Nogales.*<sup>89</sup>

This terse report from the commander of the Southern Department at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to the War Department in Washington is the only official record of what some believe is the last fight between the U.S. Army and Indians.

The Yaqui Indians of northern Sonora, Mexico, had for many years been fighting the Mexican government, insisting on their independence. They would commonly cross the border and migrate to Tucson where they would find work in the citrus groves. With their wages they would buy arms with which to fight their revolution and smuggle them back into Mexico. The military governor of Sonora, General Plutarco Elias Calles, had informally asked the U.S. government to help put a stop to this gun-running.

The Indians route into the U.S. skirted the mining towns of Ruby, Arivaca and Oro Blanco, not far from the U.S. Army’s Camp Stephen D. Little at Nogales. The Indian presence had on several occasions alarmed miners and ranchers in the area who unexpectedly happened upon the Yaquis or found a cow or two butchered on the range. Accordingly, the Nogales subdistrict commander, Colonel J.C. Friers, 35th Infantry, ordered increased patrolling in this area.



*Yaqui Indian Camp at Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, in November 1915.*

Colonel Harold B. Wharfield was a lieutenant stationed at Fort Huachuca at about this time. He researched the events and interviewed participants. His story was published in his book *Tenth Cavalry and Border Fights*. Here is his account of the fight at Bear Valley.

The 10th Cavalry, with headquarters at Fort Huachuca, had a squadron-size Cavalry camp at Nogales located a half a mile or so up a draw from the 35th Infantry's Camp Stephen D. Little.

The Second Squadron, under command of Capt. Otto Wagner, maintained troop outposts to the east at Lochiel and Campini, and another troop to the west at a strategic natural crossing in the Bear Valley as well as detachments at Arivaca and Oro Blanco.

The Bear Valley camp at Atascosa Canyon was located alongside the log corral of the early-day Johnny Vogan homestead. Military information obtained by the Nogales subdistrict indicated that this area was the frequented route used by the Yaqui for their Mexican trail. It was an uninhabited region and a reputed area for people to travel in pairs for safety sake. Various tales—all vague and unconfirmed—were current among the people of Ruby and Arivaca of mysterious disappearances in border country.

After the New Year celebration in January 1918, Capt. Blondy Ryder and his Troop E of the 10th Cavalry drew the assignment to the general vicinity of Bear Valley for border patrol. The troop took the Oro Blanco trail along the border, sending the impediments around by Arivaca and thence southward past Ruby to the Johnny Vogan place. This location was about a mile from the border fence.





*“Blondy” Ryder*

The terrain was well suited for the patrol work. A high ridge east from the camp gave a wide view of the region. Here a stationary sentinel look-out was established with visual signal communications in view of a camp sentry. The additional daily patrols rode the trails looking for signs, as well as any wanderers, in the border land.

One day Phil Clarke, a cattleman and Ruby storekeeper, stopped by for a visit. He reported that a neighbor had seen fresh Yaqui signs in the mountains to the north where a winter-killed cow had been partly skinned and sandals cut out of the hide. The next morning on the ninth of January, 1918, Captain Ryder decided to strengthen the observer post by sending First Lt. William Scott along with the detail. They had orders to maintain a constant surveillance of the area with field glasses for any movement along the trails.

*About the middle of the afternoon Lieutenant Scott signaled “attention.” Upon acknowledgement from the camp sentry he gave the message “enemy in sight,” and pointed toward a low ridge west of camp a quarter of a mile or more distant. The sentry hollered to First Sgt. Samuel H. Alexander, who was sitting under a nearby mesquite with several other noncommissioned officers. The shout brought everyone to their feet. On the skyline of the ridge could be seen a long column of Indians crossing to the other side. The horses had been under saddle with loose cinches all day tied up in the corral; so within a few minutes the troop was mounted.*

When the soldiers left the corral the Yaquis were out of sight, but Lieutenant Scott kept pointing generally to the south in the direction of the border fence.

Galloping up to the crest the troop dropped over into a shallow brushy draw, dismounted, and tied the horses to each other in circles by squad. Leaving a guard, it formed a skirmish line and moved forward up the side of the canyon through the mesquite trees and brush. Nearing the top, nothing was seen of the Indians, so orders were given to return to the horses by a different route. Part way down the canyon the troopers came upon hastily abandoned packs. Sensing that the Yaqui were somewhere in that vicinity, the captain ordered an advance up the canyon in a southeasterly direction. Within only a short distance the hiding Indians were flushed and opened up a hot fire on the soldiers. Luckily the shooting was wild. The bullets could be heard whistling and cracking overhead. Captain Ryder shouted the command to commence firing and keep advancing under cover.

The fighting developed into an old kind of Indian engagement with both sides using all the natural cover of boulders and brush to full advantage. The Yaquis kept falling back, dodging from boulder to boulder and firing rapidly. They offered only a fleeting target, seemingly just a disappearing shadow. The officer saw one of them running for another cover, then stumble and thereby expose himself. A corporal alongside of the captain had a good chance for an open shot. At the report of the Springfield, a flash of fire enveloped the Indian's body for an instant, but he kept on to the rock.

*The Cavalry line maintained its forward movement, checked at times by the hostile fire, but constantly keeping contact with the Indians. Within thirty minutes or so the return shooting lessened. Then the troop concentrated heavy fire on a confined area containing a small group, which had developed into a rear guard for the others. The fire effect soon stopped most of the enemy action. Suddenly a Yaqui stood up waving his arms in surrender. Captain Ryder immediately blew long blasts on his whistle for the order to "cease fire," and after some scattered shooting the fight was over.*

*Then upon command the troopers moved forward cautiously and surrounded them. This was a bunch of ten Yaquis, who had slowed the Cavalry advance to enable most of their band to escape. It was a courageous stand by a brave group of Indians; and the Cavalrymen treated them with the respect due to fighting men. Especially astonishing was the discovery that one of the Yaquis was an eleven-year old boy. The youngster had fought bravely alongside his elders, firing a rifle that was almost as long as he was tall.*

Many years after his Indian fight I asked Captain Ryder, now a retired Army colonel, to give me his recollections of the engagement. In addition to the above factual material he wrote:

...Though time has perhaps dimmed some details, the fact that this was my first experience under fire—and it was a hot one even though they were poor marksmen—most of the action was indelibly imprinted on my mind.

After the Yaquis were captured we lined them up with their hands above their heads and searched them. One kept his hands around his middle. Fearing that he might have a knife to use on some trooper, I grabbed his hands and yanked them up. His stomach practically fell out. This was the man who had been hit by my corporal's shot. He was wearing two belts of ammunition around his waist and more over each shoulder. The bullet had hit one of the cartridges in his belt, causing it to be exploded, making the flash of fire I saw. Then the bullet entered one side and came out the other, laying his stomach open. He was the chief of the group. We patched him up with first aid kits, mounted him on a horse, and took him to camp. He was a tough Indian, made hardly a groan and hung onto the saddle. If there were more hit we could not find them. Indians do not leave any wounded behind if they can possibly carry them along.

*One of my men spoke a mixture of Spanish, and secured the information from a prisoner that about twenty others got away. I immediately sent Lieutenant Scott, who had joined the*

*fight, to take a strong detail and search the country for a few miles. However they did not find anything of the remainder of the band. It was dark when we returned to camp.*

I sent some soldiers to try and get an automobile or any transportation at the mining camps for the wounded Yaqui, but none could be located until morning. He was sent to the Army hospital at Nogales and died that day.

We collected all the packs and arms of the Indians. There were a dozen or more rifles, some .30-30 Winchester carbines and German Mausers, lots of ammunition, powder and lead, and bullet molds.



“Pink” Armstrong.

The next day when you and Capt. Pink Armstrong with Troop H came in from the squadron camp to relieve us, we pulled out for Nogales. The Yaquis were mounted on some extra animals, and not being horse-Indians were a sorry sight when we arrived in town. Some were actually stuck to the saddles from bloody chafing and raw blisters they had stoically endured during the trip. Those Yaquis

were just as good fighting men as any Apache....

Within a week or so we were ordered to Arivaca for station, and had to take our Indian prisoners along because the 35th Infantry colonel, who was also the subdistrict commander, did not want to be bothered with guarding them.

They proved to be good workers and kept the campsite immaculately clean. At the corral nary any droppings were allowed to hit the ground. During the day the Indians would stand around watching the horses. Whenever a tail was lifted, out they rushed with their scoop shovels and caught it before the manure could contaminate the ground. It certainly helped in the decline of the fly population.

*A few of the Yaquis spoke understandable Spanish, and some of the troopers talked a lot with them. We learned that the reason they fired upon us was they thought the Negro soldiers were Mexican troops that were on the American side of the border. Also, they were traveling in daylight because no United States troops were there three months before when they came into the country.*

*The Yaquis were so pleased with the routine soldier life, three square meals a day, a cot with a straw mattress, and G.I. blankets at night that they all volunteered to enlist in the Army. But the United States Department of Justice had other plans and took them to Tucson for legal action. That's the last I ever heard of them.<sup>90</sup>*



*Yaqui Indians at Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, in November 1915.*

The captured Indians were indicted and tried in the Federal District Court in Tucson. They were charged with “wrongfully, unlawfully, and feloniously exporting to Mexico certain arms and ammunition, to wit: 300 rifle cartridges and about 9 rifles without first procuring a export license issued by the War Trade Board of the United States.” Federal judge William H. Sawtelle dismissed the charges against the eleven-year-old boy, Antonio Flores, and accepted the plea of guilty from the other eight, sentencing them to 30 days in the Pima County jail. The sentence was preferable to the Yaquis who otherwise would be deported to Mexico and face possible execution as rebels.

## The Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Huachuca: The Battle of Ambos Nogales

At Huachuca in 1918, the men of the 10th Cavalry had time to reflect on the events in Europe and waited anxiously to learn if they were to get in on the fighting. But they were required on the border, a place at that time that was thought to be subject to attack from Mexicans instigated by German agents. The threat from south of the border appeared to be real and intelligence reports on German activities there were received in number. In his history of the 10th Cavalry, Edward Glass recalls the importance attached to these reports.

*About August 15, 1918, the Intelligence Division reported the presence of strange Mexicans, plentifully supplied with arms, ammunition, food and clothing, gathering in increasing numbers in and about Nogales, Sonora; also the presence of several strange white men, apparently Germans, at times engaged in addressing gatherings of Mexicans explaining military terms, movements and methods. At about this time an anonymous letter was received, written by a person who claimed to have been a major in Villa's forces who was sickened and disgusted at the atrocities committed by Villa and his men, and at the lack of pay or reward, and who claimed a feeling of friendly respect for American troops, warning them of the German influences at work near and in Nogales, advising of the financial activities of the German agents, and of a contemplated attack on Nogales about August 25, 1918. This letter rang so true that it became a subject of investigation by Lt. Col. Frederick J. Herman, 10th Cavalry, then acting subdistrict commander at Nogales, and Lieutenant Robert Scott Israel, Infantry Intelligence Officer at Nogales, and so many points of the letter were verified that it was given more than ordinary weight.<sup>91</sup>*

A shooting incident on 27 August 1918 led to a full-scale shootout when Lt. Col Frederick J. Herman, 10th Cavalry commander at Nogales, rushed reinforcements to the international line. Three troops of the 10th Cavalry and three companies of the 35th Infantry took up position along the American side and returned sniper fire of Mexican troops. It would be known as the "Battle of Ambos Nogales" (Both Nogales).





*“Ambos Nogales,” between 1918 and 1920. Photo courtesy Markel album.*

A complete account of the Battle of Ambos Nogales was prepared by Col. H. B. Wharfield in his book *Tenth Cavalry Border Fights*.

*Nogales, Sonora of 1918 was under control of a Mexican federal garrison. The local situation was complicated by agitation aroused through German agents and an accompanying rising dislike for us—the Gringos. On the American side the people were on the alert. Most of the householders had a Winchester or other weapon in a convenient location.*

*During the latter part of August 1918 the Thirty-fifth Infantry at Camp Stephen D. Little was completing its movement to an eastern staging area for overseas war duty. Only Companies G, F, and H remained, awaiting relief by the Twenty-fifth Infantry (Negro). The cavalry camp had Troop A (Tenth U.S. Cavalry) Captain Roy V. Morledge, Troop C under Captain Joseph D. Hungerford, and Troop F with Captain Henry C. Caron. Troop M of Captain John Lee and First Lieutenant Herbert W. Farrand were at Arivaca, and Lochiel was occupied by Troop B commanded by Captain Edgar R. Garlick with Lieutenant Shuman.*

*Manning the international guard station in Nogales were details from the Thirty-fifth Infantry. And patrolling east and west along the border were cavalry detachments. Lieutenant Colonel Frederick J. Herman, Tenth Cavalry, was with the cavalry troops and also acting Nogales subdistrict commander.*

*Military intelligence developed information that the Nogales situation was becoming critical. The Mexican garrison were digging some trenches in the hills overlooking the American side. Groups of mounted Mexicans, some in uniforms, were seen moving along the trails into town, and the Sonora border guards at the crossing gate had adapted a changed and officious attitude. Such an explosive condition seemingly only awaited an incident for ignition.*

*At 4:10 P.M. on August 27, 1918, a Mexican coming from the American side tried to walk through the guarded international gate without interrogation. When the U.S. Customs inspector [Arthur G. Barber] ordered “Halt!,” the man kept moving toward the other side.*

*Then the government official drew his revolver and went after the person. Private W. H. Klint of Company H, Thirty-fifth Infantry, followed for protection. A Mexican custom guard fired at the American official, missed him but killed Private Klint. Instantly Corporal William H. Tucker of Company H shot the Mexican officer. More Mexican guards came running and started shooting. The corporal opened fire with his Springfield and killed three more. The U.S. inspector gunned one down. A civilian at the gate [Mr. Frank Eames of the Nogales Theater] phoned to the Thirty-fifth guard detail at the West Coast Company warehouse about the emergency. Another [Mr. Otto Mayer] cranked up his truck and sped to the place, returning with Lieutenant Fanning [Fannin] and the soldiers. They arrived amidst a fusillade of lead from the Mexican side. That was the beginning of the Battle of Nogales.*

*Capt. Roy V. Morledge of Troop A, 10th Cavalry, was in Nogales when the shooting started. Recently he wrote me:*



*Captain Roy V. Morledge, 10th Cavalry. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. John H. Healy, U.S. Army retired.*

*I happened to be downtown near the depot when I heard some rifle shots, and then more. I saw them carrying a wounded soldier at the international street.*

*Motor transportation was scarce in those days, but I had a good horse. I sped over the hills a couple of miles to camp. On the way I passed Lieutenant Colonel Herman in a car. He had already gotten some news and told me to go on, get my troop out and notify Troop C and Troop F.*

*Colonel Herman soon arrived and led the troops for the town at the gallop. I was sent down Morely Avenue. The place was a double street along the railroad tracks. At the little park the troop was dismounted, and one trooper detailed to hold each group of eight horses. Those left behind pleaded with me to go along.*

*Dismounted, I told the men to follow me. Not far along before we got a lot of fire. There was so much it was hard to tell where it was coming from. Also it seemed as though everybody in Nogales was shooting from the windows toward the border.*

*Reaching the line in spite of the fire, we dashed into a big building on the Mexican side without resistance, but bullets from up on a hillside were hitting the place. We ran forward into another connecting building. It was the Concordia Club. In there were some frightened señoritas wearing kimonas. I got a laugh when one of them spoke to a trooper, saying, "Sergeant Jackson! Are we all glad to see you!" But we did not have time to tarry for the soldier to alibi his acquaintanceship.*

*Colonel Herman ordered us to the top of the hill. Up we went in waves of a squad at a time, firing at Mexicans off to one side. We took a position near some old buildings and a barricade. Down below were the Mexican depot and buildings. From there they were firing toward the American town, and some probably just hiding. They also started replying to our action.*

*I hope we only hit those who were shooting. But there were a lot of bodies lying around. All of a sudden some one saw a long pole with a sheet tied on being waved from the top of the Mexican customs house down below.*

*I ordered the men to cease fire. It was then 7:45 P.M., and getting dark. Where the time passed I do not know. We had five men wounded, and the others wanted to clean out the town. However First Sergeant LaMar and I quickly controlled our skirmish line of troopers.*

*Finally orders came to move back across the border and bivouac in the park near the depot. There I saw Captain Caron with a bandaged wrist. Also the news came that Captain Hungerford of Troop C and Lieutenant L. W. Loftus of Company G, Thirty-fifth Infantry, had been killed as well as several soldiers.<sup>92</sup>*

*Capt. Henry C. Caron and Troop F, upon arriving downtown, crossed over to Terrace Avenue on the right of Troop A. Lieutenant Colonel Herman assigned the troop to move forward and occupy Titcomb Hill. Years afterwards Captain Caron wrote:*

*We left our horses at a lumber yard in the vicinity of the Bowman Hotel, and proceeded on foot up Terrace Avenue to our positions as designated. The Mexicans were on the flat house tops and the hills giving us a heavy fire, and we returned it.*

*I was behind a telephone pole with First Sergeant Thomas Jordan and got hit in the right arm below the elbow. Sergeant Jordan picked me up and carried me back out of the range of the fire. He then took command of the troop until I returned from the doctor's office. I had no lieutenants with me at the time.*

*[First Sergeant Thomas Jordan was given a commendation by Lieutenant Colonel Herman for*

taking command of Troop F during the absence of his commander.]



*First Sergeant Thomas Jordan, F Troop, 10th Cavalry. At the time this picture was taken at the Nogales pistol range in April 1919, Jordan had over 20 years with the troop. Photo courtesy Col. H.B. Wharfield, U.S. Army Ret., who in 1918 was a first lieutenant with the 10th Cavalry.*

*Captain Joseph D. Hungerford and Troop C were assigned the left sector and moved forward toward the Reservoir Hill for control of the heights overlooking the town. The troop advanced to the position, then crossed the border, clearing the Mexicans out of their entrenchments on the heights. During this forward dash Captain Hungerford was shot through the heart and instantly killed. First Sergeant James T. Penny then took command of Troop C. Subsequently he received a special commendation for his initiative and the handling of the troopers.*

*Meanwhile Major Herbert E. Marshburn, Thirty-fifth Infantry, arrived in town from Camp Little with contingents of Companies F, G, and H coming along in quartermaster trucks. Company H was held in reserve and moved to the railroad depot near the border.*

*Company G was assigned to support Troop F, Tenth Cavalry, moving on Titcomb Hill. Near the line the doughboys became heavily engaged. A bullet killed Lieutenant L. W.*

*Loftus, and Corporal Barney Lots was also fatally shot. Along a street Corporal A. L. Whitworth was hit in the groin and dropped in front of a house. Mrs. Emma Budge and Mrs. Jones, braving the fire, ran out and assisted the wounded man to shelter.*

*Upon arrival of Company F, Thirty-fifth Infantry, it got action in the support of Troop C on the Reservoir Hill sector. A private was hit and fell across the street from the home of "Colonel" A. T. Bird. June Reed, a niece of the Birds, and Miss O'Daley ran out the back and called to the man. He crawled across the street and was helped into the house. We young cavalry officers were very proud of June for the brave deed. She had favored our acquaintance and company over that of the infantry at the hops and Sunday horseback rides. After her display of courage she increased in favor as our special girl friend.*

*During the earlier part of the engagement another of our cavalry girls became involved. Pat Shannon, who lived in a hotel fronting Morley Avenue and near the line, had her share of excitement. Two armed citizens used the upstairs window of her room for a firing station. Pat stood close by them, handing out ammunition as the guns were emptied. She was the daughter of a Chicago physician and employed as pianist by the Nogales Theatre moving picture house. Some weeks after the affray Pat and Lieutenant "Dee" de Lorimer, Tenth Cavalry, were married.*

*In addition to the citizenry, who shared the gun fight, there were some unattached officers and soldiers engaged.*

*The sergeant of Ordnance Depot No. 2 near the cavalry camp told me that during the fight overturn and while loading a truck with ammunition a colored trooper came galloping up, dressed only in a hospital gown and riding bareback with a halter shank to guide his mount. The "sick" soldier begged for a rifle and shells so as to join his troop. Army regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, the old sergeant picked out a rifle, had the trooper sign a receipt, and gave him a couple of bandoliers of ammunition. Off he went at an extended gallop, the loose hospital gown floating out like a sail, and his bare legs thumping the ribs of the horse in an urge for more speed.*

*The records show that Quartermaster Sergeant Victor Arana, with the Thirty-fifth Infantry, was wounded. It is probable that the sergeant abandoned his truck detail and chose to get on the firing line for the battle.*

*[Another Quartermaster soldier, Pvt. First Class James Flavian Lavery, earned a Distinguished Service Cross at the Battle of Nogales for "braving the heaviest fire, repeatedly entering the zone of fire with his motor truck and carrying wounded men to places of safety, thereby saving the lives of several soldiers."]*

*Lieutenant William Scott, Tenth Cavalry, was riding a motorcycle into town on business from Fort Huachuca. Nearing the cavalry camp he heard the firing. Speeding up he took a familiar back track for the high ground above the Sonora town. Arriving close to the place, the cycle was hidden, and he crept to the brow of the hill overlooking the scene of conflict. Besides his .45 pistol Scotty was armed with a new Winchester, which he had "souvenired" some months before at the Yaqui fight in Bear Valley. From his solitary station he spent the time picking off snipers from the rooftops below. Whenever there was a scarcity of targets, he kept in practice by potting chickens that were running in and out of the adobe shacks. Scotty was a former sergeant out of the Texas Big Bend border service. He had been on the Punitive*

*Expedition into Mexico with the Sixth Cavalry.*

Captain James T. Duke, Tenth Cavalry (now a retired brigadier general), was in Nogales on business and volunteered his services. After the death of Captain Hungerford, he was detailed to command Troop C. Major H. B. Cheadie, Infantry, on leave in town, also was assigned duties. Lieutenant James B. Potter, Tenth Cavalry, Adjutant of the Nogales subdistrict, served on the line. Lieutenant S. M. Lockwood of Troop A had duty as an aide for Lieutenant Colonel Herman during the affray. His liaison duties were doubled after the commander suffered a slight but hampering leg wound.

When the white flag was displayed, Colonel Herman had buglers sound "Cease Fire." A messenger from the Mexican consul in his office on the American side gave the information that the Mexican commandante and officials wanted a conference in the American consulate building located on the Sonora side. Sniping continued from various locations, but disregarding the danger, the commanding officer with Lieutenant Robert S. Israel of the Intelligence section proceeded to the appointed place. A truce was quickly arranged. The next day Brigadier General DeRosey C. Cabell, the Arizona District commander, arrived from Douglas. After a meeting with the Mexican official party regarding the situation, the hostilities were resolved.

*That ended another Battle of Nogales.<sup>93</sup>*

In fairness to the guard detail from the 35th Infantry, the remarks of then Lt. Oliver Fannin about a book called *Blood on the Border* by Clarence Clendenen are included here. Fannin was concerned that the book, and the accounts like that of Wharfield's upon which the book was based, give the impression that the Battle of Nogales was fought solely by the 10th Cavalry. He tried to correct that misleading idea in a letter that he wrote to his son in 1972.

*...A small band of enlisted men out of H Company of the 35th Infantry who were doing guard duty along the international border when the trouble started. These men were the real heroes. There were not more than 15 or 20 of them. They were there when the fighting started and they were there when it ended, less those who were killed or wounded.*

*...The meeting of Herman and the American consul and the Mexican officials occurred in broad day light, out in the open, just across the international boundary line in Mexico. I know, because I was there, Herman having asked me to go with him. [Lieutenant Fannin was detailed as Colonel Herman's aide.] I remember distinctly that while this conference was going on a sniper's bullet cut off a small limb of a tree that fell pretty close to me and I felt like diving into a big ditch that close to us. At this conference the American consul asked Herman what he wanted said to the Mexicans, and Colonel Herman replied, "Tell them to gather all of their forces and surrender them to me within thirty minutes." The American consul demurred, stating that the Mexican authorities could not gather together all of the people who were doing the shooting. The only shooting that was then occurring was some sniping, and it was agreed that both side would attempt to stop their forces from any further sniping.*

*The book [Clendenin's Blood on the Border] further states that Herman had received information several days before the episode that there was likely to be trouble, and that although he was skeptical of this information, he had succeeded in obtaining reinforcements, including some machine guns. There were only two or three skeleton companies of the 35th Infantry there at the time, and I know of no reinforcements to these companies. I was officer of the day at the time that this happened, and it seems to me that if Herman had received any*



*such information he certainly should have passed it on to me and the others who were doing the guard duty along the international boundary line at the time.*<sup>94</sup>

Fannin would win the Distinguished Service Cross “For valor and bravery...while under fire, carried a wounded man to safety in the Nogales battle.” He was also the recipient of the following testimonial prepared by thirty-three of the leading citizens of Nogales.

*The undersigned citizens of Nogales, Arizona, take this method of giving expression to our appreciation of the gallantry and bravery of Lieut. Oliver Fannin, of the Thirty-fifth Regiment of Infantry, U.S.A., and the men on guard duty at the International Boundary, at Nogales, Arizona, on Tuesday, August 27, 1918, upon which momentous occasion Lieut. Fannin was officer of the guard.*

*At the very beginning of the hostile demonstration, Lieut. Fannin hurried to the boundary the reserve of the guard, and taking position he stood off the attack until the garrison could be brought to the line and take up the work. The losses of his men, which were a large percentage of all the loss, show the bravery and gallantry of the little force commanded by the heroic officer. Through all the fight, with his men firing from prone position, Lieut. Fannin stood erect, encouraging his men, directing their fire, and contributing to the effectiveness of their work. Their loss of two killed and four wounded presents the perilous position then occupied and held.*

*In presenting this testimonial we do so without solicitation, to present our appreciation and admiration of a gallant officer and brave men.*<sup>95</sup>



*Four unidentified members of the 35th Infantry Regiment at Nogales, Arizona in 1917. Photo courtesy John A. Carr, a veteran of the Machine Gun Company, 35th Infantry, at Nogales.*



*Machine Gun Co, 35th Infantry, Nogales, AZ, 1917. Photo courtesy John Carr.*



*The Machine Gun Company, 35th Infantry, marching from Douglas to Nogales, March 1917.*

Capt. Joseph D. Hungerford, Troop F, 10th Cavalry, was killed while leading his men in a frontal assault on Mexican troops. Lieutenant Loftus of Company C, 35th Infantry, was killed by sniper fire as he brought his men into position. Other American casualties were three enlisted men killed, including Private W. H. Klint and Corporal Barney Lots, both of Company H, 35th Infantry, and several civilians. Two officers, Lt. Col. F. J. Herman and Capt. H. C. Caron, both of the 10th Cavalry, and twenty-nine men were wounded. Mexican casualties are not known, but found among the Mexican dead were the bodies of two German *agents provocateur*.

## Military Intelligence in the American Southwest: The Zimmerman Telegram

American neutrality at the outset of World War I was shattered when a coded message from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmerman to the Mexican government was intercepted by the Americans and deciphered by British Intelligence. The Zimmerman telegram proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico in the event of war with the United States. If the alliance proved victorious, Mexico would regain Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. As a result, border outposts at Douglas, Naco and Nogales were strengthened.

### World War I at Huachuca

A submarine attack on the British liner *Lusitania* cost 128 American lives and swayed public opinion in the U.S. toward joining the Allies in defeating the Germans. More American ships were lost to German U-boats. On April 6, 1917, Congress declared war on Germany.

The declaration came “like a thunderclap” to the commander at Fort Huachuca, Lt. Col. George B. Rodney, 10th Cavalry.

*“In spite of high regimental blood pressure, for every man knew that our entry into the World War was merely a matter of time, we had to again take up the endless routine duties—border patrolling to keep arms from filtering into Mexico, for we knew, as everyone else along the border knew, that German agents were encouraging Mexico to declare war the moment the United States should enter the war against Germany. ...New officers came, and for a time even captains were in command of the regiment. Then like a thunderclap that everyone had foreseen but whose force none could guess, came—the War.”<sup>96</sup>*



*Officers of the 10th Cavalry in 1917. Front row, left to right: Lt. Col. George B. Rodney, Com-*

*manding Officer, 10th Cavalry, 1917-18; Von Kessler (Medical); Heard; Maj. William Luke Luhn; Bingham; Caldwell; Bell (Medical). Rear row, left to right: 2d Lt. Leo L. Gocker; Massey; Tighe; Capt. Renshaw (Medical); Capt. Atwell, Dayhuff; Forsyth; Strawn. Photo courtesy Col. Leo L. Gocker, US Army Ret.*

For NCO Vance Marchbanks, the U.S. entry into the war was to change his life. He said:

*When war was declared against the Imperial German Gov. in 1917, neither of the four Colored Regiments went to war as a unit. They stayed at home and sent their products. Out of my own regiment, (the 10th Cavalry) more than 60 men were commissioned and 50 percent of the regiment was transferred to make up the great framework upon which the National Army was constructed.*

\* \* \*

*The greatest change in my entire life came in 1917. In fact it was the big moment in the lives of thousands of men and women. War had been going on in Europe for more than three years. As a soldier I had not paid a great deal of attention to it.*

*We had troubles of our own at home. I had carried a pistol and wore a belt so long and so constantly I had callouses on my hips, and any thing for a change would be welcome, even real war.*

\* \* \*

*My regiment came out of Mexico in February 1917 and was again dispatched along the border. My troop was stationed at Lochiel, Arizona, when war was declared. I was among the first contingents from my regiment sent to an officer's training camp. An officer's school was started immediately at Fort Huachuca...by Lt. Col. Charles Young. This school was carried on about six weeks and then we were ordered to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, where we went through four months and fifteen days training before receiving our commissions.*

*At Fort Des Moines I received my commission as a Captain of Infantry along with about 1,200 others, comprising 200 Captains, 400 1st Lieutenants, and 600 2nd Lieutenants, roughly estimating. These officers were dispatched to three Infantry Regiments, 366th, 367th, 368th, and two Light Artillery Regiments, the 351st and 352nd, one Engineer Regiment, the 317th, one Signal Corps Battalion, 317th, and other troops which go to make up a complete division. Some criticism was hurled at this Division which was no doubt more or less through prejudice. Mistakes were made and a few individuals failed, but in my opinion the 92nd Division under Colored Officers did as well as it was humanly possible to do under the circumstances, taking into consideration the limited experience they had in handling men under such conditions as existed during the war and the limited time they had in preparing for this great ordeal. We landed in Brest, France, June 27, 1918. My regiment, the 368th Infantry, had been in training at Camp Meade, Md.*

*We first went into the front lines August 27, 1918, just two months after we had landed, in the Vosges Mountains. My regiment took an active part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, Metz Drive, and was in the front lines facing Metz when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.<sup>97</sup>*

General John J. Pershing was given command of the American Expeditionary Forces which were welcomed enthusiastically in France by hard-pressed British and French troops. The AEF grew in strength to 43 divisions by war's end in 1918. The gallantry of the American fighting man in France was proven time and again. Four infantry regiments manned by black soldiers, the 369th, 370th, 371st and 372d, served on the line with the French army and were awarded the French Croix de Guerre. These

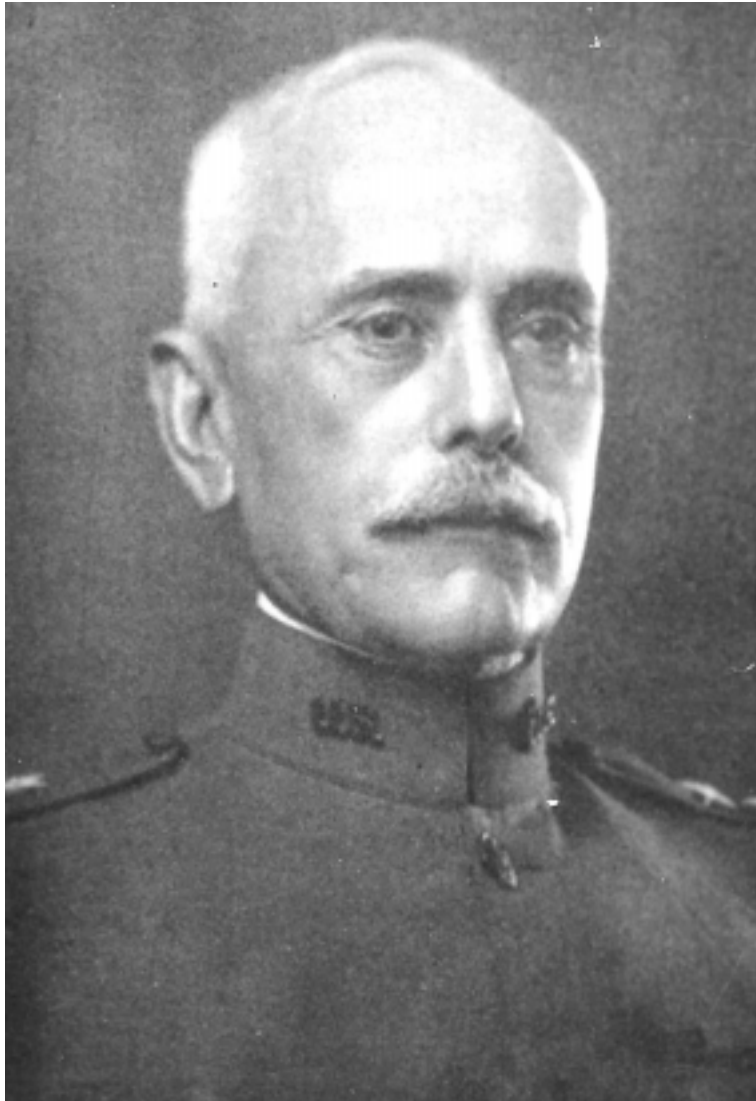
regiments would later become part of the 92d and 93d Divisions formed at Fort Huachuca.



*10th Cavalry staff around 1918. Photo courtesy Maj. Gen. David S. Parker.*

The mission of Fort Huachuca during World War I was border duty. The threat from German and Mexican saboteurs and subversives appeared to be a genuine danger. A German-instigated clash between American and Mexican troops in the border town of Nogales in 1918 resulted in the death of five U.S. soldiers.

On November 11, 1918 the Armistice was signed ending the First World War and the black soldiers in Arizona, both the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry, grieved the fact that they, as regular Army units, did not get the chance to contribute in the Great War that would end all wars.



*Maj. Gen. DeRosey C. Cabell, who as a colonel commanded Fort Huachuca and the 10th Cavalry in 1918.*

## **Military Intelligence in the American Southwest: German Spy in Nogales**

On 18 January 1918 in the Central Hotel in Nogales, Mexico, Lothar Witzke, also known as Pablo Waberski, was taken into custody as a suspected German spy and saboteur. Upon his person was an encoded letter from the German consul in Mexico City charging him with undercover operations



in the United States. It was this message, decrypted in Washington by MI-8, the code and ciphers section of the Military Intelligence Division, that led to his conviction for spying. The damning message read: "The bearer of this is a subject of the Empire who travels as a Russian under the name of Pablo Waberski. He is a German secret agent. Please furnish him on request protection and assistance; also advance him on demand up to 1,000 pesos of Mexican gold and send his code telegrams to this embassy as official consular dispatches." His death sentence, the only one to be handed down during World War I, was later commuted by the President to life. Witzke was released in 1923.

## Voices from the Canyon: Army Paperwork

*"At that time I happened to be in command of the regiment and I had my hands full. Recruits coming in every day, old noncommissioned officers being taken away to be commissioned as officers in new colored regiments, green horses to be broken and trained, clothing and equipment to be obtained and every day unforeseen problems arose that required instant solution and the day had only twenty-four hours. On top of it all a most pernicious activity on the part of people not at all concerned. Telegrams on every subject under Heaven came hourly. The Quartermaster General demanded immediate information as to "the amount of gross tonnage of shipping that has passed through your port." And we were only a thousand miles from a sea coast. Another, a two-page telegram told us that the allowance of cosmoline for greasing coast defense mortars had been increased a half-ounce. A third, a pressing one, told us that cows kept for hospital purposes could be fed on Government forage. Another requested information as to the whereabouts of a veterinarian who had been lost in transit to Honolulu where he had been ordered to join a motorized artillery that did not have a horse or mule in the command." —Lt. Col. George B. Rodney, Fort Huachuca Commander, 1917-8.<sup>98</sup>*



*An unknown officer and civilian pilot in 1919. From the Markel Collection.*



## Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Cadre from Huachuca in World War I

During the Great War some 404,348 blacks served, among them 1,353 officers and 14 Army nurses. The four regular Army regiments, like the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca, stayed at home along the Mexican border. The best-remembered units fighting in France were the two infantry divisions, the 92d and the 93d. But there were also blacks doing hard work in stevedore, quartermaster, and pioneer infantry units as well. The French Croix de Guerre was awarded to three 93d Division regiments and to a company of the fourth regiment. The 1st Battalion of the 367th Regiment, 92d Division, also received the French government's award for valor.<sup>99</sup>

In World War I, the 93d Division had 584 killed from a total of more than 3,000 casualties, a casualty rate of 35 percent. The 92d lost 176 killed in action and had a total of 2,000 casualties.<sup>100</sup>

The press, both black and white, had been unstinting in its praise of the service of black troops in France. Writing about the 371st Infantry Regiment, part of the 93d Division operating with the French, the United Press reported:

American Negro troops proved their value as fighters in the line east of Verdun on June 12.... The Germans attempted a raid in that sector but were completely repulsed by the Negroes. The Boches began a terrific bombardment at one minute after midnight (throwing between 3,000 and 4,000 shells from guns ranging in size from 67 to 340 millimeters). The bombardment was concentrated on small areas. Many of the shells made holes from ten to fifteen feet across.

*In the midst of the inferno the Negroes coolly stuck to their posts, operating machine guns and automatic rifles and keeping up such a steady barrage that the German infantry failed to penetrate the American lines. The Americans miraculously sustained only two wounded.*<sup>101</sup>

The lead article for the *Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegram* was the assessment of Gen. U. S. Grant following the Civil War:

*"The colored troops fought nobly." That was more than half a century ago. They "fought nobly" in the Plains, in the islands of the Pacific and the Atlantic, wherever they have been called upon to fight.... And now in France they are living up to the reputation they have won on other, far distant fields.*<sup>102</sup>

The *Literary Digest* added its prestige to the list of journals recognizing the contributions of the black fighting troops.

Exceptional tho the award of the coveted French War Cross may be, the deeds of valor by which this Negro regiment [the 369th] won it are less exceptional than typical of the way in which all our colored troops measured up to the demands of war. This is the verdict of newspaper correspondents and of soldiers invalided home from the Western Front. Survivors of the fighting now arriving in New York have "nothing but praise for the colored troops," writes a reporter in the *New York Evening Sun*. "They proved their valor on countless occasions, and it was one of the common stories that Jerry feared the 'Smoked Yankees' more than any other troops he met."



*New York's own 369th marched in mass formation down Fifth Avenue upon their return from Europe. The New York Times reported on February 18, 1919: "New York's Negro soldiers, bringing with them from France one of the bravest records achieved by any organization in the war, marched amid waving flags...." National Archives photo.*



1910.15.00.063 Jazz band leader Lt. James Reese returns home from Europe with his regiment, the 369th Infantry (15th NY), here shown on ship deck on February 12, 1919. Ulysses Lee wrote: “Even the regimental band, ‘the band that introduced jazz to France,’ came in for high praise.” According to *The Independent* and *Harper’s Weekly* of March 1, 1919, “It was considered one of the four best in the world, ranking with the British Grenadiers, the Garde Republicaine, and the Royal Italian bands.”<sup>103</sup> National Archives photo.

But all were not unanimous in their praise of black soldiers. These segregated minority units had been, and always would be until segregation was ended in the Army, under close scrutiny by both the black and white communities. They would be the victims of rumor, innuendo, and generalizations. Despite evidence of unquestioned heroism, their courage under fire would always be attacked. And serious charges would always be levelled about their performance.

Two black junior officers, William M. Colson and A. B. Nutt, joined in the condemnation of the 92d Division as a failure. But they laid the causes at the feet of the white military hierarchy whom they accused of discrimination and mistreatment. Their criticisms were printed in the September 1919 edition of *The Messenger*, in which they maintained: “The Ninety-Second Division was a tragic failure. It was a failure in organization. It was a failure in morale. It was a failure in accomplishment.... The Negro division was the object of special victimization, superimposed upon its sacrifice.”

To support their thesis, the authors pointed to the fact that the men assigned to the division were “the most ignorant and physically disqualified Negroes in the United States.” The division was fragmented, units trained at separate locations, and, once in France, committed piecemeal to varying sectors, never coming together as a division until near the end of the war. Commissions to Negro officers were handed out unfairly, based on favoritism rather than merit. Historian Ulysses Lee summa-

rized the indictment:

*...it was charged that the men were kept out of schools; leaves were prohibited; rather than training, the men spent their time at police duties; staff officers were changed constantly; white officers were transferred into the division and out again as soon as they had obtained desired promotions; Negro officers were "terrorized" by wholesale arrests and transfers; officers, untrained in the duties of those arms, were assigned to artillery and the engineers, then blamed for having failed; the division went into its sectors without the proper equipment and into the short Argonne engagement without proper briefing, artillery support, rifle grenades, wire cutters, or horses. The enthusiasm of the whole division was dampened by restrictions placed upon the contacts of the men with French civilians. "The sole charge of the division staff was to make the life of the Negro soldier unendurable." The old Regular Army enlisted men, now officers, assisted in breaking the morale of the division in an effort to "curry favor." There were a few officers whom the men respected; as for the rest, "the division had no trust in them."*<sup>104</sup>

Colson and Nutt claimed that the division, while an organizational failure, could not be said to have failed in combat since it "never had its mettle tried." For the overall failure of the 92d, they called for the court-martial of Maj. Gen. Charles C. Ballou, the unit's commander.



*Officers from the 370th Infantry (8th Illinois), 93d Division, returning from France in 1918. Left to right: Major J.R. White, Lt. Col. Otis B. Duncan, and Lt. W. J. Warfield. All received the French Croix de Guerre. Lt. Warfield received the American Distinguished Service Cross and also wears an expert rifle badge.*

But General Ballou could not be blamed for all of these failures; many were the result of Army policy. Ballou himself was well aware of the handicaps under which the division was laboring. After the war he wrote:

The Secretary of War gave his personal attention to the selection of the white officers of the higher grades, and evidently intended to give the Division the advantage of good white officers. This policy was not continued by the War Department...the 92d...was made the dumping ground for discards, both white and black. Some of the latter were officers who had been eliminated as inefficient, from the so-called 93d Division....

In the last battle of the war the Division did some very aggressive work, so far as the companies were concerned, and the same could have been done in the Argonne had there not been too much eagerness to get the Negroes out while their credit was bad, as many preferred it should remain.

*The colonel of one regiment came to me, at the request of his officers, to beg me to send them to the front, and pledging me to a man that they would go to the rear only on my order, or on a stretcher. Those men would have been dangerous at that time, and ought not to have been humiliated by being sent to the rear.*

\* \* \*

*To officer a Division in which the best possible leadership was required, only one-half as many students were summoned to the training camp as were summoned from which to select the officers of a white Division. [College degrees were required for admission to the white camp but] only high school educations were required for...the colored...and in many cases these high school educations would have been a disgrace to any grammar school.*

*For the parts of a machine requiring the finest steel, pot metal was provided.*

Remarks like General Ballou's were part of the testimony collected from white officers from the 92d and some officers from separate regiments in the 93d by the Army War College following the war. The preponderance of white regimental commanders and divisional staff officers felt the performance by Negroes in combat had been a failure and that "the Negro should not be used as a combat soldier." A sampling of their opinions follows:

*"...a period of training at least twice as long as is necessary in the training of white troops—otherwise they should be used as pioneer or labor troops."*

*"As fighting troops, the Negro must be rated as second class material, this due primarily to his inferior intelligence and lack of mental and moral qualities."*

*"The Negro as an officer is a failure, and this applies to all classes of Negro officers, whether from the Regular Army or from the Officers' Training Camp."*

There were a few dissenting views. The commander of the 370th Infantry, Col. Thomas A. Roberts, was one of the few white officers who led a unit with all black officers with the exception of himself. He wrote: "I found the men of the 370th Infantry generally amenable to discipline, exceedingly uncomplaining under hardship, and the majority willing and ready to follow an officer anywhere at any time.... Of course there was a large amount of illiteracy, which complicated the non-commissioned officers' problem." He credited the regiment's success to "the influence of a few good men, [officers who] were loyal, hardworking, and reliable men...." But he thought that most of the black officers displayed a "lack of sense of responsibility and of initiative." This he attributed to segregation in training.

*...men of the two races should be compared, and if the Negro suffers from the comparison, he should not be commissioned. As I understand the question, what the progressive Negro desires today is the removal of discrimination against him; that this can be accomplished in a military sense I believe to be largely possible, but not if the men of the two races are segregated.*

*In saying the foregoing, I appreciate the tremendous force of the prejudice against association between Negroes and whites, but my experience has made me believe that the better element among the Negroes desires the removal of the restriction rather than the association itself.*

Another white commander concluded that black units should be retained but in smaller formations.

*Personally, I think it is a waste of time to consider whether we shall have colored troops and colored officers. It is quite possible that in the future as in the past circumstances will*

*compel us to have both.*

*I think our past policy of massing them by themselves has not been wise. I believe under conditions as they are this policy should be modified by doing away with the colored regiments and putting a colored unit in every regiment, said unit not to be smaller than a company and not larger than a battalion. I believe in having colored officers for these colored units to the extent that suitable colored personnel are available under the conditions qualifying for the position of an Army officer.*

But the majority opinion of those surveyed by the Army War College was damaging to the reputation of the black soldier, and although conditioned by the prevailing prejudice of the time, Army policy would be influenced by studies of this type and be hesitant to field black combat units in the next war.

Efforts by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), specifically by W. E. B. DuBois who was then the editor of *The Crisis*, the journal of the NAACP, to counterbalance this impression went largely unnoticed outside of the black community. *The Crisis* printed in May 1919 an issue that included documentary evidence of discrimination in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF). This issue was banned from the mails by the Post Office Department. The magazine collected testimonials from American and French officers citing the “efficiency and good conduct of Negro troops.” According to Lee, the evidence would reveal:

*(1) Negro soldiers and officers performed well when given a chance to do so; (2) if they did not perform well it was because of faulty white leaders too preoccupied with their own prejudices to perform their military jobs well; and (3) Negro soldiers and officers, especially in the latter, performed jobs better than they were credited with doing. Credit had to be withheld, for otherwise there could be no justification for denying full rights and privileges as citizens to Negroes who had won their position as Americans and as capable leaders on the field of battle.<sup>105</sup>*

The controversy was rekindled in 1925 with the publication of the memoirs of Maj. Gen. Robert L. Bullard, commander of the American 2d Army. In his diary kept during the war he penned:

*Poor Negroes! They are hopelessly inferior. I've been talking with them individually about their division's [lack of] success. That [lack of] success is not troubling them. With everyone feeling and saying that they are worthless as soldiers, they are going on quite unconcernedly.*

\* \* \*

*The poor 92d Negroes wasted time and dawdled where they did attack, and at some places where they should have attacked, never budged at all.*

\* \* \*

*If you need combat soldiers, and especially if you need them in a hurry, don't put your time upon Negroes. The task of making soldiers of them and fighting with them, if there are any white people near, will be swamped in the race question. If racial uplift or racial equality is your purpose, that is another matter.*

DuBois fired back, blaming people like Bullard in the Army leadership for the defamation suffered by black veterans. “Nothing would have been more fatal to their plans than a successful Negro regiment officered by Negroes.... The Negro-haters entrenched in the Army at Washington began, therefore, a concerted campaign [of slander]. Bullard voices the re-vamped lie which was plotted in 1918.”<sup>106</sup>

The 367th Infantry had fought creditably at the Battle of Metz on November 10, 1918. Its



commander was a white Louisianan who had served eighteen of his twenty-one years in the Army with black troops. Col. James Moss had this to say about his men:

*If properly trained and instructed, the colored man makes as good a soldier as the world has ever seen. This history of the Negro in all our wars, including the Indian Campaigns, shows this. He is by nature of a happy disposition; he is responsive and tractable; he is amenable to discipline, he takes pride in his uniform; he has faith and confidence in his leader, he possesses physical courage—all of which are valuable military assets.*

*Make the colored man feel you have faith in him. Be strict with him but treat him fairly and justly making him realize that in your dealings with him he will always be given a square deal. Commend him when he does well and punish him when he is refractory—that is to say, let him know he will always know that he will get what is coming to him be it reward or punishment.*

*In other words, treat and handle the colored man as you would any other human being out of whom you would make a soldier, and you will have as good a soldier as history has ever known.<sup>107</sup>*



*Four officers of the 366th Infantry returning on the Aquitania from action in France. Left to right: Lt. C. L. Abbot, S.D.; Capt. Joseph L. Lowe, Pacific Grove, Calif., Lt. A. R. Fisher, Lyles, Ind., winner of Distinguished Service Cross; and Capt. E. White, Pine Bluff, Ark.*

That conclusion was borne out by the performance of African-American soldiers in every war the United States had or would fight, despite repeated attempts to keep alive the old myth of racial inferiority.

## Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Post World War I Racial Awareness

After the War the Regulars at Fort Huachuca, from their distant isolation, watched the press as the returning black veterans were cheered on the streets of New York and Chicago in 1919. Hopes were high in black communities for acceptance into the mainstream of American society. If Negroes could fight and die for their country, they thought, they could surely partake in a greater share of the American principles of equality and democracy. W. E. B. DuBois wrote in the September 1918 issue of *The Crisis* that black participation in the victory over Germany would hasten the victory at home for equal rights.

*The Crisis* says, first your Country, then your Rights!

*...Certain honest thinkers among us hesitate at that last sentence. They say it is all well to be idealistic, but is it not true that while we have fought our country's battles for one hundred fifty years, we have not gained our rights? No, we have gained them rapidly and effectively by our loyalty in time of trial.*

*Five thousand Negroes fought in the Revolution; the result was the emancipation of slaves in the North and abolition of the African slave trade. At least three thousand Negro soldiers and sailors fought in the War of 1812; the result was the enfranchisement of the Negro in many Northern states and the beginning of a strong movement for general emancipation. Two hundred thousand Negroes enlisted in the Civil War, and the result was the emancipation of four million slaves, and the enfranchisement of the black man. Some ten thousand Negroes fought in the Spanish-American War, and in the twenty years ensuing since that war, despite many setbacks we have doubled or quadrupled our accumulated wealth.*<sup>108</sup>

Many of the African-American soldiers who fought in the war were cynical about the goals they were fighting for. A refrain sung by the recruits went: "'Joinin' the Army to get free clothes; what we're fightin' 'bout nobody knows.'"<sup>109</sup>

A black lieutenant on the front told a New York *Times* correspondent why he thought he was there:

*One of my men came to me several days ago...and asked me why I had joined the Army. He reminded me that I was above the draft age and he wanted me to tell him what I was fighting for. I told him I was fighting for what the flag meant to the Negroes in the United States. I told him I was fighting because I wanted other oppressed people to know the meaning of democracy and enjoy it. I told him that millions of Americans fought for four years for us Negroes to get it and now it was only right that we should fight for all we were worth to help other people get the same thing....*

*I told him that now is our opportunity to prove what we can do. If we can't fight and die in this war just as bravely as the white men, then we don't deserve equality with white men, and after the war we better go back home and forget about it all....*<sup>110</sup>

Their hopes would be dashed. The twenties were marred by race riots and lynchings, discrimination and segregation. But a new black social consciousness was being nurtured, one that would take forty more years to come into bloom. Men like Marcus Garvey with his "Back to Africa" movement and Father Divine, who was calling for black pride, provided rallying points. The widespread military experience had given confidence. Blacks were fighting back in greater numbers.

The black military experience provided a rallying point and wellspring of pride for black com-

munities. Ulysses Lee wrote:

*Concern with the pressing problems of the postwar period did not cause the Negro public wholly to lose sight of its relations with the armed forces. The Army and military life had long occupied a position of relatively greater concern and importance to the Negro public than to Americans in general. Soldiering had been an honored career for the few Negroes who were able to enter upon it. In the restricted range of economic opportunities open to them, the military life ranked high.... It was one of the few national endeavors in which Negroes had had a relatively secure position and which, at least in time of war, could lead to national recognition of their worth as citizens and their potential as partners in a common undertaking.*<sup>111</sup>

The men at Fort Huachuca between World Wars, like First Sergeant Vance Marchbanks, could point to a growing record of valorous service to the nation and ponder why full citizenship was so vehemently denied. Marchbanks delivered a speech in 1927 to a convention of Sunday School teachers at McNary, Arizona, and eloquently called for equal rights for persons of all views and colors.

*While the primary object of the soldier is to prepare for war, he realizes very seriously that the new patriotism has other duties than those of armed conflict; duties less splendid, but no less brave, requiring a bravery of a greater order. ...We will never be able to get what we want in this country until we are willing to organize and stand together as one man on things essential to the welfare of our people as a whole.*<sup>112</sup>

His attempt to recruit soldiers for the “organized” fight against long-standing injustice would not be heard until the end of the next war when the discontent of the homecoming World War II African-Americans would evolve into the civil rights movement of the 1950s.

## **Roll Call: Col. Cornelius C. Smith**

The Tucson-born Cornelius Cole Smith (1869-1936) was to add luster to a distinguished military family. His father, an officer in the Union Army’s California Column, served after the war as the Quartermaster at Fort Lowell in Tucson. The younger Smith enlisted in 1890 and a year later won our nation’s highest award for gallantry against the Sioux at White River, South Dakota. Commissioned in 1892, the Medal of Honor winner went on to serve in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, in the Philippines under Generals Leonard Wood and John J. Pershing, and in South America as an attache. His global career ended at Fort Huachuca where, as a colonel, he commanded the 10th Cavalry and the post from 1918-19.

He served at Huachuca as commanding officer of Troop G, 5th U.S. Cavalry, from December 1912 until December 1914. He had a brief tour with the 4th U.S. Cavalry at Huachuca in the fall of 1912, but was transferred to the 5th since the 4th was due for rotation to Hawaii and Smith had just returned from almost nine years in an Asiatic station (with the 14th U.S. Cavalry in the Philippine Islands). It was while commanding Troop G, 5th Cavalry, that he took the surrender of Colonel Emilio Kosterlitzky, chief of Mexican federal forces at Nogales, on March 13, 1913.

Smith served under General Leonard Wood in Mindanao, Philippine Islands, 1903-06, and was appointed commander of the Philippine Constabulary by General Pershing in 1910. He built a camp (Owen Beirne) adjacent to Fort Bliss, in 1919, which became the prototype for several others erected to serve troops just after World War I. He died at Riverside, California, on January 10, 1936.



*2d Lt. Cornelius C. Smith on favorite horse "Blue," in front of his quarters at Fort Wingate, N.M., in 1895. Photo courtesy Cornelius C. Smith, Jr.*



*Cornelius Cole Smith wearing his Medal of Honor.*

## **Voices from the Canyon: Christmas at Huachuca in 1918**

Colonel Cornelius Cole Smith, who as an enlisted man in the Indian Wars had won a Medal of

Honor, commanded Fort Huachuca in 1918 and 1919. His son, Cornelius C. Smith, Jr., returned to Fort Huachuca in the 1970s to serve as the post's centennial coordinator. The younger Smith's childhood memories of a Christmas at the post in 1918 are given here.

*...All activities closed down on the afternoon of December 23rd, and there were no further assignments except the necessary guard and fatigue duties, and of course the care and feeding of horses. A few hardy souls took the train from Huachuca Siding to Tucson, thence east to St. Louis, Dubuque, or Omaha, but most people stayed on post.*

*In the bracing mountain air, families walked along Officers' Row and in front of barracks, pausing to exchange greetings and linger awhile. Officers, frequently accompanied by family members, would be guests of troop messes where toasts were drunk and pleasantries exchanged. Commanders would judge the artistic and culinary artistry of troop Christmas dinners, a competition which kept chefs and pastry cooks in a high state of excitement during the holidays. Soldiers called upon troop commanders for "remarks," wherein the witticisms expressed resulted in all manner of railery, applause, hooting and hollering in a spirit of genuine good fellowship.*

*In quarters, officers celebrated Christmas with their families in time-honored tradition. There was no central heating or electric wall stoves, and heat was supplied by slow burning mesquite logs gathered up in the flatlands north of post. The fireplaces were huge affairs where whole logs burned brightly, sending off showers of sparks into retaining screens. Generally, there was snow by Christmas at Huachuca, and, as the sun dipped below Huachuca Peak, long shadows faded from the parade ground at the end of a beautiful day.*

*....Father was commanding officer of the 10th Cavalry and served simultaneously as post commander. Christmas in our house in 1918 was memorable, because, among other things, a part of the regimental band came into the house and piped the plum pudding around the*

*table, British Army style.*



*Cornelius Cole Smith, as a lieutenant colonel.*

*The kitchen was a wondrous workshop with mother directing a corps of people in the preparation of a remarkable assortment of good things. Beautiful and savory aromas as-*

*sailed the air; there was fudge cake icing, popovers, sage and chestnut dressing, whipped potatoes and candied yams. The turkey was an absolute whopper, looking more like an ostrich than a turkey and done to a crackling golden brown. The piece de resistance was a roast pig complete with apple in mouth, and the tray was adorned with holly and sprigs of evergreen. In one corner of the kitchen, a striker turned a handcrank to make strawberry ice cream, and in another a man cracked walnuts with a hammer.*

*...World War I, “the” war, had ended just six weeks earlier, on November 11th, and so there was much for which to be grateful. Still mother and her friends were making woolen helmet liners and mittens for the doughboys over in France. Our victrola played songs like “K-K-K-Katy,” “Tipperary,” and “How ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down On the Farm?” One young officer with a beautiful tenor voice made the ladies cry with his renditions of “Just a Baby’s Prayer at Twilight” and “Roses of Picardy.”*

*...There weren’t many places to go.... Tucson was considered a long journey. Besides, the road was dirt and narrow, filled with chuck holes, puddles, and all manner of obstruction. Huachuca, Garden and Ramsey Canyons were excellent picnic sites, however, and it was great fun to load up the old ark with a hamper full of goodies and “rough it” under the huge old sycamores and cottonwoods up in the canyons.*

*Speaking of goodies, we were regular patrons at Mar Kim’s restaurant up on the west end of the parade ground, not only in the holiday season, but year ‘round. My particular memory is of great stacks of buckwheat cakes smothered in log cabin syrup....*

*...It is gone, but the mind’s eye still evokes the memory of Christmas at Fort Huachuca in 1918.<sup>113</sup>*

These reminiscences of childhood comforts at that wide-eyed time of the year correspond to other recollections of Huachuca citizens, both black enlisted and white officers’ families, who found the small-town atmosphere in this remote canyon to offer a sense of security and communal closeness.





## Timeline

In **1918** Army strength jumped to 2,395,742. On 26 January Pershing organized the American Tank Corps and Maj. George S. Patton, Jr. became a part of it. The Military Police Corps was established on 15 October in the American Expeditionary Force. A Chaplain's School was opened at Fort Monroe. On 28 May Matthew Rivers, a Pima Indian, became the first Arizonan to die in World War I, when his 1st Division went into action at Cantigny, France. Congress created the Mexican Border Service Medal for service between 9 May 1916 and 24 March 1917. The sheet music to "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was sold for 30 cents. In July Bisbee miners, members of the IWW, were "deported" to Mexico on railway cars, and Arizona mines set a production record that month producing nearly 77 million pounds of copper. Wilson's fourteen points spelled out America's objectives in the war. An influenza epidemic killed more than 500,000 across the U.S. in this year and the next. Willa Cather published *My Antonia*. The Baltic Republics were created after the dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Russian royal family was murdered. Shoulder patches to distinguish divisions became common in the American Army. When Sgt. Alvin York brought his German prisoners to the brigade commander, the general said, "Well, York, I hear you have captured the whole damned German army?" To which York modestly replied, "I only have one hundred and thirty-two." Brig. Gen. "Billy" Mitchell proposed to Pershing that airborne divisions be formed to parachute behind enemy lines. The German Max Planck won the Nobel prize in Physics. The Army adopted "serial numbers" for each soldier; Pershing received the first number for officers—"01." On August 14 U.S. troops landed at Vladivostok to protect Russian supplies from the German Navy. The Armistice was signed on 11 November. Paul von Hindenburg said of the U.S. war effort, especially the war material production, "They understood war." On 19 March Gen. Peyton C. March replaced Bliss as Army Chief of Staff. Oswald Spengler published *The Decline of the West* which prophesied the decay and death of western civilization. September saw the British launch the HMS *Argus*, the first aircraft carrier with a full-length deck. American writer James M. Cain (1892-1977), a novelist of the "tough-guy school," served as a private in France during World War I.

In **1919** the Army's strength was 851,624. From \$1.2 billion in 1916, the national debt rose alarmingly to \$25.6 billion. Congress authorized the Victory Medal (World War I) for those troops who had served in the American Expeditionary Forces to Europe, Russia, and Siberia. The Volstead Act was passed to usher in the era of prohibition which would last until 1933. Jack Dempsey became world heavyweight champion. James Joyce's *Ulysses* was seized and burned by Post Office officials. The treaty of Versailles was signed. The Radio Corporation of America was incorporated. Civil War raged in Russia. President Wilson won the Nobel Peace prize. Regular Army troops were used to preserve order during race riots in Washington, D.C., and Omaha, Nebraska, and in the steel strike in Gary, Indiana. The American Legion was created on 15 March in Paris. Pershing was made General of the Armies. The constitution was amended to give women the full rights of citizenship. The National Defense Act created Reserve Officers Training Corps.

In **1920** the Army was 204,292 strong. American expenses for World War I were given as \$32.8 billion and American casualties were 50,280 killed in action. Despite the impact of weapons like machine guns, planes, poison gas, flame throwers, and tanks, the Army's Chief of Ordnance Gen. Crozier wrote: "the most important weapon with which nations go to war is the infantryman's rifle."

Learning that Pershing was to be retired at half salary, Will Rogers said, "My Lord, can't our Government do something for a man who is not a Politician?" In November a Pittsburgh radio station broadcasted the first commercial program. The National Defense Act of this year authorized a separate regular army of 288,000 and a large National Guard and Organized Reserve. But it was an "army of a dream." Since the Armistice there 11,083 desertions from the regular army, 2,452 officer resignations, and a record 50 percent vacancies at West Point. Created by the National Defense Act, the Citizens' Military Training Corps provided military training for selected civilians who would become part of a Reserve force. Warren G. Harding was elected president. The first meeting was held of the League of Nations Assembly. Eugene O'Neill's play *The Emperor Jones* premiered. Census figures showed 106,466,000 citizens. Sinclair Lewis published *Main Street*. After the assassination of Carranza, Alvaro Obregon was elected president of Mexico. The decade of the "Harlem Renaissance" began, a period when African-American literature and music were in vogue. A bill which would prohibit Japanese from owning land in the state was signed by Arizona governor Campbell. British officers J.F.C. Fuller and B.H. Liddell Hart began to preach their theories about combined arms warfare incorporating armor which the German Army would later term *blitzkrieg*.

## **The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Postwar Reductions**

Postwar reduction of the Regular Army would have its effects on the four black regiments. In 1921 a reorganization of the Cavalry was ordered and the 9th lost six troops while the 10th at Fort Huachuca saw seven of its troops demobilized. The following year the Infantry regiments felt their share of cuts. At the same time enlistments in the black units were suspended since they were filled to capacity.

There were some cryptic references to the reorganization in the 10th Cavalry's newspaper. "It's an ill wind that blows no one good. It seems as though an awful wind is headed this way. Said wind is reported to be coming from Reorganization." And this one: "A fellow...was heard singing this song:

What I'm gwine do after da reorganize?

I's gwine stay whar I am.

An as fur da hard times in civil life,

*I sho don't give er d\_\_m.*"<sup>114</sup>



*10th Cavalrymen fording Huachuca Creek. From the Markel Collection.*

## Timeline

In **1921** the Army's strength was 230,725. A large shipment of machine-gun ammunition destined for Mexican revolutionaries was seized by U.S. Marshals in coffins in a Nogales mortuary. The Army organized a Chemical Corps and a Finance Department. In July the governor of Sonora outlawed gambling houses and hard liquor in his province, both of which had been made profitable by Arizonans seeking refuge from prohibition. Arizona experienced a gasoline shortage. The 19th Amendment passed in August giving the vote to women. The first airmail flight from New York to San Francisco made history. Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize for Physics. The Irish Free State was proclaimed. The Veteran's Bureau was formed. The Washington Arms Conference, opened a year earlier, resulted in an agreed limitation by the world's naval powers in the number of their capital ships. Edith Wharton won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *The Age of Innocence*. General Billy Mitchell demonstrated the potential for air power by bombing and sinking captured German ships off Hampton Roads, Va. The District of Columbia was created. A new Ford roadster cost \$550.78. A record was set for parachute jumps at 26,000 feet. The "Unknown Soldier" was buried in Arlington Cemetery. The

government established the Bureau of the Budget and the General Accounting Office. Leonard Wood became Governor-General of the Philippines. The first military transcontinental flight was made by Lt. W. D. Coney of the Army Air Service from San Diego, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla., in 22 hours and 27 minutes. West Virginia adopted the first state sales tax. An aerial survey of the Grand Canyon was accomplished by Lt. Alex Pearson of the Army Air Service. On 5 March John W. Weeks replaced Baker as Secretary of War. On 1 July General of the Armies John J. Pershing replaced March as Army Chief of Staff. John Dos Passos (1896-1970), the Harvard grad who joined the French ambulance service in World War I and subsequently the U.S. Army Medical Corps, published *Three Soldiers*.

## **Roll Call: Major General Edwin B. Winans**

Following his graduation from West Point in 1891, Edwin B. Winans was commissioned in the 5th U.S. Cavalry. He saw action with General H. W. Lawton in the northern Philippines Campaign from September 1899 to March 1900. Winans patrolled the Arizona-Mexico border with the 4th U.S. Cavalry in 1912. He commanded a squadron of the 7th U.S. Cavalry on the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916. During World War I, Winans served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, commanding the 6th Infantry. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Star.

As a colonel he commanded the 10th U.S. Cavalry at Fort Huachuca and was the post commander from August 1920 to February 1923. He was promoted to brigadier general on December 30, 1922, making him the first general officer to command the post. Later, as a major general, he was superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, commanding general of the Hawaiian Division, and commander of the 8th Corps headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He retired in October 1933.<sup>115</sup>



*10th Cavalry staff in 1921. Colonel Winans wears the black armband in the first row. U.S. Army Signal Corps photo.*

## **The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Events in the 1920s**

The *Buffalo Bulletin* was not above outright fawning when it came to the regiment's self-interest. In its April 30, 1921, edition it announced the arrival of the Inspector General of the Department and said of him: "He is our idea of what an I.G.D. should represent. Helpful, courteous, a thorough soldier and Cavalryman, he is the most welcome Inspector we know of."

Flattery like this may have helped, for the admiration was mutual. In his report of the inspection dated May, 1921, the I.G., Lt. Col. W. V. Morris, wrote on behalf of Major General Dickerman, commander of the VIII Corps area:

*Colonel E. B. Winans, Tenth Cavalry, is worthy of commendation for the improvement in the condition of the Tenth Cavalry since the last annual inspection. The appearance, uniformity, and completeness of equipment were excellent. To Colonel Winans is also due much of the credit for the excellent morale and esprit of the regiment. On the whole, I consider the Tenth Cavalry to be as good and in some respects better than the Thirteenth Cavalry, which up to this time was in the best condition of any regiment I had ever inspected.*

Colonel Winans passed the credit along to the regiment in an endorsement, saying, "...The officers and men are entitled to equal share in the credit, for without their cooperation such a showing would have been impossible."

Lieutenant Richmond was proud of having one of the few cars on Fort Huachuca in 1921. He said, "...There were only two cars on post, mine, a Studebaker Special 6 Touring model, and one

Model T. ...I purchased a putmobile roadster which was put on a flat car at Riley and shipped down here. The roadster was not too good.”<sup>116</sup>



*10th Cavalrymen gassing up their Army trucks. From the Markel Collection.*



*A soldier with pickup truck in the Chiricahua Mountains in 1919. From the Markel Collection.*

In 1921, according to one officer, “there was one train a day which came up at eleven o’clock. We called it the Huachuca Jackrabbit”<sup>117</sup>

Captain Clarence Richmond described some other of the activities of the regiment at Huachuca in 1921.

*...Besides garrison duty, we rode trails all over and made night marches to Tombstone and the Empire Ranch over in the Whetstones, Benson, St. David, Nogales back and forth. Sandy McNabb was the one who wrote the marksmanship manual. ...He was in command of the 25th and Winans of course was in command of the 10th until he left and then Hugh B. Myers, Lt. Colonel Hugh B. Myers took command; he was a big fellow who weighed about 240 lbs. We used to exchange visits when the 25th stayed at Nogales.*<sup>118</sup>

On the morning of December 7, 1922, a DeHavilland DH-4B aircraft was reported missing on a flight from San Diego to Tucson. The pilot was Lt. Col. Charles L. Webber of the Army Air Service and his passenger was Col. Francis C. Marshall, Deputy Chief of Cavalry, who was scheduled to inspect the Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment at the University of Arizona. The 10th Cavalry



from Fort Huachuca with their Apache Scouts, the 25th Infantry stationed at Camp Stephen D. Little in Nogales, and the 12th Observation Squadron from Fort Bliss participated in the search for the aircraft. They found nothing. The wreckage and bodies were found in the spring in the hills just above San Diego.

Captain Clarence Richmond talked about the search for the missing aircraft in the Santa Cruz Valley.

*...We were down in front of the stables on a Sunday morning on the 22d of December 1922, waiting for a call from the Executive Officer of the Chief of Cavalry's Office, Colonel Marshall. He was coming in from San Diego with a pilot by the name of Lieut. Webber for an inspection of the post. He didn't arrive...so we got word in here to take the field and hunt for him. ...We had only a couple of hours to get started, and we had one pack train here. My troop was assigned to go to this ranch on the other side of the Huachucas. We had Capt. Floyd H.L. Ryder, in command of the squadron. He's now a retired real estate agent in Monrovia, California. He headed for the Empire Ranch over in the Whetstones. Well, on Monday and Tuesday, my Troop C split up into small patrols and covered the other side of the Huachuca Mountains. With us were a couple of Apache Scouts on their Indian ponies. In the morning if I wanted one deer, two deer or three deer, I'd hold up my fingers and by eleven or twelve o'clock, they would be in with those deer.*

*...I received orders on Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock to proceed to Mansfield Mine up from Patagonia, a distance of sixty-five miles road distance which we made on Wednesday and covered the west slope of the Patagonians. Since we only had one pack train, and it was so far from the Empire Ranch, the Squadron Commander couldn't send any food over, Sgt Peterson, the mess sergeant and myself went out with our Springfields and knocked over a few slow deer. We assigned the Apache Indian Scouts to bring us in the venison each day and we stayed there for about fifteen days. Then I got orders to come in from Mansfield Mine, that the search for Colonel Frank C. Marshall and Lieut. Webber was over; they were found several months later fifty miles from San Diego where they had cracked up in a fog against a mountain peak. The plane had burned and there was nothing left except metal and their skeletons.*

In an 1959 interview, veteran 10th Cavalry officer Clarence Richmond talked about the inspection of the regiment made by General Pershing.

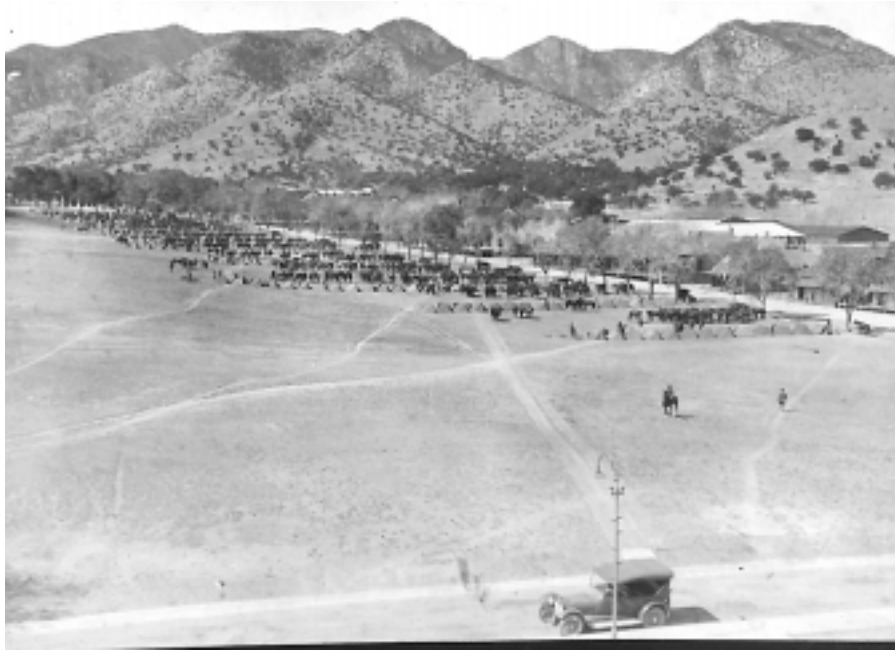
*I might mention another vivid episode of my service at Huachuca. General Pershing was making a last inspection trip just before he retired from active service and having served with the 10th Cavalry, he was scheduled to make a stop at Huachuca. He stayed over night at the quarters of the Commanding Officer, Colonel Edwin B. Winans, and he was suppose to make a quick departure from the Post after the inspection, and the entire regiment formed at the commander's house on the parade field. ...The center of the regiment was, with the colors, directly in front of the Commanding Officer's quarters, the center set of the old adobe quarters. We expected the Commanding Officer and General Pershing to come on out immediately. As we formed it was snowing and very cold. Instead of coming out immediately at 7:05 or thereabouts, we stood there and close to 9:00 o'clock the General and Commanding Officer came out for inspection. Instead of galloping madly from right to left, front and rear of the troops, General Pershing having served with the 10th, he went from troop to troop at the walk and shook hands with many of the old time soldiers who he had known during his service with the 10th Cavalry. As he got to the end of the line, you could hear a rumble and*



*a mumble; we'd have to stay inspection over because most everybody was freezing to death. I've never forgotten that inspection.*<sup>119</sup>



*10th Cavalry review in 1921.*



*10th Cavalry inspection in 1922.*

The 10th Regiment came in for some more praise on January 26, 1923, when the commander of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, Maj. Gen. Robert L. Howze, wrote:

*On the eve of this separation of the 10th Cavalry Regiment from the 1st Cavalry Division, I desire to express to you my appreciation of the loyal cooperation and the fine spirit of helpfulness that your regiment has displayed throughout its service as a member of the division.*

*The high state of training and the excellent morale that has prevailed in your organization has served to reflect credit not only upon the regiment and its commander, but upon the division of which it was a part.*

*Will you please convey to your officers and men my regrets that tactical reasons should have made this separation advisable.*<sup>120</sup>

A report by the commanding officer for 1925 details some of the rigors of training that was undergone by the enlisted men that year. One hundred and thirty-three recruits were taken into the regiment and were put through the paces of recruit training. In addition to the usual post schools, troop NCO schools, remount groups, and equitation classes, there were several field problems, regimental maneuvers, and even a joint drill with Hollywood movie makers. These are best described by Col. James C. Rhea, commanding.

*The regiment as a whole passed through the ordinary training cycle during the year, with maneuvers to match. May 9-13 found the regiment operating with planes from the 2d Division in working out problems of coordination and cooperation and the use of cover. During the march to Douglas for the Defense Day ceremonies, the squadrons were pitted against each other for maneuvers in driving one another through the various canyons of the*

*Huachucas.... Patrols were sent out from 60 to 70 miles on successive days. September 10-25 was spent in regimental maneuvers in the vicinity of Ash Canyon. There followed joint maneuvers with our rivals, the 25th Foot. [The 25th Infantry Regiment was stationed at Camp Stephen D. Little at Nogales at this time.] 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. Less fatiguing problems ensued until all terminated in the annual tactical inspection by the Corps Area Commander. Comments and criticisms by the Corps Area Commander and his staff were very complimentary concerning the training and efficiency of the regiment.*

*There was but one major diversion during the year. This occurred when the Fox Film Corporation sent a troupe down on location to film *The Golden Strain*. Apaches were brought in from Fort Apache, once garrisoned by troops of the regiment, to augment our local band of Indian Scouts. The usual fictitious fights, plunderings and marauding took place, with the soldiers featuring as heroes par excellence. The stellar luminaries of the cinema being truly attractive, we were afforded some delightful hobnobbing that will be long remembered.<sup>121</sup>*

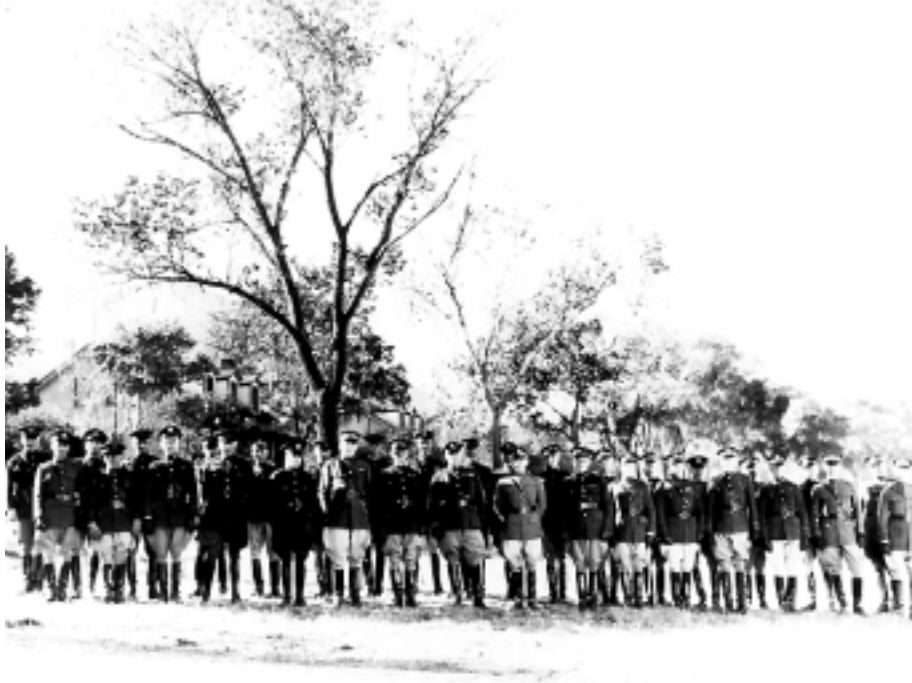
Memories of past glories and mounted sports were all that remained to the horse soldiers of the 10th Cavalry in the 1920s at Fort Huachuca. Horsemanship was still highly prized and the troopers sharpened their riding skills by participating in equestrian events and polo matches. The polo team from Fort Huachuca was among the Army's best and won many trophies in Army-wide competition.



*Members of the 10th Cavalry polo team at Fort Huachuca in 1925. From left to right: 1st Lieut. John H. Healy, Major Frank K. Chapin, Lieut. Halley C. Maddox, Capt. Taylor, Lieut. George C. Clausen, 1st Lieut. Kirk Broaddus. Photo courtesy Mrs. Kirk Broaddus.*



*James Cooper Rhea*



*10th Cavalry officers at Fort Huachuca in November 1925. Front row, left to right: Capts. Maas, Fuller, (Veterinarian) Dornblazer, Fontain, (Medical) Arnest, (Medical) Baker, Col. George Grunert, Col. James Cooper Rhea, Maj. Chapin, Lieutenants Schjerven, Swift and Wrenn. Back row, left to right: Lieutenants Nelson, Williams, Capts. Taylor, Scott, Shamron, Everett, Lts. John H. Healy, Fake, Capt. Lisle, Lieut. Biddle, Lieut. Kirk Broaddus, Connor, Maddox, Pitts, thomas, Clausen, and Chaplain Cover. Photo courtesy Mrs. Kirk Broaddus.*

Horse shows were held periodically and judged by Cavalrymen of other regiments. An example of the types of awards given can be seen in the 1926 report which records that the Duggan Cup was won by Private Haddox for the best turned out in the enlisted men's class, the Douglas Chamber of Commerce Cup for the best Cavalry horse went to Private Mackey, the Palmer Cup was awarded to Sergeant Jackson for the best enlisted man's mount, Sergeant Pearson astride Snake won the enlisted men's jumping, and Sergeant Jackson again was the winner of the Johansen Cup for individual point winner.



*A sergeant of the 10th Cavalry puts his mount through his paces in a 1920 equestrian competition. U.S. Army photo.*



*Color guard at Citizens Military Training Camp, Fort Huachuca, 1926. Holding the unit flag is George W. Parker, a member of a pioneer family for whom Parker Canyon Lake is named. Photo courtesy George W. Parker.*

In March and April 1929, revolution in Mexico threatened American lives along the border and

Brig. Gen. Frank S. Cocheu set up headquarters at Fort Huachuca to patrol the border, using 18 airplanes in addition to his troops.<sup>122</sup>

## U.S. Army Lifestyles at Fort Huachuca: Prohibition

During prohibition at Huachuca (1918-33), the commanding officer, Colonel Winans, issued orders against drinking on the post. One of his junior officers observed that “The old man liked to take a drink now and then, but he didn’t because he’d gave strict orders.”

The officers were not above making their own beverages as one lieutenant attested. “...I made some home brew and put it down under the floor. There was a trap door and under there was some sort of cellar. I don’t know what they used it for but it was nice and cold anyway.” His men had to travel all the way to the Mexican line, at Lochiel, to obtain their alcohol.



*A soldier driver in civilian dress, but wearing issued shirt, tie and shoes. From the Markel Collection.*

Richmond recalled one party got up for the officers along the border.

*We threw a party for the officers at Lochiel; for the officers of the 25th and 10th Cavalry, and I had ordered from Nogales five quarter barrels of beer to be delivered to me at Santa*

*Cruz. I put them in the rear of my Studebaker, covered them up with eight sacks of potatoes, having arranged previously for the line rider to ride east along the line for some purpose which he did, and brought the five cases of beer into Lochiel. We had a lovely "beer bust" and, darn about this, I sent a pitcher of beer down to the line rider. The next day he rode past on his horse and he said that was certainly good near beer you sent me yesterday. Later standing at the gate at Nogales the guards there said that it has been rumored here that some of the officers up at Fort Huachuca are smuggling beer across the line down there. I said I hadn't heard anything about it. I think that report was false and it has stayed that way ever since.*

One kind of bootleg booze was Mexican mescal that was smuggled across the line. It was powerful stuff. Richmond remembered:

*...There was one time we had an influx of Mexican burro trains coming across the border down through Hereford. They had a trail from the mine right straight up. The soldiers would get a hold of this damn stuff, it was brought up in tin cans and they would take a few drinks of it, and God, they would get right down on their hands and knees and root like a pig.<sup>123</sup>*

Private James Clark remembered the men used to go across the line into Mexico to drink "Tequila" and bring back bottles.<sup>124</sup>

John D. McCaskey, the college-age son of the post commander in 1928-30, later related his own violation of the law of the land and of his father.

*Dad was by no means a teetotaler, but those were prohibition times and since his oath as an officer involved upholding the constitution, he ran a dry post. That applied to his sons. We used to go down opposite sides of the Nogales fence, out of sight of customs, and forward pass a bottle to one another. Before we got to the reservation, the bottle was buried in the desert for future reference.<sup>125</sup>*

In 1983, archaeologist John P. Wilson was hired to examine an old trash dump at Fort Huachuca before it was lost to bulldozers building a new airfield runway. The dump, used between 1917 and 1928 by the 10th Cavalry Regiment, was primarily for glass containers and ceramic tableware. The bottles found had primarily contained beer, tequila, soft drinks, ketchups, sauces, skin cremes and toiletries. The archaeologist concluded that the beer bottles contained "near beer" with less than 1.4 percent alcohol, a legal drink on a military base during these times of Prohibition. Regarding the variety of skin ointments found, a doctor from the USA Health Services Command concluded: "Cavalry soldiers require skin protection. Skin irritation and damage are greatly accelerated in a dry climate with an intense solar radiation."<sup>126</sup>





*25th Infantry Enlisted man and dog next to car.*

## **Lifestyles at Huachuca: Discipline**

John B. Brooks, who would become an Air Force major general, was a second lieutenant at Huachuca in 1914 and related some incidents that reveal the state of discipline.

A 2d lieutenant went to see the Troop Commander to ask when it would be convenient to issue new pistols, the Cal. .45. Upon arrival in the Troop Commander's office he found the Captain busy with an investigation concerning difficulty between a recruit and the First Sergeant. The Troop Commander invited the lieutenant in, saying this would not take long. It developed the First Sergeant of F Troop was being questioned by the Troop Commander. He was a large man of about 240 lbs, and was proud of his build and strength. He had been wounded at Santiago, Cuba. The recruit was complaining about too frequent KP and had spoken to the 1st Sergeant on two occasions and had received no satisfaction, and upon complaining the third time, alleged that the 1st Sergeant had struck him. The troop Commander asked the 1st Sergeant if he had struck him. The 1st Sergeant asked permission to ask a question which was granted. The 1st Sergeant doubled up his fist, which was about the size of two ordinary large fists, and asked, "Was my fist doubled up like this?" The recruit said it was. The 1st Sergeant turned to the Troop Commander and said, "Sir, if the Captain please, this man is lying. Had I hit him with this fist as he said, he wouldn't be here to complain."

...The White City was a combination saloon and whore house, and that's where the soldiers went for the recreation and that's where ninety percent of our disciplinary troubles came from. They would go down there and get a lot of liquor aboard and then they'd get in fights over these women and start cutting each other, but that wasn't too frequent. The whole regiment was extremely well-disciplined. We had very few men in the guardhouse, but when they were in there, they were usually in there for attempted murder or something like that.



*The guard mount at Huachuca in 1914. (Photo courtesy Charles H. Grierson collection.)*

*...In the guardhouse there was an occasional man that was turned over by civil authorities, brought to the Post from Nogales or other places along the border, like Naco where he had been apprehended by Sheriff's Deputy as a deserter from some white unit. This was the nearest guardhouse. They would bring them up here and turn them in so that they could get their reward. In those days there was a \$50 reward for every deserter and there were usually two or three of those men in the guardhouse. They remained there quite a long time because usually their units were a long ways away. There was a lot of correspondence with outside posts and digging evidence. They would be tried here but it took a long time to assemble all the data. So they were usually in there for quite some time before they were tried. Then the others would be in the guardhouse for cutting scrapes down at White City. There was an occasional drunk. I don't remember a single rape case, while I was in the regiment.<sup>127</sup>*



*Guard house (bldg. no. 22328) in 1918. From the Markel Collection.*



*The 10th Cavalry band and a guard mount form on Fort Huachuca's parade field in 1918. From the Markel Collection.*



*A 10th Cavalry crap game. From the Markel Collection.*



*1923.01.29.003 10th Cavalry officers at Huachuca in January 1923. Top row, left to right: Lieutenants Nelson, Williams, Capt. Greenwell, Capt. De Lorimer, Lieutenants Williams, Mewshaw (?), Driscoll (?), Hamilton, Capt. Carroll, Capt. (Chaplain) Cover. Middle row, left to right: Capt. Addington, Lieut. Carter, Capt. McMillan, Capt. Kenahan, Lieut. Healy, Lieut. Schjerven, Capt. Taylor. Bottom row, left to right: Lieut. (?), Lieut. Parmley, Capt. Ryder, Major Norvell, Colonel Winans, Lt. Col. Myers, Capt. (?), Capt. (?), Capt. (?), Capt. Collins.*

According to Clarence Richmond, a newly arrived captain in 1921 who was detailed as the provost marshal, "There was a lot of excitement going on. We had nothing but horses of course, and lot of the ladies used to ride. That morning one lady had gone up to Huachuca Canyon alone and a 10th Cavalryman dropped out of a tree, pulled her off of her horse and raped her. That was my introduction to Fort Huachuca."<sup>128</sup>

Richmond, told of one incident arising out of a payday spree and a blackjack game.

I had one 2d Lieutenant just brand new, out of West Point, by the name of Clarence C. Clendenen, who is now retired, teaching English at Stanford University, California. He had asked me permission to go over the mountain to Nogales to meet his mother and father and I had given him permission to do so. Mrs. Richmond, myself and son were sitting on the front porch of the officers' quarters which were screened in, enjoying the vista when all of a sudden I heard many shots, rifle shots. I jumped down off the porch to see what was going on. I found a colored soldier with a rifle at the ready, firing at some men going over the hill to get in the dead space on the other side. His name was Locklear. I went back into my quarters and got my .45 and called his name. He turned around towards me and I walked up to him and took the rifle away from him. I took him by the seat of the pants and nape of the neck and marched him over to the watering trough, with about three thousand gallons in, and threw him in it. I kept pushing his head down until he begged me to get out. I finally pulled him out because I thought he was going to drown. When I pulled him out he got angry at me. He picked up a piece of water pipe and made a swing at me. I hit him, knocked him out and tied him up. At the time when he was firing at the men who were in the barracks, everyone including the First Sergeant headed for the mesquite and the manzanita and there was nobody in sight except myself and the soldier who had gone "hermantato." After he was tied up, they came in and about this time 2d Lieutenant Clarence C.

Clendenen came over the hill with his mother and father. He noticed the mob at the pumping station and came down. As he was looking at Locklear laying on the ground, Locklear came to. He saw the lieutenant and thought the lieutenant had hit him and called him everything that a Missouri mule skinner could think of. He said something about shave-tails and that he would get that shave-tail sooner or later. Well, the next morning we had to tie Locklear on a horse and send him in to the guardhouse at Fort Huachuca. I came in with my Studebaker Special Six, which I had there over the hill and reported to Hugh B. Myers. Locklear was tried for several attempts at murder, the names he called the lieutenant, and taking a poke at me. He was given twenty years and actually served four years, seven months and twenty days.

Shortly after that I was relieved from duty at Fort Huachuca and reassigned to Springfield, Illinois and Chicago for duty with the 65th Cavalry Division, organized reserve duty. They used to state that once on duty with colored troops, always on duty with colored troops until something happened. [The 65th was made up of African-American national guardsmen.] Locklear while serving his time in Leavenworth, wrote to me. I answered. The Parole Board wrote to me, asked me if I'd take him in my organization. I answered, "Sober yes, drunk no." So eventually they discharged Locklear from Leavenworth, gave him a suit of clothes and \$10. He headed straight for Chicago. He called me up at my office in the Pure Oil Building and said he wanted to see me. "Come up," I said. He came up to my office and he said, "Sir, Captain, when they let me out of Leavenworth I didn't have a friend in the world except you. I came up to see if you could get me a job in Chicago." I had several contractors, friends, reserve officers belonging to the 65th Cavalry Division and I got him a job immediately. He was supposed to go to work the next morning and it rained pitchforks, so he couldn't go to work. He came back up to my office and I asked him what he would like to do. He says I'd like to go back to Chillicothe, Ohio. I said, "Let's go." I went to the railway station and bought him a one-way ticket and put him on and each week for the next six months I received a letter from him saying, "Sir, Captain, I never will forget what you done for me. I am going to send that money back to you just as soon as I get on my feet." After a few months the letters tapered off and I haven't heard from Locklear since.

...There was an aftermath of that Lochiel situation because the next morning after this happened I lost twelve of the younger soldiers who were absent without leave at work call and I knew where they were. They were down at the line where mescal could be purchased for a little or nothing. They still had money and the argument of course started at the line in a blackjack game with Locklear backing a blackjack game with a Sgt. Page in the game. There was an argument between Locklear and Page over a twenty dollar bill or change therefore and Sgt. Page took a poke at Locklear. Locklear threw down the hand and started for the barracks building where he knew there were six rifles not in an arms rack. We were forbidden to take an arms rack down with only six rifles. Noncommissioned officers only carried pistols. Knowing where the twelve absentees were and since Sgt. Page was involved in this, I called him and I told him to go down to the line and bring back the twelve absentees. He came back with them. ...I sent Sgt. Page, in charge of this detail, up to the top of the hill with picks and shovels to dig up a water pipeline. Pretty soon he came on down to me and he said, "Sir Captain the men won't work."

I said, "Sgt. Page what was the order I gave you?"

He said, "To uncover that pipeline."

I said, "Did I tell you how to do it?"

"No."

"Well then, Sgt Page, I suggest that you get up there and start those men working and uncover that pipeline or tomorrow morning you'll be a buck private in the rear rank."

He left me, rolling up his sleeves, picked up a two by four, and went up to the top of the hill. I peeked around the corner of the dispensary and he was just laying them out in lavender. Pretty soon one private came on down and hunted me up and said, "Sir, Captain, Sgt. Page hit me."

I said, "Did Sgt. Page tell you to do something?"

"Yes, Sir."

"What was it?"

"He told me to pick up a pick and shovel and start uncovering the pipeline."

"Did you do that?"

"No."

"Well, I suggest that you get back up there or Sgt. Page will probably hit you again."

He went on up and from that minute on I had no more trouble. The pipeline was uncovered in record time.

Another incident involved armed robbery.

*...We had the Post Farm. We had a little kitchen garden patch; a few fresh vegetables and then there were milch cows which furnished milk; and a daily delivery to the officers and the non-commissioned officers quarters. The farmer used to make his collections right after pay day and one day after making collections, he returned to his barn to do his chores. A 10th Cavalry soldier was lurking around the barn. He had stolen a pistol out of the pistol rack in the barracks and he held up this farmer. The farmer refused to give up the collections and the soldier fired several shots at him and hit him several, and then took off for Mexico. The farmer was taken to our Post Hospital and patched up. He did not die. I, as Provost Marshal, with Sgt. Patterson and two other Provost Guards, chased him into Mexico and was about ready to catch up with him when he got to Nogales and gave himself up there, before we had an opportunity to catch him. As Provost Marshal we had a murder on the average of once a month. Mexican authorities were very friendly and they permitted us to pursue fugitives or deserters from the 10th into Mexico. If we caught up with them, they allowed us back into the United States without international complications.<sup>129</sup>*

There were two murders in 1921. The first took place just after an April payday. A bugler named Garrison, a notorious payday gambler and banker, left White City for Fort Huachuca with about \$600. He never reached his quarters. His body was found just inside the post in the bed of Soldier Creek. Investigating the case were Maj. Pearson Menoher, Capt. Alfred J. de Lorimier, and 1st Lt. John H. Healy. A mess sergeant with Troop G was accused and tried in federal court in Tucson. The first trial resulted in a hung jury. Before the case could come up for retrial, the sergeant was found dead in bed from natural causes.

A veteran of the post remembered the second murder. Following the evening parade at the fort, two members of the 10th Cavalry Band got into a fight. A bandsman known as "Silver Dollar" was killed by another named Tolliver.<sup>130</sup>

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1920s: Food**

Pvt. Tom Prowl of B Troop sat down in 1922 to a Christmas dinner of oyster soup, shrimp salad with Giovanni dressing, candied sweet potatoes, creamed peas, pickled beets, baked corn, roast turkey with giblet gravy and a boiled Southfield ham. For dessert there were mince pies, pumpkin custard, layer cake, raisin pies, ice cream, apples, oranges, bananas, nuts, and candies. The final course

consisted of beer and cigars. The Army did not consider anything with less than 1.4 percent alcohol content as an alcoholic beverage, and therefore allowed “near beer” during prohibition years.<sup>131</sup>



*Private Tom Prowl, 10th Cavalry, in a studio pose. Photo courtesy Prowl Collection, Fort Huachuca Museum.*

## **The Buffalo Soldiers at Huachuca: Reductions in the Black Regiments**

In 1926 Congress authorized the expansion of the Army Air Corps. This would mean that over the next five years other Army units would have to be reduced to provide the necessary manpower to fill up the bigger Air Corps and at the same time stay within the Congressionally mandated strength ceiling. The 10th Cavalry and the 25th Infantry in Arizona were called upon to take their share of cuts in 1931. This resulted in a relocation of the regiments and their dispersal to different stations. It also caused a freeze in enlistments and promotions within these two regiments.





*Members of the 10th Cavalry pose for the camera. At the left is Private Tom Prowl.*

The suspension of enlistments in black regiments was interpreted by the NAACP as a move to gradually abolish those regiments. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Douglas MacArthur responded to the deluge of inquiries by assuring the White House:

*The War Department does not distinguish between its soldiers and treats white and black absolutely alike. Apparent effort is now being made to establish the principle that the Negro soldier shall receive preferential treatment over the white soldier. The War Department wishes emphatically again to go on record that it believes it would be most harmful to establish any differential treatment between soldiers of the American Army because of difference of race or color.*

The NAACP was quick to agree in principle with MacArthur, but to point out:

It is our earnest desire that Negro and white soldiers receive the same treatment and the same consideration, with no preference for either white or black units.

It is the conception of this Association that non-preferential treatment for white and colored soldiers, if adhered to by the War Department, would result in the Tenth Cavalry being kept together at one post; in Negroes being enlisted in the Air Corps and every other service of the Army; in full armament equipment being distributed to Negro combat units, that is, trench mortars, howitzers, machine guns, etc.; in full staffs of colored noncommissioned officers in existing colored units; in free and unobstructed admission of Negro cadets to the United States Military Academy at West Point; and eventually in colored officers being promoted and assigned to commands on the basis of their ability and not their color.

MacArthur's deputy acknowledged that it "was a very good letter," but it went unanswered. Another black leader appealing to President Hoover on behalf of the black regiments was the

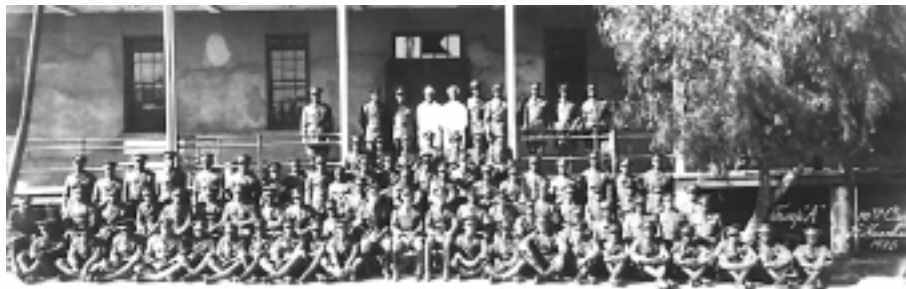
president of Tuskegee Institute, Robert T. Moton.

I would respectfully ask you to consider the long and honorable career of Negro troops in the service of the United States. It is the universal testimony that they are excellent soldiers and possessed with eager willingness in the performance of their duties under all conditions of service. It is more than unfortunate, it is an injustice, that regiments that have distinguished themselves in the way the 10th Cavalry and the 25th Infantry have done, should be reduced from combat service to be menials to white regiments, without chance for training or promotion and be excluded from other branches of the services. It is merely a pretense that Negroes are accorded the same treatment in the United States Army as is given to white troops. It has never been the case and is not so now. This applies both to the rank and file, as witness the presence of the highest-ranking Negro officer in the United States Army [Col. Benjamin O. Davis] at Tuskegee Institute at the present time, who, by reason of his color is denied service according to his rank and with his own regiment.

The impression that the black regiments were being systematically stripped away was not only given to the black community but was being felt within the Army itself. An article in *The Cavalry Journal* for September-October 1931 expressed the belief of the 10th Cavalry officers that their regiment was passing from the scene. Their orders to leave Fort Huachuca for various postings back east, at separate locations, inspired grave misgivings among the men of the 10th. The journal article said:

The passing of the 10th Cavalry as a combat regiment is an event of note and will come as a shock to many distinguished officers and soldiers who have served with it. The 10th Cavalry returns saber with a proud consciousness of duty well-done. The past will preserve for it a record second to none.

*For the future we can confidently predict that it will carry on in its new role with the same loyalty and high spirit that has given its motto a living meaning, "Ready and Forward."*



*Troop A, 10th Cavalry, commanded by Capt. Daniel Cullinare. Photo courtesy Cdr. M. G. McKinney, USN Ret.*

A 10th Cavalry veteran, John B. Brooks who as a second lieutenant served along the border in 1914, was displeased with the manner in which the 10th Cavalry was fragmented and given ornamental or menial missions.

...They broke up the 10th in a funny way. They sent the machine gun troop to Washington, where it became the escort troop and because they so spit and polish, old soldiers and everything—all they did was escort a few VIPs we had in those days. Of course, they didn't come to Washington in droves like they do now. Then the first squadron was sent to West Point to look after the horses of the cadets there at the Military Academy. The second squadron went to Fort Leavenworth to look after all the horses for the equitation class at the Commanding General Staff School and the third squadron went

over to...Fort Riley to do the same at the Cavalry School.

*...It lost its identity as a real soldier outfit when they became nothing but a bunch of dog robbers. And it hurt them too; they didn't like it at all. The old soldiers, as soon as they could retire, instead of staying; they just retired.*<sup>132</sup>

Despite all of the protests, the 10th and 25th would take their share of manpower cuts and be spread thinly. The Army has traditionally been hard-pressed to progress while staying within its authorized strength limits. As Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, Deputy Chief of Staff, put it in 1931: "In the adjustment of our military program, the fact is there is not enough Army to go around."<sup>133</sup>

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1920s: Relationships Between Officers and Men —Two Officers' View**

The relationships between the black troops and their white officers was pretty much the same as in any Regular Army unit: "They either liked you or they disliked you. There was no half way between. If they liked you, they'd follow you to the ends of the Earth and do everything they could to prove their loyalty. If they disliked you, they were indifferent and made no bones about hiding their dislike." At Fort Huachuca in 1928, they had a commander (Douglas McCaskey, Colonel, 10th Cavalry) whom, according to Matte, they did not like.

When I first arrived at Fort Huachuca the personnel were in a bit of an uproar. The commanding officer had decided to tear down all the shacks that had been standing there for years as housing for enlisted men who were not entitled to quarters. Well, he decided he was going to get rid of those, clean out the post, and have all enlisted men who were not supposed to be on the post have them take their wives out. This was a very serious problem at Fort Huachuca because there was no place for them to go unless they took them all the way to Douglas and Nogales. And that was a very big decision for a soldier to make who did not have the grade to pay for it.



*A shanty and tent city along Huachuca Creek for soldier's families. Photo courtesy Walter J. Markel, son of Capt. Julius W. Markel, a construction quartermaster at Huachuca from late 1918-1920.*

Another order that came out was that every woman who was not employed as a domestic on the post, or in some capacity, would have to leave if her husband was not entitled to quarters. These people had lived there, some of them had been born there, over the years and it was a heartbreaking situation that affected the morale of the married people, though not necessarily the soldiers themselves.

One instance that hurt the morale was one day we were going out to drill and the commanding officer saw two civilians standing on the dump.... These two men told the colonel, "We come to visit Sergeant So and So who is in charge of this dump. We're retired non-commissioned officers." And the colonel says, "Well, when I retire, I'm not going to stand by any dump! And you folks had better get off the post!"

*...They got off the post all right. But not only did they get off the post, they wrote a letter to General Pershing who, it seems, had had service with the 10th Cavalry. They also went to Tucson and Phoenix and told their story and this story was published. Then, eventually, Washington took notice and the commanding officer was asked to retire because they did not feel that his retention was for the good service of the 10th Cavalry.*<sup>134</sup>

Captain Matte summed up his feelings about serving with the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca in this way:

*I would say that service with the troops was very rewarding and you couldn't help but feel some degree of satisfaction. When you'd go on overnight hikes and you'd be laying [sic] down in your tent you could hear these soldiers around the bonfire, laughing and having a hilarious time, sure that their morale was good and that they were satisfied with their life. They had pride in their organization and very few did anything to dishonor it.*<sup>135</sup>



*Capt. Paul Matte on the parade field at Huachuca in 1928. Photo courtesy Col. Paul Matte, Jr., US Army Ret.*



*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., U.S. Army Ret.*

Vance W. Batchelor was a captain with the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca from 1929 to 1931. He later remembered:

*Most of the men of the 10th Cavalry were “old timers.” The privates, the corporals, and the sergeants knew their duties in the organization and performed them with skill. There was little teaching that had to be done by the white officers. The enlisted men wanted the officers to look and act like officers and to interfere with the administration as little as possible. Once I was taken to task for sitting down to the typewriter in the orderly room. I was told by an old sergeant that the troop preferred that the troop commander did not use the typewriter. I told him he was right and left the orderly room.*

Captain Batchelor had other memories of the fort just before the 10th was replaced by the 25th.

*The colored troops were very conscious of seniority which they understood and wanted carried out. I had an opening in my troop for a corporal. The senior private was a soldier named Birnie. But Birnie had been on special duty as a telephone operator for more than a year. He drilled only once a week. However he never gave any trouble and was neat and reliable. I called him in the orderly room and asked him, “Birnie, you are the senior private. I have a corporal to make. You have been on special duty for a long time and away from the troop. If I make you corporal do you think that you can come back to the troop and handle the job?”*

*His reply, “Well, sir, I feel about the way you would feel if an inspector from Washington came down here and asked you if you thought that you could handle the job as Chief of*

Cavalry.”

My reply, “You are a corporal.”

\* \* \*

*The colored soldier’s passive resistance is beyond description. One Thanksgiving, one of the troop commanders did something or said something which offended the troop. When time came for the Thanksgiving dinner, not a soldier in that troop showed up. No one there but the officers and their families and the cooks, and lots of turkey. A subsequent investigation brought out the testimony from every mother’s son in that troop that they were invited by a pal in another troop to eat with him.*

*As I have said, the enlisted men knew their jobs and did them well. The trouble came about by the fights they had among themselves. And devious, diabolical, and violent they were. One night my charge of quarters called me by phone and asked me to come over to the troop. My supply sergeant had thrown a can of lye into the face of a sleeping recruit. The scream had brought the whole troop to their feet and they were milling around and I had better come over. I went by the hospital first to see the recruit. I never believed that he would be able to see again. His whole face was a mass of bubbles and dead skin. When I got to the troop the supply sergeant denied the whole thing. Furthermore, by that time no one would admit knowing who threw the lye, not even the charge of quarters, who said he didn’t really see it, some one told him, but he could not remember who. I sensed that everyone was frightened of the supply sergeant and they did not dare to talk. I told the troop to go to bed and that I’d finish the investigation in the morning. I went back to my quarters and went to sleep. I was awakened the second time by the charge of quarters who said, “I’m sorry to have to call you again, captain, but the whole troop is up, fully dressed and out of control. You’ll have to come.”*

*“All right,” I said. “Fall the troop out in front of the barracks and I’ll be right over.” When I got there, there was a black troop, on a black night, standing at attention. I called out the name of a private who was helper to the supply sergeant, and told him to go to the store room and bring a rifle and seven rounds of ammunition. When he came back I had him load the rifle in front of the troop. Then I ordered the supply sergeant to take three paces to the front. I told the private to march the sergeant up to the guard house and turn him in. I turned to the troop and said, “I am through fooling! You stand at attention until he returns!” When the private came back I asked him what he had done and he said, “Sir, I have turned the sergeant in to the guard house!” I then said to the troop, “Now you go to bed and stay there. If you don’t I’ll get that battalion of colored Infantry to put you to bed.” I turned on my heel and went home.*

*Next morning I reported the whole affair to my squadron commander. I recommended that the sergeant not be tried by court-martial, because I did not believe that there was a man in my troop who dared to testify against him, and if they did the sergeant would likely kill them. My squadron commander agreed. The sergeant worked under guard cheerfully and took good care of my property. In about two months I thought that the whole thing had blown over and I turned the sergeant loose. The recruit recovered nicely without even a*



*Bachelors' mess at Officers' Club in 1920. From left to right: Unknown lieutenant, Capt. Bailey, Sampson, Boon, waiter named Triplet, Brack, unknown, Burch, Reyer. Photo courtesy George William Reyes who served at the Fort Huachuca hospital from 1920 to 1921.*

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca: Relationships Between Officers and Men —Two Noncoms' View**

First Sergeant Vance Marchbanks remembered his pre-World War I experience with the 10th and noted the closeness of men and officers at that time.

*...The officers and the enlisted men of the 10th Cavalry then felt the common touch of comradeship and mutual helpfulness, which rarely existed a few years later. ...Up to the time the regiment went into Mexico with Gen. John J. Pershing in 1916, the 10th Cavalry was like one large family. However the officers were of a different race they possessed a devotion for the black trooper rarely ever attained except through long contact under various conditions. We had served in the Philippines together, came around the world on the same transport, our children had attended the same school in Vermont and the wife of one of our officers had taught Sabbath school.*

*The Tenth Cavalry was just like a large family—men were loyal and devoted to their officers. They would die for them and by them.*<sup>137</sup>

At the Battle of Carrizal in 1916, several African-American noncommissioned officers did stand by their dying officers.

George Looney, who's experiences of Huachuca date from the 1930s when he was both a dependent and a private, had this opinion of the relationship between officers and men.



*I should say now that the white officers in those days were an entirely different breed than those that were to come with World War II. There were exceptions, but as a rule most of them were West Pointers. All knew of the excellent fighting records of the regular black Cavalry and Infantry and were glad to be a part of these units.<sup>138</sup>*



*10th Cavalry troopers at Huachuca pose for friends back home.*

## **Roll Call: First Sergeant Vance Hunter Marchbanks**

Vance Hunter Marchbanks cannot be said to be a typical African-American soldier serving at the time of segregated units in the U.S. Army. He was an uncommon man, thoughtful, observant, articulate, proud and driven by a strong code of beliefs. And he was not an African-American but met the 19th century test for a person of color, being white and American Indian. He was colored of complexion and Negro by acculturation. He tells us: “Being of dark hue, I was placed in a rather awkward position, like all of my people; too light for colored and too colored for white. This was a handicap which grew up with me. Many times I have thought my complexion was a drawback, rather than an asset. But, after years had passed, it seems to me the greatest handicap in life is not *color or race or creed, but the quality of ability, honesty, tenacity, and efficiency.* ...Being of the mixture I am, I believe I can judge without prejudice, and write the story of my life with unbiased motives.”

Portrait: First Sergeant Vance Hunter Marchbanks.

He is brought to our attention because he wrote a manuscript entitled *Forty Years in the Army* which, thanks to his son, has survived to relate his military experiences, most of which were as a NCO in the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca. Inside the front cover of the Fort Huachuca Museum’s copy of the typescript is an inscription by his son, Vance H. Marchbanks, Jr. It says in part that “this manuscript is being passed on to his heirs in order that they can have some appreciation for the life he lived, and the

man he was.” The senior Marchbanks does indeed tell us about the life he lived and the man he was. He promises, “my aim is to write the truth in plain, unmistakable words, and I fear my ability will not permit me to arrange the few words I shall use in such a way as to warrant unusual notice.” His narrative also tells us much about soldiering in a white-officered black regiment during critical times in American history.

His actual time in the Army was 43 years, 9 months, and 13 days, by his own reckoning. He wrote the various portions of his narrative at different times between 1932 and 1945.

Since he wrote at least 40 years after his enlistment, we can’t be sure what values he brought with him into the Army, which values he accumulated while in uniform, or which he began with and were reinforced by Army life. We can, however, take him at his word when he says he entered the Army as an idealistic country boy, and we know he was an idealist when he left the Army. He says this is what the Army teaches: “If they only taught one to shoot a gun I would say the Army is not worthwhile. But one is taught citizenship, discipline, the power of organization, personal hygiene, and many useful trades in the Army and Navy which prepares one for useful citizenship in any community.”

Marchbanks was a Tennessee farm boy; “a ‘Country Jake’ I was for true.” He spent his youth “hunting and fishing, ...working on the farm and hauling logs and lumber.... It seems to me that I alone loaded, hauled to the railroad and reloaded in cars enough lumber of various kinds and dimensions to build a city as large as Chicago or San Francisco....”

Because he was expected to work on the farm in his teens, he went to school only three months a year and had accumulated only 30 months by his sixteenth birthday, the level, Marchbanks calculated, of an eight-year-old. He recognized that a city boy would have an advantage over him, having put in 90 months by that time. He “always regretted the poor start” he got “in education.” But despite his “poor start,” he became a well educated man, as demonstrated by his awareness of the events of his times and by his expressive prose. He also managed to get in some college, attending Central Tennessee College in Nashville, “a splendid Christian school taught by northern white people,” for 15 months. This led to a teaching job.

*I taught school in the fall of 1894 in Jackson County at Gainsborough, Tennessee, on the Cumberland River, 25 miles from my home. Imagine an eighth grade student teaching one of those three month schools where the most advanced students were in the 2d grade. The salary was \$25 per month and I had to pay for room and board out of that. On Saturday I worked in a barber shop and would make 50 cents or \$1.00 extra. This was one year before I enlisted in the Army. It was in the fall of 1894 that I returned to Nashville, and entered Central Tennessee College to stay in school about five months when I returned home and helped make a crop.*

He had to decide, in his own words, whether to “endure the backwoods of the south, live and die in the community where I was born,” or “forsake the land of my youth, and take my chances with an unknown world.” His decision was made easier for him because his 70-year-old father was “alert and active,” and his 30-year-old mother “was in the prime of life.” Since his parents were “well-to-do country folk,” he “felt free to...hit the trail” for himself. As Marchbanks explained, the “soldier bug” had bitten him as a small boy. So in 1895, the 19-year-old Marchbanks turned his back on the Cumberland Mountains and the Tennessee farm and chose a world unknown to most Americans, the closed fraternity of the U.S. Army.

After laying in his last crop, he was sworn in after being given a physical exam on August 2, 1895 in Nashville, Tennessee. He says, “I might have told the Recruiting Officer I belonged to the white race.... But I told him I was colored and he assigned me to the 9th Cavalry.” He asked to be assigned

to the cavalry rather than the infantry because he “knew the difference between riding and going on foot.” On the farm he had ridden “horses, mules, calves, and even stick horses” and “was fond of horses.”

The evening of his enlistment, Marchbanks found himself on a train to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, wrapped up in an Army-issue blanket, and crying himself to sleep. He missed his family. “The next morning I arrived in St. Louis. I had never been so far away from home before. All faces seemed strange.”

*...as I look back on myself, as I was then, I wonder if ever there was a boy launched who was more poorly equipped to face the perils and hardships on the sea of life than I was. The only essentials with which I was equipped were a strong body and willing hands, a warm sympathetic heart with a profound respect for law and authority, and a reverence for a Supreme Being. I wanted to learn and was not satisfied just to grow up in the backwoods of Tennessee....*

Those first weeks in the Army left on him, as they leave on all who share those experiences, an unforgettable impression.

*...It was very early in the morning when the train from St. Louis made a somewhat abrupt stop at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. It was on the third day of August, 1895. The sun popped up bright and hot. The lazy Mississippi was just ebbing along by the Reservation. And as I climbed the long flight of steps that lead to the parade ground, I glanced back over my right shoulder to observe the “Father of Waters” as it slowly flowed southward. For a moment from the top of the steps, I stood and gazed at the Fishermen’s boats as they ambled along the opposite bank, and watched the smoke of the train as it disappeared in the distance.*

*The aroma of frying bacon and roasting coffee oozing from the troop kitchen filled the air with a fragrance peculiar to an army camp. Once the smell gets up one’s nose, it lingers indefinitely. More than forty years have passed since my first impression of an Army Post, but close contact, over this long period, puts me in a position to appreciate the many educational and practical advantages incident to an Army career.*

Marchbanks may be too hard on himself when he characterizes himself as being “beyond a reasonable doubt one of the greenest recruits...who was ever sworn in, or who ever wore the uniform of a soldier....” But like all recruits, he came around after some training. He says,

*...however, to be green about the army is not such a great handicap after all, because when they start to teach one in the army they start from the beginning. That is one reason army training is so useful because its so thorough. Nothing is taken for granted and one is not ordered, persuaded or advised to “bite off more than one can chew....” Instructors are selected with care and they usually know their job when they are detailed to instruct recruits.*

After recruit training at Jefferson Barracks, Marchbanks joined his regiment at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, where he spent the balance of his first enlistment.

*...It was a typical Western town—saloons on every corner, and gambling tables of all kinds in each saloon. There must have been churches and schools, but I never saw any, except in the Army post. I had been reared by Christian parents and taught from childhood to obey the ten commandments. However, my Christian training and respect for the Deity was not strong enough for me to start a revival, or even a crusade, against vice and wickedness. I fell in with the herd, so to speak; although I was far from vice, I was “Nobody’s*

*Angel.”*

In the fall of 1897, Marchbanks was reassigned from Company A, 9th Cavalry, to the hospital corps. After the explosion aboard the U.S.S. *Maine*, war was declared against Spain on April 6, 1898. With only a few months remaining on his enlistment, Marchbanks did not leave with the 9th Cavalry or the medical detachment for the fighting in Cuba. He took his discharge on August 1, 1898, and went back to Tennessee to visit “the girl of my dreams Miss Lulu B. Martin” in Mayville, Kentucky, and his parents in Tennessee. Little more is said of Miss Martin, perhaps because this would not be the woman he married.



*Troop E, 9th Cavalry, in San Francisco in 1900 before departing for the Philippines.*

His civilian interlude was brief. Seven days later he reenlisted in Nashville, feeling that “the Army would be a failure without me.” Having reenlisted during the Spanish-American War, he was exempt from service in the Philippines if he so desired. So he was discharged a second time on Febru-



ary 22, 1899. He reenlisted again on March 1, 1899, this time receiving the assignment he wanted to his old regiment, the 9th Cavalry. Troop L was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

On March 7, 1899, the 23-year-old Marchbanks got off the train at Huachuca Siding and crowded into the Dougherty Wagon, a kind of Army stage coach, that took him the final seven miles to Fort Huachuca. There were seven other recruits in the wagon and two “small and good looking” Mexican girls sitting up front with the driver. The Dougherty wagon dropped the girls off at the Chinese restaurant and took the recruits to the post headquarters which at that time was located in quarters no. 22104 at the canyon end of officers’ row.

Photo: The post headquarters building at the turn of the century, today known as Hazen House.

There were five companies at the post when Marchbanks arrived. Companies A and H of the 25th Infantry and Troops K, L and M of the 9th Cavalry. Lieut. Col. Daggett of the 25th commanded the post. Marchbanks remembered him because when Daggett got ordered to the Philippines, he had his horse shot rather than leave the animal behind. Marchbanks thought it a “cruel thing to do.”

He also remembered one of the colonel’s orderlies. Marchbanks tells the story:

*...It seems that this soldier was orderly for the Commanding Officer. In those days at Guard Mount, which was always formal, the neatest appearing soldier was selected as orderly for the Commanding Officer. He could stay at his quarters at night, but during the day he would accompany the Commanding Officer about the Post. When the C.O. was in his quarters, the orderly would walk up and down in front of the quarters, or sometimes sit on the front porch. He would, of course, do whatever he was ordered to do. On this particular occasion, the C.O. staked his milch cow on the front lawn to eat the grass, this was even before lawn-mowers, and the orderly was directed to mind the cow while she mowed the grass and to not permit anyone to walk across the lawn except the cow. One of the other officer’s wives happened to be calling at the C.O.’s Quarters, and upon leaving she started to cut across the lawn; the orderly stopped her, saying, “Lady, you can’t cut across the Colonel’s lawn—you must keep to the walk—it’s the Colonel’s orders.” Whereupon the lady, who was a new arrival on the Post, became very indignant, placed her hands on her hips and said, “Do you know who I am, soldier?” The orderly replied, “No, ma’am, I don’t know your name, but*

*I do know you ain't the Colonel's cow."*



*Formal Guard Mount at Huachuca on 28 September 1917. The band paraded in front of the guard at the command of "Sound Off." Photo courtesy Col. H.B. Wharfield.*



*NCOs of the 10th Cavalry around 1902. [The Squadron Sergeant Major, top row, left, still wears the chevrons authorized from 1899-1902 while the rest of the men wear the chevrons in use from 1902-1916.] The regiment was then at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Seated from left to right: Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant B.A. Anderson, Sergeant Major Presley Holliday, Commissary Sergeant William H. Hill. Standing from left to right: Squadron Sergeant Major Paschall Conley, Color Sergeant Adam Houston, Color Sergeant J.C. Pendergrass, Squadron Sergeant Major Eugene P. Frierson. Q.M. Sergeant Anderson won a bronze medal in the 1903 Department (Missouri and Texas) Cavalry competition. Adam Houston, as 1st Sgt of Troop C, 10th Cavalry, was recommended for a Medal of Honor for his gallantry in the Battle of Santiago, July 1, 2, and 3, 1898. Frierson retired but returned to the Army in 1917 to receive an officer's commission and train black troops for the newly organized 93d Infantry Division.*

Marchbanks left Huachuca just a few months after his arrival when the 9th Cavalry was ordered out to Fort Brown, Texas, in May. He would return 13 years later in December 1913 with a new unit—the 10th Cavalry. He was now a First Sergeant in Troop C and married with two children.



He arrived in the “barren plains of Arizona” on December 19, 1913, to replace the 5th Cavalry with which his regiment was changing not only station, but horses and equipment as well.

*Almost immediately upon our arrival at Ft. Huachuca troops were dispatched to different outposts on the Mexican border some to Nogales, Naco, Lochiel, Arivaca, etc. For awhile my Troop C was permitted to stay in post, which was gratifying to me since I could be at home with my wife and two children.*

*We were fortunate to get quarters consisting of two floored hospital tents which was our home until the fall of 1914. My troop was ordered to Yuma, Arizona, in April 1914, and stayed there until the latter part of September same year. However, in July I secured a furlough and went home to build a house with a hope of making the family comfortable before winter, which I did. One handicap followed another and we found ourselves with two youngsters of school age on our hands with no school to attend. For awhile we, with others like us employed a teacher who conducted a private school mixed with children of the officers and enlisted men of the 10th Cavalry who then felt the common touch of comradeship and mutual helpfulness, which rarely existed a few years later.*



*Hospital tents with wooden platform floors sometimes used to house enlistedmen's families at Huachuca in 1914. Photo courtesy Charles Grierson collection.*

*...The period 1913 to 1917 was one of unrest and uncertainty. The Mexicans were continually on the war path. There was an intense apprehension among the soldiers that sooner or later something was sure to happen, and it did happen. To add disaster to discomfort, Villa's gang of outlaws and desperados made a raid on Columbus, N.M. on the night of March 15-16, 1916, which sent the so called “Punitive Expedition” into Mexico, where my regiment stayed eleven months. Lucky for me I was left back in post during the entire period, for the most part on duty at Post Headquarters acting as Post Sergeant Major. Later on I was on duty in the Post Commissary.*

*We had sent our children to Chicago in 1915 to live with Master Sergeant and Mrs. Henry McCormack, retired. This was done in order that they could attend school there. While it cost us nearly all we made to keep the children in school, we figured it would be better for*

*them in the long run to acquire an education even if we were poor. I always had a horror to being poor, ignorant and uneducated. I had seen so much of this as a boy in that part of Tennessee where I was born and brought up. ...I was lucky enough to get two trips to Washington, D.C. in 1916, both times as a guard conducting patients to the hospital for the insane. In passing through Chicago I had an opportunity to visit our children twice while there.*



*Single NCO quarters in May 1914. U.S. Army photo.*



*NCOs' quarters, frame, \$625, completed on 11 January 1916.*



*Repainted exteriors, NCO quarters, in 1936.*

After being commissioned a captain of infantry and serving as a company commander in the 368th Infantry in France, Marchbanks returned to the U.S. and enlisted again as a sergeant of cavalry, unassigned. He taught for a while at A & I Teachers College in Nashville, Tennessee, before receiving orders to rejoin his regiment, the 10th Cavalry. He wrote:

*It seemed not to matter where I went, sooner or later we would be sent back to Fort Huachuca. I stayed there from September 1920 to September 1921, when we were ordered back to the Philippine Islands, but after staying over there two years we were ordered back to Fort Huachuca. The last time we were stationed there from November 1923 to February 1932....*

*\* \* \**

*Take it all in all our last nine years at Fort Huachuca was pleasant and profitable. We were back with our old regiment and friends we had known so long. For the old 10th Cavalry, I shall always hold a warm spot in my heart because I had served with this regiment during the “heydays” of my life. My children were born in the regiment and I had seen many of my dear friends come and go. I loved the spirit of the old regiment and its motto “Ready and Forward.”*

*...We did not hate the place, and it offered nothing to make us love it, except the everlasting hills, and babbling brook coming out of Huachuca Canyon. The wide plains covered with sage brush, grass, mesquite, and cactus of many varieties, and inhabited by rattle snakes, cotton tails, jack rabbits, and hoot owls. The summers are not very hot and the winters are not very cold; the falls and spring are delightful, and the elevation being a mile above sea level, the air is always delightful and fresh.*



*The 10th Cavalry on parade at Huachuca in the 1920s.*

Marchbanks documented the end of an era at Fort Huachuca, the departure of that post's most famous unit, the Buffalo Regiment.

*The Tenth Cavalry was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. 18 years, 1913 to 1931. When the regiment received orders for change of station in the fall of 31, “which was done as an*

*economic measure and to make room for an Air Corps Unit," the colored press and citizens throughout the United States petitioned the War Department to stop the movement but without success.*

*On October 10th the movement started, Headquarters Troop and Troops A and B went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to absorb the Colored War College Detachment.*

*At that post, Troops E and F were transferred to West Point, N.Y. to absorb the Cavalry detachment on duty at the U.S. Military Academy, and the Machine Gun Troop moved to Fort Myer, Va. to absorb the service detachment at that post.*

*The band, one of the best in the Army, was dissolved and its personnel transferred to the 9th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry, hence the curtain goes down on one of the most efficient and picturesque regiments that was ever in the Army, so far as fighting and training units is concerned....*



*Troop F, 10th Cavalry, in front of their barracks at Huachuca in 1931.*

\* \* \*

[In February 1932] we were ordered to Little Rock Air Depot, Little Rock, Arkansas, where we stayed until February 1934, when we were ordered to Washington, D.C.

*From March 1934 to October 1939, I was on duty in the Nation's Capitol, with the Washington High School Cadet Corps. It was a pleasure to have served with this unit, and the splendid contact made while there makes this five and one-half years of my most pleasant and profitable. Because while there my son was able to finish his medical education, and it was only because we lived in the city and he boarded at home that we were able to help him on our limited compensation, and pay from the government.*

In 1927, while Marchbanks was living at Fort Huachuca, he was asked to give a talk to a convention of Sunday School teachers at McNary, Arizona, a "lumber camp town of about 1,500

people.” [In 1924 the town became known as McNary after the name of the lumber company which bought the property in that year. The place had formerly been known as Cooley and Cooley’s Ranch, a stopover for Marchbanks when he was at Forts Wingate and Apache. A number of African-American men were imported to work in the sawmill, so it is likely that his audience was largely made up of blacks.] The subject of his speech was to be “Reminiscences of a Trooper at Fort Apache in 1900.” After talking briefly about his experiences around Fort Apache, Marchbanks then goes on to make an eloquent statement about patriotism, about the contributions of the “colored soldier” to the nation, and about racial injustice. As a colored soldier, he felt he had duties beyond the battlefield.

*While the primary object of the soldier is to prepare for war, he realizes very seriously that the new patriotism has other duties than those of armed conflict; duties less splendid, but no less brave, requiring a bravery of a greater order than which shown upon a hundred battle-fields of our World War...*

*The colored soldier has fought bravely in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the World War. But the negro will not be given justice through the valor and bravery he displays in the war. It will be through the cooperative efforts of every member of the Negro Race intelligently pleading his case before the public. There are millions of American White people who are ashamed of the treatment accorded the Colored American in the United States, and his case will have to be presented until there are millions more who are ashamed of the way he is treated before he will be given a square and equal chance here.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen: In recalling to my memory that it was through these woods; over these very hills and mountains that you now behold, that members of my regiment, some of whom have long since crossed over the great divide, rode after Geronimo, and the Apache Kid, and displayed valor and gallantry that is unknown to history. It was these men who made it possible for you and me, and all the inhabitants of the Southwest to live here in peace and tranquility.*

\* \* \*

*Notwithstanding all these hardships, sufferings, and deaths sacrificed for the sake of civilization, at this time, people of the Negro Race are not permitted to vote in the primary elections in the State of Texas, and they must ride in “Jim Crow” cars on the railroads, and worse than all, once in a while one is hanged or burned at the stake without being given a hearing before a court of justice.*

\* \* \*

*Let us hope that the time will come when opportunities and accommodations, justice in the courts, justice in the communities and equal rights in all respects will not be denied to any person on account of race or color.*

*...We will never be able to get what we want in this country until we are willing to organize and stand together as one man on things essential to the welfare of our people as a whole.*

*...If you want equal rights in this country, if you want to make yourselves felt, if you do not want your children to wait long years before they have the bread on the table, the leisure in their lives they ought to have, the opportunity in life they ought to have; if you do not want to wait yourselves, write on your banner so that every political trimmer can read it; so that every politician no matter how short-sighted he may be can read it, “We Never Forget, We Never Forget, We Never Forget.”*

There was a proud tradition of soldiering in the Buffalo Regiment at Huachuca. Many of the

sons of soldiers were reared at Huachuca and followed their father's footsteps by choosing military careers, many in the same regiment. Marchbanks said, "Huachuca has not only been a training center for soldiers, it has been a sort of incubator for them over a period of many years." He spoke in 1941 with paternal pride of his own son, Major Vance H. Marchbanks, Jr., a medical officer who was then serving with the 332d Fighter Group in Italy.

At an age when summing up is expected, Marchbanks wrote down what he considered the plus and minuses of his Army life.

*The sad part of my life, as I look back upon it, was that I did not use the opportunities that were mine. It was either through lack of ability, or lack of early literary training, or both, that I did not attain the goal which I would have cherished in my old age. But, after all, my life was not a complete failure, and it has many pleasant reminiscences which I can look back upon with some degree of pleasure. To have lived through three wars; viz. the Spanish-American, the Philippine Insurrection, and the World War, and to have been in active duty though not actually engaged in all of these should be some consolation.*

\* \* \*

*...Not only was I able to assist my son in securing a medical education, but I was able to apply my military knowledge and experience to thousands of young men in the Washington High School Cadet Corps.*

*I have made an humble effort to serve my country well as a soldier and a citizen. I have no excuses to offer for my failure or success. I am willing to rest my case. Should I have possessed more education and more ambition in my early days my case might have been different, as it was and is the water has gone over the dam. Not all of it, however, and as long as I live I shall continue to hold my head high, and move forward.*

Marchbanks' writings about his Army experiences have done much to illuminate the soldier's life at a time when America was largely estranged from its tiny standing Army. He becomes part of the Buffalo Soldier tradition about which he felt so strongly. And his sincere written record enables succeeding generations of American soldiers to join him in his invocation: "We Never Forget."<sup>139</sup>

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1920s: Recreation**

In the summer of 1921 a trooper at Fort Huachuca could see Douglas Fairbanks in *The Mark of Zorro*, play tennis at the courts in back of the gym, attend the literary society, participate in the regimental variety show, go to church or bible study, gamble at Tommy's restaurant after 9:30 p.m., and play on any number of organized sports teams representing his troop.

According to one commander of the 10th, Col. Louis C. Scherer,

The Buffalo Regiment and its home, Fort Huachuca, is considered by many Cavalry officers, particularly those who have been fortunate enough to serve with the 10th, as being the pick of all Cavalry assignments.

*Due to the isolation of the post, the regiment must furnish its own recreation and amusement, which tends toward the creation of an ideal post life. A great deal of interest is shown in athletics, particularly mounted sports, hunting, shooting competitions, etc. Each troop maintains a camp in the mountains where men go for hunting and individual field training. This feature, together with numerous squad, platoon and troop practice marches furnished*

*welcome diversions from routine schedules.<sup>140</sup>*



*Louis Charles Scherer. Commanded Fort Huachuca from 1926-28.*

First Sergeant Vance Marchbanks served with his family at Huachuca for many years and remembered the recreational opportunities available in the 1920s.

*For amusement in the early days they had baseball games, football games, hand ball, basketball, tennis, bowling, athletic meets staged two or three times a year, and we had moving picture shows and horse shows. We also had drills, maneuvers, target practice with*



*the pistol, rifle and machine gun, which kept the soldiers in trim. ...We enjoyed devotional service on Sunday, and we had a hospital, theatre, dance hall, department store, butcher shop, barber shop, beer garden and burial ground. No city could boast of the things we did not have, except in the early days we did not have a free school. Our children attended a private school however, and the parents paid the teacher \$5.00 per month for each child.*



*The first known Fort Huachuca 8th grade graduating class. Left to right: Alfred Orr, Hazel Jetmare, William Orr, Mrs. Fritz, teacher, and Art Jetmare. Mr. Jetmare was the post carpenter. Photo courtesy Alfred L. Orr, son of Andrew D. Orr, blacksmith at Huachuca.*

*...just outside the post, like nearly all army posts where I have been, we had stores, saloons, houses of prostitution, gambling shacks, and, during the dry period, bootlegging joints. With all of its faults, disadvantages and handicaps, we rather enjoyed our stay.<sup>141</sup>*

The lack of recreational choices at the Huachuca outback had an effect on the discipline of the soldiers who were driven to the enclave of vice called White City just off the reservation where the main gate is today. In 1923 the cluster of houses outside Fort Huachuca's gate that featured women and bootleg booze, was raided by the sheriff and closed down. A Tucson newspaper called the place "a notorious outlaw settlement." The provost marshal in 1921 and 1922 was Captain Clarence Richmond. He described the conditions.

*...We had quite a social problem. We figured it was sixty-three miles to Nogales through Patagonia, out this West Gate over the unimproved road. It was sixty-one miles to Douglas; twenty-eight miles to Tombstone, then with a population of eight hundred. We had no taxi service. Right straight out of the Main Gate there was a lot of discharged soldiers, squatters out there who built up adobe shacks and shacks out of tin cans, mesquite and anything they could get. We had quite a mescal problem. We had old Jetmare, the Post Carpenter, who was the Justice of the Peace.... As Provost Marshal of course I went into conference with the Sheriff of Cochise County and he said that's your neck of the woods; that's your bailiwick. You take care of the prairie, as we called it, or White City. It was spread all through the mesquite. Of course, in any case of rape or murder, we would confine them in our own guardhouse and then take them on up to Tucson to be tried by Federal Court. Having been assigned this neck of the woods, it was up to me to police White City. We had what we called the permanent party and we didn't bother them or their women....*

*There used to be a place down here close to Hereford, on a corner that went around the road, called Jack's Place. It had big signs all over there. "Jack's Place. We have a marriage bureau here." ...We used to have dances down there and barbecues. There were quite a few cowboys around. They would come in for dances down there.*



*Whenever they had a lot of professional gamblers or anything like that come in, we would go down and make the raid or the Provost Marshal would take the men over and turn them*

*over to the Sheriff of Cochise County. We wouldn't permit any transients or professional gamblers to come in. If they did we would run them out. If I found anything of a civilian nature, why I would handle it. I might unofficially make the arrest and take them over and turn them into the jail at Tombstone, or turn them over to the Sheriff. The County seat was at Tombstone at that time.*<sup>142</sup>

Captain Richmond explained a unique system they had devised to spread the limited number of women over both regiments in the area.

*We used to arrange payment of the 10th Cavalry on the first and the 25th Infantry on the fifteenth. Then we would transport the 25 or 30 women that they had down there in Nogales back and forth so as they wouldn't have the two paydays on the same date. Why we wouldn't have enough to take care of them. And we might reverse paydays, the 25th on the first and the 10th on the fifteenth.*<sup>143</sup>

In 1927 Captain Paul J. Matte was assigned to the 10th Cavalry at Fort Huachuca. He drove his Essex up to the gates of the fort and remembers the scene.

*Outside the gate was a small Mexican village which consisted, in those days, of about twelve buildings, one of which was the building that made adobe bricks for other huts. Another one was a saloon which was closed on account of prohibition but was used for a dance hall and, probably, illegal dispensation of liquor. Then there was a grocery store and then a congeries of a few residences for the people who operated these buildings.*

Matte echoed the remarks of Colonel Scherer about the recreation at the post.

*...Now the post, itself, was so isolated that we had to make our own entertainment. This consisted, generally, of something connected with horses. Horseshows, for instance. Our squadron commander had conceived the idea of leveling off a portion of the ground in front of Headquarters so as to make it available as a horseshow ring. Well, this took many weeks to accomplish. But it was finally accomplished and we were to hold horseshows there at least once a month for the enlisted men and officers. . . .*

*Then again, there was polo. As I said before, Colonel Brown was an old, well-known polo player of the old Army team. He insisted that all officers turn out for polo no matter whether they had polo mounts or not. Which we did. We didn't all become good polo players, but, at*

*least, we knew what the score was.*



*The 10th Cavalry Band performing at an equestrian event at Fort Bliss in 1931. Warrant Officer Wade H. Hammond was the bandleader. Photo courtesy Sgt. Eugene Horton.*

*Another favorite pastime was hunting. The game was plentiful along Huachuca. You could find quail and rabbits right down at the bottom of the mountains right outside the post. And up in the mountains you could find deer and some even hunted for bear. I never heard of anybody that caught them. My supply sergeant and I used to go hunting on horses. We'd ride around until we'd spot the game and then we'd dismount and go ahead and try to shoot 'em. We never shot off the horse, though I think it would have been possible as these horses were very well-trained and would stand still when you jumped off.*

\* \* \*

*A great deal of enthusiasm developed when the Infantry battalion and the 10th Cavalry each developed a football team. Our team was coached by one of my lieutenants who was a licensed football referee who used to go off on weekends and referee college football games. . . . Everybody turned out for the big game and it was a good game. And it was better yet because our team won—to show who was still boss at Fort Huachuca.<sup>144</sup>*

Because of the constant concern of the leadership at Huachuca about the lack of recreational activities at their island-like garrison, more activities were organized and more interests catered to than could be found in most rural communities. The soldier had plenty of choices of what to do with his leisure time.

## **U.S. Army Lifestyles at Huachuca in the 1920s: Reading**

Out of New York City a unique literary movement was gathering momentum. Black poets, playwrights, and novelists migrated to that traditional center of American art and the Harlem Renaissance was born. Men like Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, and Jean Toomer wrote with feeling about the injustices suffered by the black man. Their poems of social protest even reached some of the white liberal community.

That their writings reached the men of the 10th Cavalry in the mountains of southern Arizona we can be certain. Thanks to Chap. Louis Carter, books and magazines that advocated racial pride and black studies were introduced into the Fort Huachuca library, including *The Crisis*, the official journal of the NAACP edited by W. E. B. DuBois. In 1922 thirteen of the poems of Langston Hughes appeared in that journal. Readers on the post library could experience examples of Hughes' verse such as:

I am a Negro:  
Black as the night is black,  
Black like the depths of my Africa.  
I've been a slave:  
Caesar told me to keep his door-steps clean.  
I brushed the boots of Washington.  
I've been a worker:  
Under my hand the pyramids rose.  
I made mortar for the Woolworth Building.  
I've been a singer:  
All the way from Africa to Georgia  
I carried my sorrow songs.  
I made ragtime.  
I've been a victim:  
The Belgians cut off my hands in the Congo.  
They lynch me now in Texas.  
I am a Negro:  
Black as the night is black,  
*Black like the depths of my Africa.*<sup>145</sup>

For a year, from May 5, 1920 to May 12, 1921, the 10th Cavalry published its own news sheet. Called *The Buffalo Bulletin*, it was edited by Maj. E. W. N. Glass, who is now better known for writing the history of the regiment. Distributed to as many as 1,200 at its peak, the paper ran historical accounts of the regiment as well as the day-to-day offerings in the way of entertainment and sports at Fort Huachuca. The editor called it the mouthpiece of the regiment and said that it was intended to "let the world know . . . what we are accomplishing in this out-of-the-world corner known as Fort Huachuca." It was discontinued when it was discovered to be in violation of government printing regulations which prohibited paid advertising, a necessity if the regiment was to cover the costs of printing.

In almost 20 years, Britain's leader Winston Churchill would be reading to the English people a poem by black American writer Claude McKay:

If we must die, let it not be like hogs  
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,  
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,  
Making their mock at our accursed lot.  
If we must die, O let us noble die,

So that our precious blood may not be shed  
In vain; then even the monsters we defy  
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!  
O Kinsmen! We must meet the common foe!  
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,  
And for their thousand blows deal one death blow!  
What though before us lies the open grave?  
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,  
*Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back.*<sup>146</sup>

Churchill was using McKay's lines to arouse the British for the desperate fight against Nazi Germany. McKay had written the poem in response to the Harlem race riots of 1919.

## Indian Scouts at Huachuca in the 1920s and 30s

In 1922 the scouts were moved to Fort Huachuca which would become their permanent home until the remaining few retired in 1947. At Huachuca they patrolled the boundaries of the military reservation and took part in ceremonial functions, stirring memories of a proud past.

On March 18, 1924, a first sergeant of scouts with the colorful name of Sergeant Chicken retired from the Army at Fort Huachuca. His Apache name, all but unpronounceable to the Americans served with, was Eskehnadestah. He had first joined the Army in 1893 and was a trailer for General Pershing's 1916 Punitive Expedition after Pancho Villa. A lieutenant on the expedition had praise for the senior scout. "First Sergeant Chicken is probably, all things considered, the most valuable man in the detachment. He is finishing his seventh enlistment period. He speaks pretty fair English, is an excellent trailer and scout, and an absolutely reliable man."

Chicken retired to Whiteriver on the reservation where he lived to the age of 95, dying on February 3, 1955.

Colonel Allen C. Miller II was a former commander of Apache scouts at Fort Huachuca and he remembered well when, in 1933, the Army built new quarters for them.

*The scouts remained rugged individualists to the end. Only one of the last twelve scouts spoke English. All were very large, well built men. Not only were they excellent horsemen, but foot marches of up to 85 [?] miles in a single day are recorded. Individually and as a unit they were fine soldiers, but they never gave up many of their tribal ways. Until the mid-thirties they lived with their families in tepees which were located in an area of the garrison some distance apart from the other troops. When the WPA [Works Projects Administration] offered to improve their housing conditions, the post commander at Fort Huachuca enthusiastically set about building adobe houses for the Indians. An impressive dedication was held to celebrate the movement of the Indian families into their new quarters. Great was his consternation to find soon thereafter that all the families had moved back into tepees and that the scouts' horses were the only occupants the new quarters.*<sup>147</sup>

David B. Stone was a 2d Lieut. with the 25th Infantry from 1935-7, and, like so many other veterans of Huachuca, remembered vividly the Apaches.

*The Apache Scouts were still active, and an integral part of the Fort garrison. Their function was to patrol the Fort's extensive boundaries, about 10 to 20 miles each side of a rectangle. They lived in their broken down little hogans and kept their chickens and pigs in*

*the quarters the Army built for them.*<sup>148</sup>

Other duties relegated to the Apaches since their assignment to Fort Huachuca was to appear in their traditional dress in parades and reviews. If their traditional dress did not always coincide with the expectations of the press or movie directors, they would embellish their costumes a little, adding feathers and headdresses. After all they were representing not only Apaches but all Indians who had served the Army as scouts. An April 6, 1938, article in the *Arizona Republic* reported about an Army Day celebration at the fort:

*One of the colorful events of the afternoon program was the appearance of the Apache Indian scouts in a simulated attack on a covered wagon train. The Apaches were clad in colorful ceremonial costumes and remained on the field for about a quarter of an hour to pose for literally hundreds of candid camera fans and amateur movie directors.*

The Quartermaster Corps had to order twenty-five crossed arrow insignias in January 1941. These would be for the eight remaining Apache Scouts stationed at Fort Huachuca. These men were Sergeant Sinew Riley, 49; Corporal Ivan Antonio, 52; Corporal Alejo J. Quintero, 51; Private Jess Billy, 47; Private Kessay, 43; Private Jim Lane, 51; Private William Major, 39; and Private Andrew Paxton, 53.

Wharfield reported that “Corporal Alejo Quintero retired in 1941, Private Jess Billy in 1944, and Private Jim Lane in 1945. About the same time Private Andrew Paxton was thrown from his horse and died in the Fort Huachuca hospital.”



*Captain John C.F. Tillson, 10th Cavalry, Fort Apache, Arizona, in 1918. The quarters of 1st Lt. H.B. Wharfield, 10th Cavalry, is at the right. Photo courtesy Col H.B. Wharfield.*





*Sinew Riley and wife, Peela, at Fort Huachuca in 1935. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona.*





*Apache Indian Scouts at Huachuca in 1934.*



*Apache Scouts in costume around 1939. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona.*



*Twenty-two wickiups once dotted the area near the present post cemetery. The Indians preferred their traditional homes over the adobe huts built for them, and until the post commander suggested they make use of the new buildings, they more often than not used the huts as store rooms.*



*Apache Scout Kessay mounted on the parade field, in the early 1940s.*



*The Apache Scouts participate in Tombstone's Helldorado Days in Tombstone, Arizona, in the 1930s.*



*In this 1930s picture, the scouts are dressed in costume in front of their huts. Photo courtesy of Rev. Arthur Guenther.*



*Sergeant Sinew Riley on horseback on the parade field at Fort Huachuca, probably in the 1930s. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, AZ.*



*Extras portraying Indians for western movie filmed at Huachuca.*



*Wickiup homes of Apache Scouts at Fort Huachuca, near the cemetery area. Apache Scouts lived here. Photo courtesy of Rev. Arthur A. Guenther; Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, AZ 85941.*



*Sinew Riley, holding one of his children, with other scouts at Huachuca in the 1940s. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona.*



*Apache Scouts on horseback with unknown officer. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona.*



*Apache Scout William Major with an officer of the 25th Infantry in the 1930s.*



*“Last of the Indian Scouts, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.” They are from left to right: Sinew Riley, Jess Billy (or Joe Quintero), William Major, Antonio Ivan, and Andrew Paxson.*



*Sinew Riley with his son at Huachuca in the 1930s.*





*Apache scouts in costume with unknown civilian.*



*Apache Scout Sinew Riley and Col. Lee D. Davis, commanding the 25th Infantry in 1939.*



*An Apache Scout in costume with infantrymen of the 25th Infantry in the early 1940s.*



*Apache scouts standing in front of railroad spur at Huachuca in 1930s.*



*Apache Scouts with men of the 25th Infantry in the 1930s.*



*Sinew Riley, probably in the 1920s.*



*Apache wickieups at Fort Huachuca in the 1930s.*



*Apache Scouts in formation on Fort Huachuca's parade ground in about 1939.*



*Sinew Riley as a Corporal at Fort Huachuca in the 1920s, aboard his horse "Peanuts."*





*Children of Indian Scouts at Fort Huachuca in 1934. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox, widow of Colonel Knox who, in 1933, was post commander of Fort Huachuca and the 25th Infantry.*



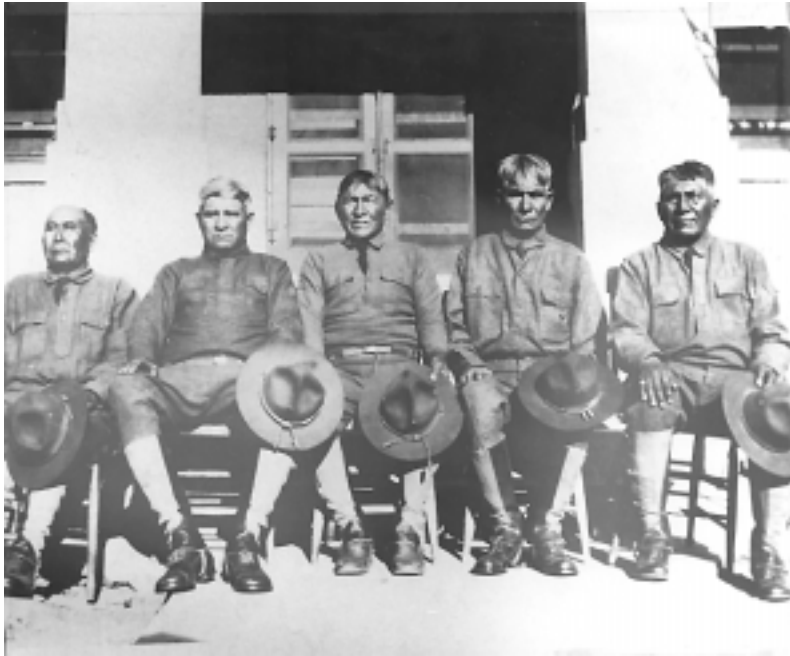
*Indian Scouts, their families, and wickieup at Huachuca in 1934. Photo courtesy Mrs. Robert S. Knox, widow of Col. Robert Soutter Knox, who in 1934 commanded the 25th Infantry and Fort Huachuca.*



*Indian Scouts and their families at Fort Huachuca in 1934.*



*Two Apache Scouts patrol in the Huachuca Mountains in the 1920s.*



*Indian scouts at Fort Huachuca in 1929. Left to right: Sgt. Deklay, Sgt. Charley Bones, Sgt. Chow Big, Eskipbygojo, Unknown. Photo courtesy of John D. McCaskey.*

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