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A Social History of the Tenth Cavalry, 1931-1941

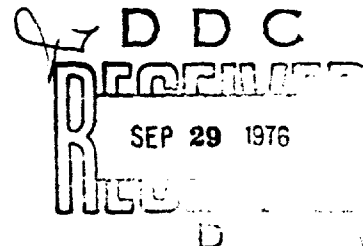
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A Master of Military Art and Science thesis presented to the faculty
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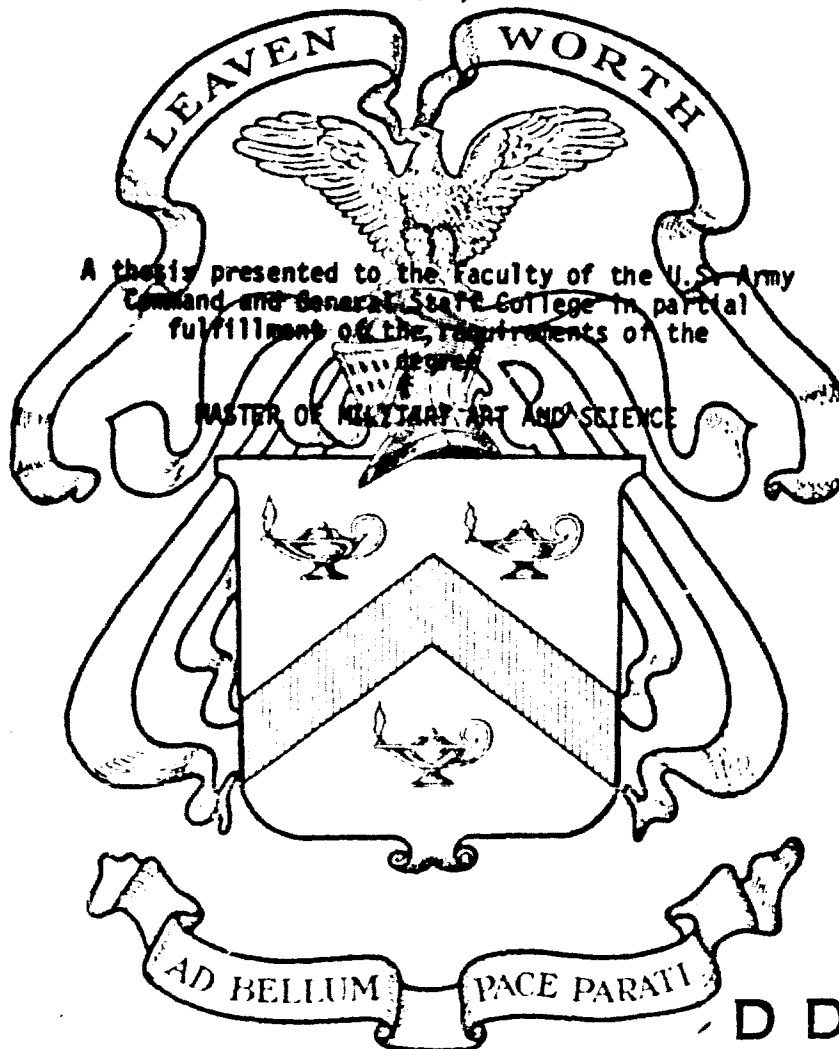
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An effort was also made to set the scene by providing a brief overview of the black soldier's contribution to America's war efforts and a chronological history of the Tenth Cavalry from its inception in July 1866 to 1931.

Between 1931-1941, while at Fort Leavenworth, the black troopers were either barred or discouraged from using many of the exchange and recreational facilities on post. Even so, they were loyal troopers who performed creditable service and were proud to be members of the Tenth Cavalry. The citizens of Leavenworth displayed a positive attitude toward the troopers which resulted in amenable relations during the occasional contact between the two societies.

The unit was returned to combat status in 1941 and subsequently moved to Fort Riley, Kansas. Even though it has been many years since the troopers of the Tenth Cavalry departed, their memory still remain. The pride Fort Leavenworth still has in the Buffalo Soldiers was displayed in recent ceremonies where one of the streets on Post was named for the famed Tenth Cavalry.

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE
TENTH CAVALRY, 1931-1941



A thesis presented to the faculty of the U.S. Army
Command and General Staff College in partial
fulfillment of the requirements of the
degree
MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
1976

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by

Jesse Jackson, Jr., MAJ, USA
B.A., Hampton Institute, 1975

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MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

THESIS APPROVAL PAGE

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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the individual student author and do not necessarily represent the views of either the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College or any other governmental agency.

ABSTRACT

A survey of the literature of the Tenth Cavalry revealed there was no history of the unit while serving as a service detachment at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, between 1931-1941. This paper is an effort to establish the records of the unit's social activities for continuity of unit history especially those of black soldiers, serving in segregated units.

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I dedicate this study to Karmen, my daughter, because without her love and support, this effort could not have received my full attention.

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Black Americans have contributed a great deal to the defense of the United States through their effective military participation in each of their nation's wars. Military historians acknowledge the significance of black troops in the two world wars, Korea, and Vietnam, but all too often, historians overlooked or severely minimized the role of black Americans in earlier wars. Yet, many accounts indicate that blacks performed creditable military service during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, Civil War, and the Indian Wars.¹

When black units were first organized, their officers were white. The first of several such units formed during the Civil War was the famous 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. Its success was a factor in the subsequent recruitment and formation of other black regimental units.² All of the black units were deactivated when the Civil War ended, while only a few white regiments were continued in an active duty status.

A Congressional act was approved on 28 July 1866 to "increase and fix the military peace establishment of the United States."³ That act provided for the addition of four regiments to serve in the peacetime army. One of those regiments authorized was the Tenth Cavalry.

At present there is no history of the Tenth Cavalry between 1931 and 1941. Therefore, this paper is directed to developing an initial inquiry into the period.

This research effort is unique for two reasons. First, even though there were several black officers of note in the Tenth Cavalry Regiment, this thesis deals primarily with the enlisted troopers of the unit. Secondly, several of the troopers who served in the unit are still alive and were used as sources of information. The personal point of view of the participants is beneficial and should be recorded before this source is lost forever. In addition, this study will add to the Army's knowledge of ethnic groups, especially the problems and reactions of segregated black units.

This thesis centers on the previously untold story of the Tenth Cavalry while at Fort Leavenworth between 1931 and 1941. Chapter II traces the unit's history from its formation at Fort Leavenworth in 1866 until 1931. During that time the unit helped to open the west to settlers and fought in the Spanish American War and served with Pershing on the Mexican border. Chapter III is a discussion of the unit's history during the period 1931-1941 in the role of a service detachment. Chapter IV reveals the trooper's relationships with the city of Leavenworth. Chapter V is a step-by-step account of the unit's activation and departure. The last chapter consists of conclusions and recommendations.

A questionnaire (see Appendix A) was used to supplement materials that appeared in newspapers, reports, letters, and the

Armored Cavalry Journal. The twenty-two returned questionnaires are on file in the US Army Command and General Staff College Library's document collection.

ENDNOTES

¹Phillip T. Drotning, Black Heroes in Our Nation's History (New York: Cowles Book Company, Inc, 1969), pp. 162-208; and Ulysses Lee, The Employment of Negro Troops (Washington: US Government Printing Office, 1966), pp. 3-15; and Edward Wakin, Black Fighting Men in US History (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., 1971), pp. 9-167, are good books that depict the role of the black soldier in America's wars.

²Wakin, pp. 45-49.

³John Bigelow, Jr., "The Tenth Regiment of Cavalry," in The Army of the United States: Historical Sketches of Staff and Line, with Portraits of Generals-in Chief, ed. Theo. F. Rodenbough and William L. Haskin (New York: Maynard, Merrill & Co., 1896), p. 288.

Chapter II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE TENTH CAVALRY

In keeping with the Congressional directive of late July 1866, General Ulysses S. Grant directed organization of two regiments of Negro Cavalry. General Phillip Sheridan, Commander, Division of the Gulf, was to raise recruits for a unit to be designated the Ninth Cavalry Regiment, and General William T. Sherman, Commander, Military Division of the Missouri, was to organize a unit to be named the Tenth Cavalry Regiment.¹

Fort Leavenworth was specified as the headquarters of the Tenth Cavalry and Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson was appointed its first Commander.² The unit was authorized to recruit 1,092 black troopers. The composition and mission of this unit was identical to white units with two exceptions. First, two veterinarians instead of one medical doctor were assigned to the Tenth Cavalry. Second, the chaplain, in addition to his normal duties, was directed to give lessons in the "common English" language.³

Although the historical record is sparse, a reasonably accurate outline of the units activities prior to 1931 can be reconstructed. At the outset, officer assignments for the Tenth Cavalry progressed slowly because experienced officers refused to serve with the unit. Many preferred to accept a lower rank in a white regiment. George A. Custer, America's famous Indian fighter, was perhaps the foremost example of

this attitude.⁴ The Army therefore established a Board of Cavalry officers to screen applicants who were willing to serve with the black unit. This process permitted only officers of high caliber to serve with the unit and gave the regiment a good start in the Army. The board studied each applicant's war record, qualifications, and capacity for leadership. At the end of 1866 the Tenth Cavalry had only two field grade officers and one company grade officer, but by the following summer, a total of 37 officers had gained the board's approval.⁵

Recruiting troopers proved to be an even greater task to the Tenth Cavalry officers who were charged with the responsibility of recruiting their own men. The whole concept of segregation made it difficult for white officers to contact and then to recruit blacks. By the end of 1866 only 64 troopers had been recruited and most of these were brought in by the executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles C. Walcutt, who had spent most of his time on recruiting duty. But Colonel Grierson persevered in the effort to fill his ranks, seeking recruits from as far east as Philadelphia, and by the summer of 1867 the aggregate strength of the enlisted men was 702.⁶

In retrospect, recruiting was only a minor problem for the Tenth Cavalry compared to the attitude of General William Hoffman, the Commanding General of Fort Leavenworth, 1866-68.⁷ Hoffman showed no tolerance toward black troops and showed little respect for their white officers. He made the unit's stay at the post uncomfortable by quartering them in a swampy area (the only low land on post) and ignored Colonel Grierson's request for a change in quarters location and even refused to have walkways installed. A number of troopers contacted

pneumonia, but the living conditions were not improved. In June and July 1867, the Tenth Cavalry was plagued by an outbreak of cholera which reportedly took "many lives."⁸

Despite the constant assignment of poor horses to the unit, Colonel Grierson trained his men as rapidly as possible and by August 1867, eight troops were filled with approximately 696 trained troopers ready for employment against the Indians. The regiment's headquarters was then moved to Fort Riley, Kansas, closer to the Indian problem and three troops were assigned to the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). The other troops were billeted at temporary posts along the Kansas Pacific Railroad to protect the railroad work from marauding Indians.⁹

Initial contact between the troopers and the Indians was light, the unit suffered its first combat death on 2 August 1867, about 40-miles from Fort Hayes.¹⁰ On that date approximately 300 Cheyenne Indians attacked Troop F, then patrolling the railroad with only two officers and thirty-four men. The fight lasted six hours before the badly outnumbered soldiers retreated but only after inflicting heavy losses on the Indians. Captain G. A. Armes was wounded during the battle and Sergeant William Christy gained the dubious honor of being the first member of the unit to die in action.¹¹

Between this battle and the final skirmishes in 1886, the Tenth Cavalry Regiment faced Comanches, Kiowas, Sioux and Apaches in Kansas, Texas, Mexico, Colorado and the Dakotas. Although records show the regiment spent most of its time suffering the hardships of chasing small bands of elusive Indians, the documents also indicate that

whenever Colonel Grierson's troopers finally met the enemy in battle, black troopers were victorious.¹²

During these Indian campaigns the black cavalry troopers picked up the name "Buffalo Soldiers", a name the unit has retained to this day. There are several versions regarding its origin. For example, the Sioux Indians claim to have given the black soldiers that name when they first encountered the dark-faced soldiers at Wounded Knee. The black soldiers were wearing buffalo coats and when the soldiers removed their hats, the Indians thought the blacks' hair was made of buffalo skin also. But the favorite, and most probably true version of the story, is that the black scalp was particularly prized by the Indians because such scalps were almost sure to have come from military rather than civilian heads.¹³

From Fort Riley, the Tenth moved to the Indian Territory in 1869 and then to Fort Concho, Texas by 17 April 1875. While on duty in Texas, the Tenth faced the problem of crossing the border into Mexico to pursue Indian raiding parties that had struck quickly at American settlements, then recrossed the Rio Grande for the safety of Mexico. Because the troopers were not legally authorized to continue the chase on Mexican soil, the Indians went unpunished. This so irritated the regiment's commanders that in February and March, 1877, the Tenth made frequent unlawful dashes into Mexico to attack Indian camps there. Unfortunately, they met with little success and generally found only abandoned camps.¹⁴

The last major threat of Indian raiding parties in Texas came from a band of Apaches led by Chief Victorio. After the wiley chief effectively evaded the Ninth Cavalry and established his camp in Mexico, Colonel Grierson predicted Victorio's next move would be into West Texas. When this proved correct, the Tenth Cavalry gave Victorio no rest. Their tactics were to guard the mountain passes and water holes while other mounted troopers pursued the Indians.¹⁵

Despite the frightening reputation of the Apache terrorists, the members of the Tenth Cavalry pursued their quarry relentlessly. One young soldier, Private Tockes, sold his life dearly when his wounded horse broke and propelled him into the midst of Victorio's band. When last seen alive, he had dropped his reins, drawn his carbine in preparation for action. His skeleton was found months later.

From 10 July to 11 August 1880, the Tenth Cavalry chased Victorio's group until they fled deep into Mexico. Their determination in forcing him to retreat proved the fighting ability of the blacks. The Apaches had twice been forced into Mexico by the Ninth Cavalry. When they returned to Texas, Victorio's braves were outfought, outmaneuvered and denied access to food and water by the Tenth Cavalry. Colonel Grierson himself led the 65-mile chase which drove the chief across the border never to return to American soil. Victorio was eventually killed by Mexican soldiers on 14 October 1880. Even though the Mexican soldiers claimed his life, it was the Buffalo Soldiers who had made him vulnerable by limiting his maneuver space.¹⁶

Making reference to this campaign against Chief Victorio, General E. O. C. Ord wrote in his 1880 annual report to the Secretary of the War:

I trust that the services of the troops engaged will meet with that recognition which such earnest and zealous efforts in the line of duty deserve. They are entitled to more than commendation... In this connection I beg to invite attention to the long and severe service to the Tenth Cavalry, in the field and at remote frontier stations, in this department. Is it not time that it should have relief by a change to some more favored district of the country?¹⁷

Yet, the Tenth Cavalry remained in Texas for five more years until in the spring of 1885 they moved westward into the Department of Arizona. All twelve troops, headquarters and band, continued to Bowie Station, Arizona, in the Chiricahua Mountains.

It was here that "Geronimo, the Kid, Mangus, Cochise, Alchise, Aklenni, Natsin, Eskilite and other chieftains had dotted plains and canyons of Arizona with the graves of thousands of emigrants, settlers and prospectors."¹⁸ However, when the Tenth was placed in the field, it played a significant role in bringing this territory under control.

The campaign against Geronimo took sixteen months and was punctuated by several desperate skirmishes. Among them was the battle of 3 May 1886, in which K Troop, under Captain T. C. Lebo, after a remarkable march of over two hundred miles, came upon Geronimo's warriors in the Pinto Mountains. The Indians were well positioned in gorges and concentrated heavy fire on the troops. In the course of the battle Corporal Winfield Scott was wounded and Lieutenant Powhattan H. Clarke ran without hesitation, under heavy fire, to pick up the trooper and carry him to safety. Clarke was later awarded the Medal of Honor.

For most of the troops, however, there was little glory in the campaign. Instead, they had simply a lot of hard work. Theirs was the harder duty, to prevent outbreaks, rather than chase the renegades back onto their reservations. Instead of valorous fighting and triumphal chases, they faced the dismal duty of guarding mountain passes, water holes and trails; the same battle tactics which had worked so well for them in Texas.

By 1890, the Indians were finally settling down to farming and reservation life. With the exception of sporadic outbreaks by a few renegades, there was little field duty left for the troopers of the Tenth Cavalry.

Colonel Grierson was promoted to Brigadier General in April, 1890. He retired 8 July, the same year, dearly beloved by the men in the regiment.¹⁹

While in the west, the Buffalo Soldiers not only fought against hostile Indians, they also had to contend with bandits and horse thieves who soon learned that the Tenth was not too busy with the Indians to keep law and order. On one occasion, five men clumsily disguised as Indians attempted to run off some of Troop I's horses near Fort Concho, Texas. An alert trooper quickly engaged the lawbreakers in a gunfight which sent four of the would-be thieves running and left the fifth a prisoner. He was turned over to the civil authorities at Saint Angela but a tolerant white jury set him free.²⁰

The Tenth Cavalry also had to battle against the elements. Much of the land was unmapped and it was quite easy for a patrolling unit to become lost. One unit chasing Indians on the Texas plains did lose their

way and its sixty-one men went days without water. By the third day, their tongues and throats became swollen, some soldiers fell from their horses unable to continue. When a horse collapsed from heat exhaustion, the lieutenant ordered its throat slit so he and the men could drink the blood. By the time the unit was finally rescued, four men had died from the lack of water.²¹

The Buffalo Soldiers were not only involved in combat operations while in the west, but they also built and renovated posts including the initial construction of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Other duties included stringing many miles of telegraph wire and escorting stage coaches, trains, cattle herds, railroad crews and survey parties. Certainly, some civil officials who visited the west for first hand inspections could not have functioned without help from the Tenth Cavalry. This unit had proven itself to be a first-rate regiment and some authorities today feel that the Tenth has not gotten the credit it deserves for opening the west to settlers. According to author-historian William H. Leckie, "the thriving cities and towns, the fertile fields and the natural beauty of that once wild land are monuments enough for any Buffalo Soldier."²²

Naturally, such a regiment would not be disbanded merely because the day of hostile Indians had passed. The unit modernized and prepared itself for future assignments, and it did not have long to wait for its next call to action.

On 11 April 1898, war broke out between Spain and the United States.²³ From the beginning, the Tenth Cavalry figured into battle

plans for the invasion of Cuba. Stationed in Montana in 1898, they received orders in mid-April to move to Chickamauga Park, Georgia. Meanwhile the troops kept busy drilling in preparation for their anticipated combat duties in Cuba. They traveled from Georgia to Lakeland, Florida, and from there to Tampa, where on 17 June, they embarked for Cuba on two commercial ships.²⁴

Shortly after arriving, the Tenth Cavalry was issued semi-automatic weapons and moved into combat positions flanked on both sides by Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders". This fighting force composed of infantry and dismounted cavalry, white and black, advanced toward the enemy's fortifications at Las Guasimas on 24 June 1898.

The Tenth was ordered to provide covering fires while the Rough Riders attacked Spanish positions. During the assault, however, the Rough Riders were pinned down and in danger of annihilation. The experienced men of the Tenth Cavalry quickly moved forward to pin down the enemy with deadly fires from their automatic weapons. According to Army reports "Several of the men rushed forward, knocked down an improvised enemy fort, cut barbed wire barriers and left an opening for the volunteers, who then rushed through and routed the Spaniards firing from there."²⁵ When the top of Las Guasimas heights was reached, only dead and dying Spaniards were found. The rest had fled towards Santiago.

Many insist that the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments actually saved the Roosevelt force from disaster, and the testimony of soldiers and reporters present during the battle verify this. As one white

officer put it, "If it had not been for the Negro Cavalry, the Rough Riders would have been exterminated. I am not a Negro lover. My father fought with Mosby's Rangers, and I was born in the South, but the Negroes saved the fight, and the day will come when General Shafter will give them credit for their bravery."²⁶ Another Southerner reported, "I never saw such fighting as those Tenth Cavalrymen did. They didn't seem to know what fear was, and their battle hymn was 'There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight'."²⁷

The Tenth Cavalry followed its Las Guasimas success by participating in a coordinated attack up San Juan Hill which lay between the American forces and the Spanish stronghold of Santiago. Their specific mission, along with that of the black 24th Infantry Regiment, was to seize the main enemy fortifications on the hill. As the two regiments rushed up San Juan Hill toward their objective, they joined with men from other units. Thus, it was quite a mixture of men - infantry and cavalry, black and white - that crawled, ran and stumbled to the hill's summit. In fact, the men were so intermingled with one regiment in the middle of another that soldiers followed the nearest officer or sergeant, even though he may not have been from the same unit. Even the musicians dropped their drums and musical instruments to pick up guns so they could participate in the attack.²⁸ According to retired Major Edward L. N. Glass, a Tenth Cavalry veteran, it was a soldier from the Tenth who actually planted the colors on San Juan Hill's crest. As Glass records it, "About half way up the slope the colors of the Third were seen to stop and fall, the color beared sinking to the ground, shot

through the body; Sergeant George Berry, color bearer of the Tenth, dashed over to where the colors lay, raised them high, and waving both flags, planted them on the crest side by side."²⁹ Glass added that this may well be the only time in US military history in which one regiment's colors were carried to the final objective by a member of a rival regiment.³⁰

But it certainly demonstrates that on 1 July 1898, they all shared the same goal, to reach the top of San Juan Hill. Colonel Teddy Roosevelt summed up the white soldiers' reactions to the black cavalry's performance on San Juan Hill when he said, "I don't think that any Rough Rider will ever forget the tie that binds us to the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry."³¹

Because the American lines on San Juan Heights were within cannon range of Santiago, the men prepared trenches. Spanish artillery fire lasted until 14 July when General Toral surrendered in the midst of American preparations to launch an attack.³²

The same day the hilltops at Santiago were being secured, two commercial transport ships - the Florida and the Funita - with 50 black cavalymen and 375 Cubans aboard were delivering food and ammunition to Cuban insurgents at Tunes, near Cienfuego. A detachment of Cubans and white Americans had taken the supplies to shore but could not return to the ships because their small boat had been damaged by enemy fire and several of their number had been wounded. Cubans made four unsuccessful attempts to rescue the detachment. Then a request went out for volunteers to make a fifth rescue attempt. Without hesitation, black privates;

Dennis Bell, Fitz Lee, William H. Tompkins and George H. Wanton stepped forward.

Under cover of darkness, they rowed their small boats to shore through occasional enemy artillery fire. They crept through the underbrush in search of the stranded men. Suddenly, a voice called out and two white soldiers staggered from the darkness.

By this time, the Spanish had heard the noise and moved to engage the men. The Americans fought their way back to the boats and rowed to the ships, bullets splashing all around them but by 3:00 a.m. they were safely on board the Florida.

For their gallantry, each of the four black volunteers was awarded the Medal of Honor. They, along with a sailor - Fireman Second Class Robert Penn - were the first blacks to win this distinction in the Spanish-American War.³³

The armistice was signed on 12 August 1898 whereby Spain agreed to withdraw entirely from the western hemisphere. Spanish sovereignty over Cuba was relinquished, and all the rest of the Spanish West Indies, including Puerto Rico, was surrendered to the United States forces.³⁴

The Tenth Cavalry returned to the United States as heroes. Although the regiment was slated for a temporary stay in Huntsville, Alabama, President McKinley had the unit detained in Washington, DC, long enough for a review by the President himself.³⁵ The unit then continued to Huntsville where the men of the Tenth reportedly had no trouble making friends and some even getting married.

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After brief service there and in Texas, the Tenth made its headquarters in Fort Robinson, Nebraska, in 1902. During their Nebraska stay, the men had sufficient leisure time to take up organized athletics. They competed in target shooting, baseball, football, and polo against other military teams as well as civilian groups from as far away as Denver and New York.

When the Tenth moved to Manila, Philippines, in 1907, they maintained their excellent sports record. Among others, precision marching, wrestling, boxing, field and track events, and cavalry events (such as tent pegging and pistol and saber contests) were added to their athletic repertoire. Again, they competed against teams from other regiments as well as area civilians.³⁶

In 1909, the Tenth returned to the United States. This time, the unit was headquartered at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. Though the men still participated in athletics, events began to boil in Europe which caused them to re-double their training efforts.

They moved from Vermont to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in December, 1913, and were assigned the mission of patrolling and protecting American property along the Mexican border. It was during this period that they became involved in General John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition and the subsequent hunt for Poncho Villa. The Tenth Cavalry was alerted to the urgency of the expedition after a particularly bloody raid on the town of Columbus, New Mexico, where a large party of bandits led by Poncho Villa killed several Americans. During that raid of 8 March 1916, many buildings were destroyed, in spite of the efforts of the Thirteenth Cavalry.

On 9 March, the Tenth's regimental commander, Colonel W. C. Brown, received word of the raid and immediately ordered the entire command, less troops L, M, and the Band, to track down Villa. At Culbertson's Range, New Mexico, the Tenth united with the Seventh Cavalry and Battery B of the Sixth Field Artillery to form the Second Cavalry Brigade under General Pershing. Their objective was to bring back Villa, dead or alive, and both Congress and the War Department gave the brigade permission to pursue the bandit into Mexico.³⁷

In chasing Poncho Villa, speed was paramount, so the brigade lightened its load by leaving most of its equipment behind, even overcoats and other bulky articles of clothing. At Colonia Dublan, Mexico, the tired American troops and horses boarded a train to San Miguel. The train was so cramped that many men rode on the roofs of boxcars, barricaded from possible fall by bales of hay along the edge of the roofs. When the engine broke down, Colonel Brown, his men and their mounts detrained and continued the journey by horse. Most certainly, his decision was influenced by the train's halting performance for it had traveled only 27 miles in over 17 hours! When Brown's unit re-joined the rest of the brigade three days later, he learned that the train had wrecked injuring 16 men.

Efforts to locate Villa were hampered because of his strong popular support among the Mexican peasants. So-called informants continually gave the Americans incorrect information which led them to Villista camps days after the bandits' departure. On 31 March, the Tenth

did make contact with Villa's forces at Aguas Calientes, but their tired horses could not keep up with the Villistas' well-rested mounts. Men of the Tenth were cheered somewhat when they learned that on 29 March, Villa had been severely wounded by some natives he had impressed into his services.

Soon, the Americans' lack of supplies and funds became serious. They had been receiving supplies by giving the Mexicans reimbursable receipts. However, once the difficulties in converting these receipts became apparent, the Mexican merchants refused to accept them. One citizen of Cusi described the receipt method of payment in this manner:

You Americans pay for food all right, but you give receipts only. Now you buy a cow from a man who lives a hundred miles from any railroad. Even if that railroad were operating, it would be six months before he gets his mail. You take that cow and you kill it and give him a receipt. He mails that receipt to the quartermaster at San Antonio in Texas. It takes, maybe, six months for it to get there, if it gets there at all. When the quartermaster gets it, he cannot pay for it. He returns the duplicate vouchers to be signed. They take another six months to reach the man, and then he cannot write and cannot read English. If he can do all of these and signs in the proper place - even then he gets, about eighteen months later, a check that he cannot cash.³⁸

Difficulties in obtaining supplies soon limited the operations of all the North American forces. Although the troops remained in Mexico until 30 January 1917, making occasional contact with Villista outfits, Poncho Villa himself avoided capture. Thus, when the Tenth returned to Fort Huachuca on 14 February 1917, it was without their accustomed taste of victory.³⁹

The Tenth Cavalry did not participate directly in World War I although the unit did provide a large number of officers and sergeants

to other units that had been ordered to Europe. Also, other enlisted men received commissions from training camps in the United States (See appendix D). After the Punitive Expedition a number of Tenth Cavalry units continued to carry out security activities on the Mexican border.⁴⁰

In 1918, the men of the Tenth fought in the so-called "last Indian battle in the Southwest" but, in reality, it was no more than a brief skirmish with a few disgruntled Yaqui Indians.⁴¹

The regiment remained at Fort Huachuca until the unit was split in 1931. Then, part of the regiment went to Fort Meyer, Virginia, part to West Point, New York and part, the headquarters and first squadron, returned to the site of its 1866 organization, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

ENDNOTES

¹Phillip T. Dronning, Black Heroes in Our Nation's History (New York: Cowles Book Company, Inc., 1969), p. 96.

²William H. Leckie, The Buffalo Soldiers (Norman: Oklahoma Press, 1967), pp. 7-8. Colonel Grierson was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 8 July 1826. His early profession was teaching music, but when the Civil War began in 1861, he enlisted in the Union Cavalry and earned the rank of Colonel. In the spring of 1863, General Grant selected him to lead a diversionary raid through Mississippi. Grierson led 1,700 men on a 600-mile raid from LaGrange, Tennessee to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which was held by Union forces. Although his raiding party encountered little opposition in disrupting railroads and destroying property, their exploits alarmed and confused the Confederates and contributed greatly to the overall success of Grant's campaign. Grant later described Grierson's raid as the most brilliant expedition of the war. The easy-going former music teacher thus became a national figure. By the time of Appomattox, he was a brevet major general of volunteers and had earned the confidence of both Grant and Sherman.

³John Bigelow, Jr., "The Tenth Regiment of Cavalry," in The Army of the United States: Historical Sketches of Staff and Line, with Portraits of Generals-in-Chief, ed. Theo. F. Rodenbough and William L. Haskin (New York: Maynard, Merrill & Co., 1896), p. 288-290.

⁴Leckie, p. 8.

⁵Edward L. Glass, History of the Tenth Cavalry, 1866-1921 (Fort Collins, Colorado: Old Army Press, 1972), p. 24.

⁶Ibid., pp. 13-14.

⁷General Cullum, Biographical Register of the Officials and Graduates of the US Army Military Academy, Volume I (New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1891), pp. 433-434. General Hoffman was born in New York in 1808. He attended the Military Academy and was commissioned as an Infantry officer upon graduation in 1829. During his career he served with the Third, Sixth, and Eighth Infantry. He served as an Infantry Lieutenant during the "Black Hawk" War against the Sac Indians in 1832. As a Captain, he saw action in the war against Mexico, 1846-1848. He was cited for Gallant and Meritorious conduct in battles at Contreras, Churubusco, and Molino Del Ray, Mexico in 1847. He served extensively on the frontier and was made a prisoner of war by the Texas rebels in October 1860 and not exchanged until 1862. He served during the Civil War as Commissary General of Prisoners at Washington, DC. He assumed command of Fort Leavenworth 18 April 1866 to 6 March 1868.

- 8Leckie, pp. 13-16.
- 9Leckie, pp. 13-16.
- 10Drotning, pp. 97-98.
- 11Glass, p. 15.
- 12Drotning, pp. 100-02.
- 13Richard Wormer, The Yellowlegs: The Story of the US Cavalry (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1966), p. 430.
- 14Leckie, p. 152.
- 15Leckie, p. 222-27.
- 16Glass, p. 22.
- 17Leckie, p. 229.
- 18Glass, p. 24.
- 19Glass, p. 24-28. (See Appendix C for a list of all Tenth Cavalry blacks who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.)
- 20Leckie, pp. 141-42.
- 21Edward Wakin, Black Fighting Men in US History (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., 1971), pp. 70-71.
- 22Leckie, pp. 259-60.
- 23Wakin, p. 86.
- 24Glass, pp. 31-32.
- 25Drotning, p. 150.
- 26Drotning, pp. 150-51.
- 27Drotning, p. 151.
- 28Wakin, pp. 89-90.
- 29Glass, p. 34.
- 30Glass, p. 34.
- 31Wakin, p. 92.

³²Glass, p. 38.

³³Drotning, pp. 156-67. (See Appendix C for a list of all Tenth Cavalry blacks who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.)

³⁴Drotning, pp. 160-61.

³⁵Glass, p. 38.

³⁶Glass, p. 50-51.

³⁷Glass, pp. 67-68.

³⁸Glass, p. 72.

³⁹Glass, p. 81.

⁴⁰Glass, pp. 129-30. (See Appendix D for a list of all Tenth Cavalry members who earned commissions at stateside training camps during World War I.)

⁴¹Glass, p. 111.

Chapter III

TENTH CAVALRY'S RETURN TO FORT LEAVENWORTH

Elements of the Tenth Cavalry returned to Fort Leavenworth in October 1931, as part of an overall plan to reduce the size of the Army and restructure units for peacetime duties. This general reorganization had become necessary due to the expansion of the Air Corps authorized by Congress in 1926 because the additional spaces needed for the Air Corps were to come from existing active units. But the Air Corps did not accept black enlistments, and thus the blacks had no new compensatory vacancies available. Therefore, the Air Corps expansion meant more than a "simple" shift of men from one arm of service to another. It meant an overall reduction in the strength of blacks in the army, in other words, a black reduction in force.

This expansion of the Air Corps units and corresponding reduction of active forces was to take place in five yearly increments beginning in 1926; black units were required to take their share of the cuts only in the fifth year, 1931. At that time, the reduction was to be effected through the relocation of black regiments coupled with their absorption of scattered black detachments.

The black civilian leaders and organizations across the United States were uneasy about these reductions and the subsequent realignment of units. Further, the strength of the Army was being reduced at a

time of an economic depression, when the demand by blacks for enlistment was higher than usual. Black newspapers throughout the country carried articles suggesting that black units were being systematically deactivated. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), American Legion Posts, and civic groups wrote Congressmen to obtain facts about the future of black soldiers. The letter of Doctor Robert R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, to President Herbert Hoover reflected all of their views.¹ Moton emphasized:

...the War Department makes no reference whatever to the injustice of reducing the total number of Negro troops in order to make provisions for a department of the service to which negroes are not admitted.

...the War Department completely ignores the representation that negro soldiers are being assigned exclusively to service units; that they are being distributed throughout the country solely to do menial work for white soldiers.... Moton insisted that the negro is willing to do his share of the menial tasks necessary to the maintenance and operation of any organization just as he has done more than his share in the development of the whole country; but it is unwarranted humiliation and unjust discrimination that he should be denied the opportunity of serving in other capacities. Moton ended his letter by suggesting that the orders be rescinded.²

Within a few days President Hoover sent a personal letter to the Secretary of War inquiring about this matter. "My Dear Mr. Secretary: You will find in your files a large amount of correspondence on the subject here attached. We do not seem to be able to get the thing quiet. I am wondering if there is anything you can do in the matter. Signed: Yours Faithfully, Herbert Hoover."³

A letter from the Army Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, dated 18 November 1931 was forwarded to Dr. Moton. In the introduction,

General MacArthur advised Dr. Moton that his letter had been forwarded to him to answer and added that the War Department appreciated Moton's assessment of the situation and sympathized with his efforts to change conditions of service for the black regiments. MacArthur stressed the difficulties of understanding the problems confronting the War Department which was charged, by law, with the peacetime maintenance of the military organizations necessary to form the framework upon which an immediate mobilization could be based. For this purpose, the National Defense Act prescribed a strength of 280,000 enlisted men. However, due to economic and other considerations, the enlisted strength authorized by the Congress currently could not exceed 118,750.

The Chief of Staff pointed out that with this reduced enlisted strength, it had become difficult for the War Department to maintain its foreign garrisons at sufficient strength while training civilian components as required by law.

In 1926, it had become necessary to decrease the other arms and services of the Regular Army by 6,240 enlisted men to allow for the expansion of the Air Corps. In making these decreases, the reduction of strength in colored units was avoided as long as practicable. However, in planning to provide the fifth and final increment for the Air Corps, and to make a fairly complete re-distribution of the Regular Army troops throughout the United States, the War Department was forced to reduce colored units as well. This plan lightened the reductions borne by the majority of the white regiments that were involved with the training of civilian components. The urgent necessities of national

defense forced the War Department to adopt its present plans for reduction in colored units. At this point, the General's letter went to great length to re-emphasize that white units had been cut first and to a level below which they could not be reduced and still function as expected. He also stated that the only alternative was to increase the strength of the Regular Army which could not be justified at the present time.

In closing, General MacArthur explained that the War Department's actions had been guided solely by the need to reduce the strength of the Regular Army. That need, he said, "must transcend any question of proportional representation of particular races or color."⁴

In an earlier letter written to Congressman Oscar DePriest (Republican - Illinois), General MacArthur had pointed out that this overall plan would result in a better distribution of troops for national defense and for training civilian components. Further, it would result in certain economies in the military establishment. He explained that while the Tenth Cavalry had been stationed along the Mexican Border, they had experienced uncomfortable living conditions and that the War Department wanted to provide these men with the kind of quarters they deserved. He concluded by saying that this would be accomplished with the present plan.⁵

Thus, the Tenth Cavalry was split in 1931 and assigned to three locations:

article taken from the Cavalry Journal sums up the fort's reception of the unit:

The Headquarters, Tenth Cavalry and 1st Squadron arrived at Fort Leavenworth, by rail, 6PM, October 12, 1931. The men were in excellent spirit and health and have occupied their new quarters. They seem to enjoy their new surroundings. The cities of Leavenworth and Kansas City afford all opportunities for pleasure and recreation for a soldier, as there are many colored people in these communities who own homes. The cities have good schools, many athletic and social activities and lodges. General Heintzelman, the Commandant, his staff and about two hundred members of officers' and enlisted men's families of Fort Leavenworth met the train at the station. The troops and train were commanded by Lieutenant John L. Ryan, Jr., 10th Cavalry. Their arrival here was a great reunion for old friends, former members of the 10th Cavalry, both officers and soldiers, and their families. Brigadier General Stuart Heintzelman, Commandant, Command and General Staff College, inspected the regiment October 17th, talked to each soldier, individually, and made a short talk to each troop, mentioning the fine appearance of the men and his delight and that of the post, in having such a distinguished regiment in the garrison.⁹

Unlike the Post Commander of 1866, BG Heintzelman, the current Commander, was pleased to have the Tenth Cavalry assigned to Fort Leavenworth.¹⁰

As a service detachment, the Tenth Cavalry's "housekeeping" functions ranged from training and maintaining horses and hounds, to cooking, barbering and "bugling". Frank Gamble provides one example of the typical man of the Tenth. A cook and baker by trade, he served as cook in the officer's mess while at Fort Leavenworth. Another former trooper, Sylvester Linton, was assigned as the regimental barber. Mr. Linton is now retired and operates his own barber shop in the city of Leavenworth.¹¹ Other troopers acted as messengers, buglers, personnel clerks, map copiers and mimeograph operators and the majority of them were proud to have been a part of the Tenth Cavalry.

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This pride was reflected in the performance of their duties. Although the unit was, at first, not accustomed to the noncombative role, in the ensuing months the men adjusted quickly. While their task may not have been the most glamorous, they maintained their traditional high standards. See, for example, Paul Davison's tribute to the unit in his book.¹²

Athletics rated as the favorite pass-time and the regiment sponsored a wide range of competitive sports activities as it had done at Fort Robinson, and at Fort Ethan Allen. Troopers could choose from riding or rifle competition, boxing, bowling, baseball, swimming, tennis, basketball and football. Even those not actively taking part in the athletic program actively supported their fellow soldiers as proud spectators.

Most of the competition took place between military regiments and installations but some events experienced a wider range. There was, for example, a great deal of emphasis on the unit's football team which practiced often, played well and received widespread support including local newspaper coverage and frequent attention in the Cavalry Journal. This team was known to have played against military teams, black colleges, and some semi-professional white teams in the area.¹³

The article from the Cavalry Journal, Nov - Dec 1936, exemplifies the Army-wide acclaim the "footballers" received.¹⁴



Trooper Albert C. Sly on horse he trained at
Fort Leavenworth for the Commander of Ground
Forces, LTC Leslie J. McNair.

1939

The football team continued its winning tradition as new and talented players joined the Tenth in the late 1930s (see Appendix F).¹⁵ Football was a tradition which all former members of the Tenth well recall.

The troopers social life on post was apparently centered around their club, appropriately named the "Buffalo Club". Both noncommissioned officers and regular troopers patronized it regularly. The club sponsored a wide variety of activities including weekly dances, movies and especially holiday activities held both indoors and outdoors.

Generally, the troopers liked the club and looked forward to its activities, especially the dancing, drinking and general socializing. The only complaints directed against the Buffalo Club, revolved around its small size and few furnishings, harassment by the military police and non-commissioned officers, and the single movie projector which resulted in a delay between reels of movie film. In the 1930s, troopers paid monthly club dues of approximately \$1.00 (5% of pay) to see leading movies such as Charlie Chaplin's "Just Imagine". Western movies were popular and so were the heroes such as Hoot Gibson, Tom Mix, and Clark Gable. One trooper did complain about the club's segregation policies which prevented him from taking his white friends to the club.¹⁶ But certainly it was the black soldier who had more problems in this regard.

Black troopers could not use the Y.M.C.A., or the Officer and NCO Clubs. These facilities were for whites only. He was also granted only the "courtesy" of purchasing food at the snack bars and he could not actually eat in the shop.

The collapse of the US economy and the high unemployment rates, especially for blacks, during the Great Depression, made their lot in the segregated army easier to bare. But their tolerance of segregation also reflected their unit pride and fierce loyalty to the army. At times tempers flared and some fights broke out but no more than was considered normal for white and black soldiers living close together. Another explanation for the lack of major racial incidents was the unit's strict military discipline. In interviews with the author, veteran troopers of the Tenth explained that even a minor infraction of the rules and regulations was certain to bring swift and severe punishment; hence, they exercised an amazing amount of self-control. When applicable, minor punishment was determined without recourse on the part of the NCO or officer making the charge. The types of punishment they received were usually restriction to quarters and extra fatigue details. The men were not fined and only extreme crimes such as robbery, assault or attempted murder resulted in prison sentences.¹⁷

Even so, these segregated conditions could not be hidden forever. On 16 September 1938, a weekly newspaper, The Call, which was published by blacks in Kansas City, ran a front page headline which read - OFFICIAL RESTRICTIONS, A MASK TO HIDE PREJUDICE INFLICTED UPON ARMY UNIT - WRITER DISCOVERED MANY FACILITIES AT FORT LEAVENWORTH ARE FOR USE OF WHITE SOLDIERS ONLY, MEMBERS OF FAMOUS REGIMENT BARRED, VISIT DISCLOSES.

The article summed up discrimination and segregation practices discovered by the reporter during a visit to Fort Leavenworth. He

pointed out that members of the regiment still stick to the old Army tradition of not going over the heads of their superiors to report injustices to the War Department. The reporter wrote that it was unnecessary for men in the Tenth Cavalry Regiment to tell what they are experiencing because it could be plainly seen by anyone visiting the Fort.

The day after the article appeared in the newspaper, an unsigned letter postmarked Leavenworth, Kansas, was mailed to the Secretary of War. This letter substantiated charges listed in the newspaper account.

On 20 September 1938, C. A. Franklin, editor of The Call, followed up the original article by sending a letter to the Secretary of War, inclosing a copy of the 16 September issue of The Call. Then, on 22 September 1938, the Honorable Arthur Capper, US Senator from the State of Kansas, wrote a letter to the Secretary of War. Inclosed in the Senator's letter was yet another note from Mr. Franklin which made reference to the alleged discrimination against enlisted members of the Tenth Cavalry.

Thus, the Secretary of War received at least four letters describing segregation and discrimination at Fort Leavenworth. Disclosures made in these letters led to an investigation by the office of the Seventh Corps Inspector General (IG). Specifically, the investigation was conducted by Major Everett C. Williams, from 10 October to 13 October 1938. His report accurately summarized allegations made in the newspaper and in letters to the Secretary of War.

The allegations to be investigated can be summarized as follows:

a. That enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry were not permitted to purchase cigarettes or tobacco at the post exchange but had to purchase these items from the Tenth Cavalry club.

b. The hours during which the Tenth Cavalry club is open for business are different from the hours the post exchange is open and when the Tenth Cavalry club is not open the enlisted men of that unit are denied an opportunity to purchase tobacco and cigarettes.

c. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are not permitted to enter the post exchange to purchase anything.

d. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are not permitted to patronize the post exchange restaurant.

e. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry and their families are not permitted to use the toilet facilities at the War Department theater (post theater), but were required to perform the necessary labor incident to the cleaning of the theater toilets.

f. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are required to work on Sundays and holidays in connection with the riding classes conducted for women and children; thereby, depriving those involved of their days off.

g. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are not permitted to use any of the eleven tennis courts on the post.

h. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are not permitted to use any of the four swimming pools on post.

i. The black newspaper reporter who visited the post to obtain information on these conditions was not permitted to purchase food at the post exchange operated restaurant.

After a thorough investigation that included interviews with the Post Commandant, Commanding and Executive Officers of the Tenth Cavalry, Post Recreation Officer, Director of Physical Education, Supply and Exchange Officer of the Tenth Cavalry, and several enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry, the IG concluded the following:

a. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are well taken care of, happy, contented and possess a fine esprit and a high state of morale.

b. The enlisted men of this organization have not been treated unjustly by their officers in connection with any alleged segregation.

c. In order to preserve harmony among the personnel and organizations of the garrison, it is necessary to adopt certain measures to insure that the limited recreational and athletic facilities available for enlisted personnel be utilized in such a manner as to prevent incidents due to the intermingling of white and negro soldiers.

d. The order issued restricting the members of the Tenth Cavalry from purchasing cigarettes and tobacco at the post exchange was not discriminatory in nature; but was a routine administrative matter, designed to prevent abuse of post exchange privileges and to prevent fraudulent transactions on the part of certain individuals and for the protection of the enlisted personnel of the Tenth Cavalry.

e. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are not permitted to patronize the post exchange restaurant but may patronize all other branches of the post exchange except that they may not purchase tobacco products except at the Tenth Cavalry Club branch.

f. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry are discouraged from utilizing the facilities of the post gymnasium and the post swimming pool and no special arrangements were made whereby gymnasium and swimming facilities could be provided for their use.

g. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry were allowed to use any of the outdoor athletic fields, including the tennis courts, that are available for the use of the enlisted men of the garrison.

h. The enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry have not been denied the right to patronize the War Department theater but that they and their families and guests were denied the right to use the lounge and toilet facilities of the War Department theater, pending the completion of separate facilities.

i. The athletic and recreational facilities provided at this post are deficient in that separate facilities, including a gymnasium and swimming pool, for the Tenth Cavalry are absolutely necessary in order to preserve proper feeling and harmonious relations among enlisted men of this organization and the other organizations of the garrison.

Based on the above conclusions the IG made the following recommendations:

a. Immediate consideration be given by the War Department to the construction of a suitable building, located convenient to the barracks now occupied by the Tenth Cavalry, this building to contain a gymnasium, club rooms, swimming pool, so as to provide proper recreational and athletic facilities that can be used by the enlisted personnel of the Tenth Cavalry.

b. The post orders prohibiting the showing of motion pictures at the Tenth Cavalry Club be rescinded thus permitting the occasional showing of motion pictures for the entertainment of the enlisted men and their families.

c. That, appropriate letters be addressed to the editor of The Call, the Honorable Arthur Capper, Senator from Kansas, and the Commanding General, Fort Leavenworth, advising them as to the results of the investigation.¹⁸

The IG's 102-page investigation confirmed the segregated conditions on Fort Leavenworth. It is clear that the report showed the recreational facilities available to the enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry were inadequate. Judging from his recommendation, the IG felt that the deficiency should be corrected but only if they could remain separate from those facilities used by the white soldiers. Perhaps the most harmful aspect of having a policy of separate facilities was that black soldiers would continue to be denied until funds were made available to construct duplicate facilities. In this case, segregation had a harmful effect because the required facilities were not completed for over a year. An appropriation of \$19,962.00 was received from the War Department for the purpose of converting a stable into a service club for the Tenth Cavalry. The money was appropriated in May 1940 and had to be spent or obligated before the end of June 1940. The building they converted was a brick structure large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment that would be required to outfit the service club.¹⁹

Apparently the money was used to procure materials and men with specialized skills because most of the labor was done by the troopers of the Tenth. Once the club was completed and operational it was appropriately named "Tenth Cavalry Club". This improved structure

eventually led to the closing of the old "Buffalo Club". The new service club, with a bowling alley, pool hall, cafeteria, exchange, card and checkers tables, and a dance floor, appeared to fill the needs of the troopers.

In spite of the segregated facilities, the non-combatative duties and the almost constant threat of punishment, most veterans of the Tenth Cavalry felt the morale in their unit was high. Table 1 indicates that eighteen of the twenty-two former troopers surveyed felt that morale in their unit was very high or good. This figure constitutes 82% of the total leaving only 18% (or four former troopers) who said that morale was only fair. The really impressive aspect of these figures is that no one claimed the morale was poor.

Table 1 - Perceived Morale of Troopers

Status of Morale	Very High	Good	Fair	Poor	Totals
Number in Category	6	12	4	0	22
Percentage	27%	55%	18%	0%	100%

Table 2 shows whether the troopers felt they were being properly led by their military leaders. This table illustrates that only one veteran indicated that he was treated poorly by his military leaders, all of the rest responded that they were treated fair or better.

Table 2 - Perceived Treatment by Military Leaders

Level of Treatment	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	NR	Totals
Noncommissioned Officers	13	4	5	0	0	22
Officers	9	7	4	1	1	22

*NR - No Response

It is evident that these modern day Buffalo Soldiers were not only loyal troopers but also that their positive outlook contributed to the high performance of duty this combat regiment rendered while acting as a service detachment at Fort Leavenworth.²⁰

ENDNOTES

¹Ulysses Lee, The Employment of Negro Troops, (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1966), pp. 23-25.

²Principal, Tuskegee Institute (Dr. Robert R. Moton), personal correspondence to the President of the United States, concerning strength reductions in black units, 27 October 1931. (Copy of this correspondence on file in CGSC Library).

³US, President, 1928-1932 (Hoover), personal correspondence to the Secretary of War, concerning strength reductions in black units, 30 October 1931. (Copy of this correspondence on file in CGSC Library).

⁴Army Chief of Staff (General Douglas MacArthur), personal correspondence to Dr. Moton, concerning strength reductions in black units, 18 November 1931. (Copy of this correspondence on file in CGSC Library).

⁵Army Chief of Staff (General Douglas MacArthur), personal correspondence to Congressman Oscar DePriest, concerning strength reductions in black units, 1 September 1931. (Copy of this correspondence on file in CGSC Library).

⁶"Organizational Activities", The Cavalry Journal, Nov - Dec 1931, p. 61.

⁷Army Chief of Staff (General Douglas MacArthur), personal correspondence to Congressman Oscar DePriest, concerning strength reductions in black units, 1 September 1931. (Copy of this correspondence on file in CGSC Library).

⁸Command and General Staff School, "Special Orders No. 237, October 12, 1931," in Orders: General and Special (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1931). (USACGSC Library, Call No. M290/C.731/D4E/4A).

⁹"Organizational Activities", The Cavalry Journal, Nov - Dec 1931, p. 61. According to George W. Cullum, Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Army Military Academy, ed. W. H. Donaldson. Supplement, Vol VII (Chicago: The Association of Graduates, U.S. Military Academy, 1930), p. 2015, Lieutenant John L. Ryan, Jr., was born 4 July 1903, in Georgia. He attended the Military Academy, graduating in the Class of 1926. His cavalry duties at that time included duty with the Sixth Cavalry and service as an instructor at the Cavalry School in 1930.

¹⁰George W. Cullum, Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Army Military Academy, ed. Charles Braden, supplement, Vol. V (Saginaw: The Association of Graduates, US Military Academy, 1910), p. 625. Brigadier General Stuart Heintzelman came from a military family which dated back at least two generations. Both his father and grandfather were graduates of the Military Academy, his father having been in the Class of 1867 and his grandfather in that of 1366. Thus, he himself had been well acquainted with the military since childhood. He had a particularly thorough knowledge of cavalymen and their duties, having spent most of his own distinguished military career in the Sixth Cavalry. BG Heintzelman was also an honor graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Class of 1906.

¹¹Results of questionnaire, see appendix E.

¹²Paul Davison, Gone Away with the Leavenworth Hunt (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: Fort Leavenworth Book Store, 1940), pp. 11-12.

¹³The Leavenworth Times (Leavenworth), 21 November 1931.

¹⁴"Organizational Activities", The Cavalry Journal, Nov - Dec 1936, p. 544.

¹⁵Recreation Bulletin, Recreation Office, Fort Leavenworth, 15 October 1937 (see appendix F for copy of the bulletin).

¹⁶Results of questionnaire, see appendix E.

¹⁷Results of questionnaire, see appendix E.

¹⁸Headquarters, Seventh Corps Inspector General Report, "Report to Commanding General, Seventh Corps Area on Alleged Discrimination Against Members of 10th Cavalry, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas" (Omaha, Nebraska: Office of Inspector General, 28 October 1938). (Xeroxed). Hereafter referred to as IG report. (Copy of this report is on file in CGSC Library).

¹⁹The Leavenworth Times (Leavenworth) 30 May 1940. The money allocated for the conversion of a stable to a service club for the Tenth Cavalry was reported in the Leavenworth Times on 30 May 1940.

²⁰Results of questionnaire, see appendix E.

Chapter IV

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Because black soldiers had already been assigned to the US Army Colored Detachment #2, at Fort Leavenworth, the arrival of the black Tenth Cavalry on 12 October 1931, did not come as a shock to residents of the Leavenworth area. Although the black population of the town numbered only about 2,184, approximately 13% of the total, the widespread coverage the unit received in the white-owned, local newspaper made its activities and accomplishments well known.¹ The most explicit example of the leading newspapers acceptance of the Tenth Cavalry was found in a Leavenworth Times article published 20 March 1932. Filling more than two full columns under the headline "10th Cavalry Has Written Brilliant Page in Military History of the Southwest," this article gave a complete overview of the Tenth from its organization at Fort Leavenworth in 1866 to its activities in Nogales, Mexico. Naturally, it emphasized the unit's role in taming marauding Indians but the article went further expanding on the Tenth's association with the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War and on their important engagements with the Villistas during 1916. The Times article concluded that:

One of the finest pages in the military history of the Southwest has been written by the 10th (colored) Cavalry which A and B of the headquarters squadron are in station at Fort Leavenworth.... Much local interest attaches to the

regiment from the fact it was organized at Fort Leavenworth and drew heavily from the colored men of the city in establishing its quota.²

In the ensuing years the white newspaper continued to cover all the unit's activities and had little but praise for the black unit. Due to the unit's excellent football and boxing teams, articles on sports activities were the most prominent. Other major topics included awards, promotions, retirements and activities surrounding the annual "organizational day" celebration. Typical examples include the retirement story, published in the Leavenworth Times on 29 February 1932, read "Master Sgt Hugh C. Scott, colored, Headquarters Troop, Tenth Cavalry, Fort Leavenworth, retired today from active service after completion of the equivalent of 30 years in the Army." The article continued by listing several of the soldier's major assignments and concluded with two lengthy paragraphs praising Scott's excellent performance of duty.³ The 28 July 1935 paper described the review of the Tenth Cavalry by Brigadier General Herbert J. Brees, the post commandant along with the unit's recreational activities of a barbecue and picnic. The same article gave another glowing account of the accomplishments of the Tenth Cavalry.⁴

But there was sad news to be reported also. One article - headlines "Tenth Cavalryman Taken by Pneumonia" - covers the death of Admiral Forman in 1932 after a several day bout with pneumonia.⁵ Another tells the story of Sergeant Will Knox who was killed instantly when his "coupe" collided with a cattle truck on US 40 highway.⁶

Adverse news was not neglected and was presented in an even-handed manner. "Soldiers Given Sentence Cuts", for example, concerned two members of the Tenth - Kid Sims and Hellem Hollahed - who were found guilty of assault with intent to kill and attempt to commit robbery. Each man was sentenced to 16-years in prison, but the period was cut to eight years by the Seventh Corps Area Headquarters at Fort Omaha.⁷ Eighteen-year-old trooper Sam Alexander, was apprehended for holding up sixteen-year-old delivery boy Marvin Sanders while he was answering a "fake" delivery order called in to Crown Drug Store. That story hit the streets on 13 January 1938, bore the title "Money Sack Is Clue in Arrest of Youth Here."⁸ "A Colored Soldier Charged with an Attempted Assault" recorded nineteen-year-old John David Burton's attempted rape of Eva Zielinski. Burton, a member of the Tenth, was arrested after the victim's husband filed a complaint against him.⁹

One of the most startling of all the articles in 1939 followed Tenth member, John Fleming's fatal shooting of his fifteen-year-old wife Gertrude. The first newspaper account of this crime appeared on 19 May, and was followed by a series of related articles that culminated with a 25 May report on Fleming being sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary.¹⁰

Veteran respondents of the Tenth were asked to give their perception of how well they were received by the black and white Leavenworth residents. While the response of only 22 members is not large enough to yield any definitive results, the answers do indicate certain attitudes that must have been prevalent within the unit. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 - Perceived Acceptance by Local Citizens

	Liked Them	Had No Opinion	Did Not Like Them	Totals
Black Citizens	19	3	0	22
Percent	86%	14%	0%	100%
White Citizens	14	8	0	22
Percent	64%	36%	0%	100%

Most of the respondents felt they were well received by the local citizens. The figures are especially remarkable in view of the fact that in no case did any of the soldiers feel they were unwelcome in the town of Leavenworth.

In a follow-on question, the veterans were asked if they had frequent contact with Leavenworth citizens. The purpose of this question was to determine the validity of their perceived acceptance by local citizens.

Table 4 - Contact with Local Citizens

	Frequent	Infrequent	No Comment	Totals
Black Citizens	21	1	0	22
Percent	95%	5%	0%	100%
White Citizens	11	9	2	22
Percent	50%	41%	9%	100%

Table 4 shows that only 50% of the soldiers had frequent contact with white citizens as compared to the 95% having frequent contact with the black citizens, but the lesser number is understandable considering the segregated conditions of the time. Even those who

said they had frequent black-white contact explained that it was only while conducting business transactions with local merchants. In no case did the veterans say they were ever treated in an unfriendly manner by any of the citizens of Leavenworth. This is probably why 18 of 22 veterans responded that they enjoyed visiting Leavenworth when they were off the post.

The troopers did harbor one grievance against Leavenworth and that was the lack of recreational facilities off post. Table 5 is graphic representation of the trooper's response to the question that dealt with off post recreation.

Table 5 - Off Post Recreational Facilities

	Sufficient	Insufficient	No Response	Total
Number in Category	12	6	4	22
Percentage	55%	27%	18%	100%

This figure clearly indicates that a high percentage of the troopers thought that there was not enough recreational activities off post for the black soldier. The six who said there was insufficient off post activities is actually a higher percentage than is shown in the table in that these troopers represent 33% of those who responded to the question. In part, their attitude may have reflected local segregation practices and the relatively small percentage of blacks and black owned businesses in the city.

The night life of the black soldiers stationed at Fort Leavenworth was generally limited to a residential and business district known as the "Black Belt" by some of the former troopers. This area

stretches from 4th Street to Miami then east to 3rd Street and, from there, south to Delaware (see Appendix G). Activities spawned in the "Black Belt" included clubs, pool halls, restaurants, money-lenders, pawn shops, and the Masonic Hall. But not all the soldiers frequented these places. Some joined local churches and became actively involved in their religious programs. Two of the more popular of these churches were Independent Baptist Church, located on Sixth and Pottawotamie and Bethel A.M.E. Church, located in the 400 block of Kiowa. The latter church was by far the most famous because it was used by abolitionists during mid-19th Century as a stop on the "underground railroad" and its basement is said to have been the hiding place for hundreds of runaway slaves making their way to freedom.¹¹

From the tone of remarks made in the Leavenworth Times as well as the volume of newspaper coverage given the activities of the Tenth Cavalry, it appears that Leavenworth residents were pleased with black troopers. One reason for this broad acceptance was the economic situation of the United States during the 1930s. The nation's general overall economic condition had steadily deteriorated after the collapse of the stock market in 1929. By 1932 after the Tenth Cavalry arrived at Fort Leavenworth, unemployment figures soared to an estimated 15 million Americans listed as out of work and the number was still rising.¹² Therefore, the local merchants were glad for the additional revenue the black troopers brought them, for through the merchants, this money helped to support the local economy.

The Depression was also a major factor in the Tenth's high retention rate. Even though the basic pay for the average trooper was around \$21.00 per month, the veterans interviewed indicated that the sum was more than enough to live on and still save money. Satisfaction with their lot is attested to by the fact that 15 or 68% of those completing the questionnaires were career men who spent more than 20 years in the service. Only two of the seven not staying on to retire had less than ten years service.

Table 6 - Years of Service

Years of Service	0-10	10-19	20-29	over 30	Totals
Number in Category	2	5	10	5	22
Percentage	9%	23%	45%	23%	100%

When asked "If you could live your life over again, would you join the service?" All but one of the responses was positive. Almost as impressive were their responses when asked if they tried to encourage relatives to join the service. Only three said they had not.

Table 7 shows the troopers response to the question as to how military service harmed their lives.

Table 7 - Negative Effects of Military Service

Category	No Harmful Effect	Harmful Effect	No Response	Total
Number in Category	15	4	3	22
Totals	68%	18%	14%	100%

The four that said the army was detrimental to their lives cited segregation, working conditions, and the lack of opportunities for additional education as the primary reasons. Three people did not respond to the question. Therefore, 15 of 19 or 79% said the army did not harm their lives in any way which would indicate they were proud of their tenure in the service.¹³

Thus, the information gained from the interviews indicates that the black troopers were treated well by Leavenworth citizens. The troopers liked the city of Leavenworth and they looked forward to a visit downtown whenever they got the chance.

ENDNOTES

¹U.S., Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the U.S.: 1930 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), p. 877.

²"Tenth Cavalry has Written Brilliant Page in Military History of the Southwest," Leavenworth Times, 20 March 1932.

³"Sergeant Scott to Retirement," Leavenworth Times, 29 February 1932.

⁴"Officers Laud Tenth Cavalry on Anniversary," Leavenworth Times, 28 July 1935.

⁵"Tenth Cavalryman Taken by Pneumonia," Leavenworth Times, 21 February 1932.

⁶"A Tenth Trooper Killed in Motor Crash on U.S. 40," Leavenworth Times, 27 July 1932.

⁷"Soldiers Given Sentence Cuts," Leavenworth Times, 19 February 1932.

⁸"Money Sack is Clue in Arrest of Youth Here," Leavenworth Times, 13 January 1938.

⁹"A Colored Soldier Charged with an Attempted Assault," Leavenworth Times, 20 June 1938.

¹⁰"Tenth Cavalry Man is Held in Wife Killing," Leavenworth Times, 19 March and 25 May 1939.

¹¹Results of questionnaire, see Appendix E.

¹²Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the Making of America, (New York: Collier Books, 1969), p. 209.

¹³Results of questionnaire, see Appendix E.

Chapter V

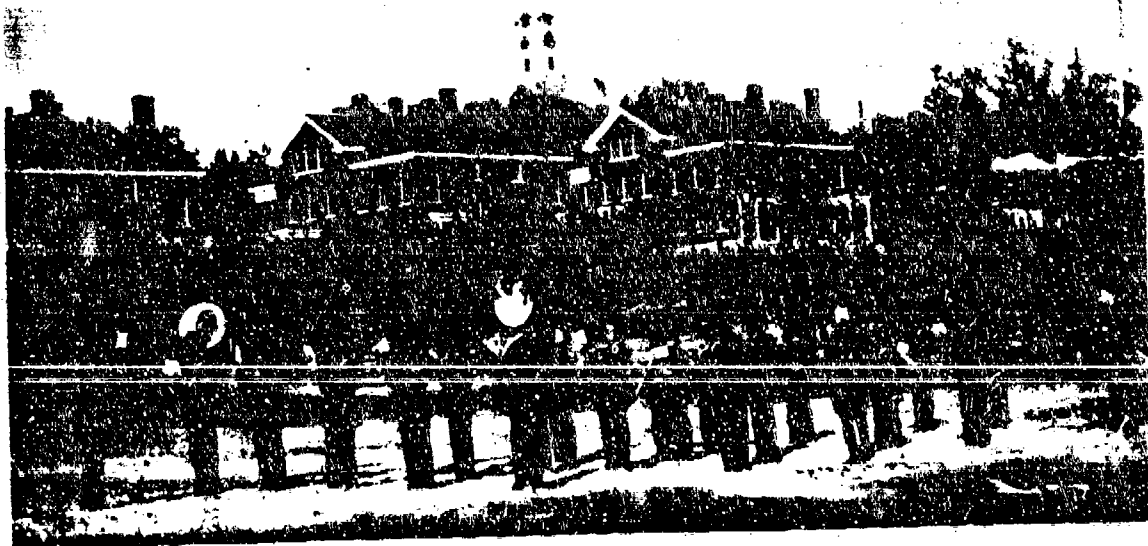
ACTIVATION AND DEPARTURE

The Tenth Cavalry was not to be shelved forever as a service troop. Perhaps the first indication that the Tenth would return to a combat status came on 26 October 1939, when the Leavenworth Times reported that the unit was moving to Fort Riley, Kansas, to take part in intensive training efforts. Nearly all of the garrison was to participate in the training exercise which called for eight officers and 300 enlisted men. According to the newspaper reports, the Tenth was to join other cavalry units at Fort Riley for a special three-month training session after which the Tenth would return to Fort Leavenworth.¹

A second indicator was the transfer of the Tenth Cavalry's commander, Lieutenant Colonel William H. W. Youngs, to Des Moines, Iowa, for duty with the Iowa National Guard. He was succeeded as Regiment Commander by Lieutenant Colonel Paul R. Davison, a well-known officer, who had piled up an impressive record during his thirty months as the executive officer of the Command and General Staff College. He was also credited with improving the Military Review and with organizing the Old Santa Fe Trail, the Wild West Show and the American Royal Livestock show all of which performed locally. Lieutenant Colonel Davison had also been the Master of the Fox and Hounds Hunt and had written the book Gone Away with the Leavenworth Hunt.²



Tenth Cavalry Regiment, Wild West Band and Show, 1939



Tenth Cavalry Regiment Provisional Band on the Parade Field

1940

Another step in preparing the Tenth for combat duty was the systematic return on the unit's two skeletonized squadrons from Fort Myer and West Point. These joined the Tenth at Fort Leavenworth on 30 January 1941, amid increasing speculation as to the Army's plans for the regiment.³

The day after the squadron arrived, the Times published an article explaining the status of the Tenth and the army's plans to bring the unit up to a full enlisted strength of 1300 men. It elaborated on the post's proposed plans for housing the entire nine troops. Meanwhile, the unit's officer strength was increasing from seven to 28 and an additional 20 officers were already on orders to join the unit. Now, only one of the regiment's units, Troop F, was not in garrison and its arrival in Leavenworth was expected within a few days.

Some \$18,000.00 had been allocated for providing housing not only for the arriving troops, but also for some 800 horses which were expected to be delivered. (Although the fort had previously operated more than enough stables, many had been converted to warehouses. Part of the \$18,000.00 was for re-converting the warehouses back to stables.) According to the Times article, approximately 100 more horses than men were needed because of the requirement for equipment-carrying pack animals.

The article ended with a statement from the Tenth's commander - Lieutenant Colonel Davison - in which he expressed his opinion that "the regiment will be recruited to full strength by the latter part of March (1941) and will be moved out to permanent station by the last of June."⁴

Not long after Lieutenant Colonel Davison's statement came official word as to the future of the Tenth Cavalry. On 1 February 1940, the unit was officially activated at Fort Leavenworth in a ceremony in which the regiment's "skeletonized" nine troops formed while the unit band played the national anthem and the regimental colors were dipped. The commander announced that the War Department had ordered him to be fully recruited and sufficiently trained to take the field within the next 13 weeks and as soon as necessary facilities were completed at Fort Riley, the Tenth would be permanently stationed there.

This meant that the Tenth Cavalry would have a higher priority in the assignment of selective service trainees. Previously the large number of the black trainees which had been processed at Fort Leavenworth had departed after five days on the post. Now, a large number of the black enlistees processed at the post's reception center would immediately go across post to the Tenth Cavalry for duty.

Lieutenant Colonel Davison also announced that the expected 800-1000 horses would soon be brought to Fort Leavenworth from the Army Remount Depot at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. These horses were scheduled to be shipped by rail and according to the local newspaper account, the shipments were to be by units of ten railroad cars holding 20 horses each and were to arrive at 48-hour intervals. But the shipments did not go off exactly as planned.⁵

First of all, the horses were not received within two days as originally planned. The initial shipment was not received until some seven days later and when they did arrive the shipment only had ten

train car loads of 200 and not the expected 40 train car loads of 800 horses. The plan for the shipment of all 800 horses to Fort Leavenworth was changed due to weather conditions at the army's remount depot in Fort Robinson, Nebraska. The weather would not allow the loading and shipment of the horses. Also, the facilities at Fort Leavenworth were not adequate at that time to shelter the animals in case of severe weather.

The future of the remainder of the animals was unclear due to the lack of adequate stable space at Fort Riley, Kansas, the future headquarters of the Tenth Cavalry.

Although the solution to these problems was not immediately available, the regimental commander, Colonel Paul R. Davison, made it clear that the change in plans and uncertainty would have no effect on the mobilization plans of the Tenth Cavalry. Colonel Davison pointed out at an interview with the local newspaper that he expected the regiment to be a full war strength by the latter part of March.⁶

Approximately one week before the unit was scheduled to depart Fort Leavenworth, the Tenth Cavalry Regiment appeared in a farewell ceremony and were reviewed by General Edmund L. Gruber, the post commandant. This review marked the first parade appearance of several hundred newly assigned selective service trainees. The regiment had expanded its numbers so quickly that not all the enlisted men had yet been assigned and post housing facilities proved insufficient to the extent that several detachments were housed in the post's summer camp area. But the Tenth's officer staff was already complete and hard at work training the arriving recruits.⁷

When the actual day of departure came for the Tenth Cavalry Regiment, the Leavenworth community was sorry to see them go. The local newspaper printed the story on the front page and gave a myriad of details concerning the move. The story pointed out that this was the largest troop movement from the fort since the Spanish-American War. The large crowd that came to see the unit off included the Post Commandant, General Edmund L. Gruber, wives and friends of the departing men, and, even some of the officers who were students attending the Command and General Staff College. There were tears, handshaking and waving.

The regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Paul R. Davison was on hand to supervise the movement of his unit which now consisted of 900 men. This large troop movement required three separate trains, one for horses, baggage and freight, and two for the men.⁸

Within two days the Times announced that two infantry regiments - the 1st and the 20th would move to Fort Leavenworth occupying the quarters left vacant by the Tenth Cavalry.⁹ It is doubtful, however, that these units could ever claim the sentiment and warm regard Fort Leavenworth and the surrounding community had for its Buffalo Soldiers, an affection that lasts even today.

ENDNOTES

¹"Post Cavalry and Infantry are to Move," Leavenworth Times, 26 October 1939.

²"Takes Command of Tenth Cavalry," Leavenworth Times, 7 January 1941.

³"Cavalry Soldiers to Come to Post," Leavenworth Times, 30 January 1941.

⁴"Expansion of Post Cavalry Unit Planned," Leavenworth Times, 31 January 1941.

⁵"Activation of Tenth Cavalry is Carried Out," Leavenworth Times, 2 February 1941.

⁶"200 Horses Arrive for Tenth Cavalry," Leavenworth Times, 9 February 1941.

⁷"Tenth Cavalry Scheduled to Go This Week," Leavenworth Times, 9 March 1941.

⁸"Tenth Cavalry to Fort Riley this Morning," Leavenworth Times, 14 March 1941.

⁹"Two Infantry Regiments to Move to Post," Leavenworth Times, 16 March 1941.

Chapter VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Although it is not generally publicized, the black American has participated in every major war in which this nation has been involved. He was there in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, fighting to gain and maintain independence for the United States even before he had secured his own freedom from slavery. The lack of publication is due primarily to two reasons. First of all, the white historians have generally overlooked the supporting role played by black soldiers in favor of the major accomplishments of white soldiers. A second reason being these historians felt there was a general lack of interest for the contributions made by black soldiers.

After the Civil War, Congress passed a law authorizing four regiments of black soldiers to serve for the first time in a peacetime army. One of the four units organized was the Tenth Cavalry Regiment, organized at Fort Leavenworth on 28 July 1866.

From the very beginning, the unit experienced difficulties. For example, it was difficult to raise enough qualified officers to lead the black soldiers. One reason for this was the stringent requirements placed on its would-be officers. Many could not meet the strict qualifications. Others refused to serve with the black troopers. Even though blacks had fought courageously in battle, some white officers still did not believe they would make good soldiers. Perhaps the most

famous white officer to refuse service with the black cavalrymen was Brevet General George A. Custer.

After this initial command problem was solved the troop recruitment completed, trouble continued for the Tenth at Fort Leavenworth because the post commander, General William Hoffman, did not like black soldiers. He refused to help Colonel Grierson in his efforts to prepare the unit for its future combat role but the commander of the Tenth wasted no time in training and preparing his unit for field service.

Even though this unit was allegedly organized to serve in the peacetime army, the area to which they were assigned left little doubt as to their mission. White settlers had already started their westward movement and the Indians were fighting to retain their traditional homeland. Since the struggle to force the Indians on the reservations was not a declared war, it was semantically correct to say that these black soldiers were recruited to serve in the peacetime army. However, the fact that the initial duties of the Tenth Cavalry was to guard the workers from hostile Indians along the Kansas Pacific Railroad and the fact that the unit suffered its first combat casualty just one year after its organization, leaves little doubt as to the purpose for these soldiers. This unit was organized to help bring the west under control and, at the time of their organization, there was no peace in the west.

During their campaigns against the Indians, Tenth Cavalrymen picked up the name "Buffalo Soldiers" which has remained a proud part of the unit's history. While serving in the west, these Buffalo Soldiers played a significant role in opening up the area, making it

peaceful and safe for settlers. It proved itself to be a first-rate unit.

When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, the Buffalo Soldiers were again called upon to prove themselves in battle. They were initially assigned the mission of firing to support the main attack. However, due to the inability of the unit making the main attack to accomplish its mission without help, the Tenth Cavalry wound up fighting alongside Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" and helped to bring about a rapid and victorious end for the United States.

In 1931, units of the Tenth were divided among three installations. The Headquarters and First Squadron was assigned to Fort Leavenworth as a service detachment until 1941. This was during the depression and the realignment and reduction of forces during this time was "political" and directly related to the limited military peacetime budget. They performed a peacetime caretaking and housekeeping function at each of the military reservations to which they were assigned. In addition to these military duties, soldiers assigned to the service detachment were active in organized athletics and compiled especially impressive records in boxing and football. The men had high morale and were proud of their service at Fort Leavenworth. This is due in part to the fact that during the times of high unemployment and racial prejudices throughout the United States, these men had secure jobs, and, as soldiers were generally highly regarded in black American society. Although they were not permitted to freely utilize all the post's facilities, the men were either too contented or too afraid to complain. However, someone did leak the story to a newspaper reporter

who subsequently published the tale of discriminatory practices on the front page of the 16 September 1938 issue of The Call. This focused immediate attention on the problem and resulted in a thorough investigation by the Office of the Seventh Corps Area Inspector General.

The IG's report led to several improvements in the troopers' welfare. Perhaps the most important of these improvements was the establishment of a new service club which boasted many of the facilities the men of the Tenth had previously been denied. The fact that the money for the service club was not received until May 1940 and had to be spent or allocated by the end of June 1940, indicates that the money was not originally scheduled for this purpose and was the result of an over-allocation in some other area rather than being planned for in the initial War Department budget.

The effects of segregation were mixed. During the five year period, 1926-31, while the army was undergoing a reduction in strength to expand the Air Corps the Tenth Cavalry actually increased in strength and were also stationed at three of the army's better installations. However, segregation had a detrimental effect. While at Fort Leavenworth the enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry were denied the use of recreational facilities until separate facilities were provided.

Local citizens were proud of the troopers of the Tenth Cavalry and made them welcome in the city of Leavenworth. Even though segregation was the rule-of-the-day in the era of the 1930s and 1940s. Leavenworth's white citizens were not unfriendly to the black soldiers of the Tenth. This is due to the fact that these soldiers had a steady income and during this depressed period, the money they spent in the city of

Leavenworth, helped to stabilize the economy of the entire local area.

Joined by its two separated squadrons and reorganized into a combat regiment on 1 February 1940, the Tenth Cavalry again received new recruits and then departed for Fort Riley, Kansas, to resume combat training. The unit left Fort Leavenworth on 14 March 1941, but the record and memories which remained behind will never be forgotten by the post or by the citizens of Leavenworth because their service here upheld the traditional high standards of the Buffalo Soldier and was performed in a manner which all Americans may be proud.

This writer recommends that this study be made a part of the official Military Records of the Tenth Cavalry Regiment. This will hopefully encourage other scholars to expand and reinterpret the 10-year period in the history of one of the nation's oldest Army units.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Did you come from Ft Huachuca with the 10th Cavalry in 1931 or were you assigned after they arrived on Fort Leavenworth? Yes or No (Please circle your answer).
2. Where did you first enlist in the Army? _____ In what year? _____
Why did you first enlist? _____
3. When were you assigned to the 10th Cavalry _____
What unit were you assigned to _____.
4. What was your unit's mission on post _____

What was your rank _____ and what were your specific duties _____

5. Did you learn a trade in the Army that you could use after you got out. Yes or No (Please Circle). Please explain _____

6. How long did you stay in the Army _____
7. Did you enjoy your service with the 10th Cavalry while at Ft Leavenworth? Yes or No (Please Circle). Please tell us some reasons _____

8. Were there enough recreational activities?
 - a. On Post. Yes or No (Please Circle).
 - b. Off Post. Yes or No (Please Circle).
9. Did you participate in the following activities on Post:
 - a. Sports. Yes or No (Please Circle). If yes, please explain what you did and list any major accomplishments or awards.
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - b. Clubs. Yes or No (Please Circle)
 - (1) What were the things you enjoyed most about the clubs. Please list below:
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____

(2) What were the things you did not like about the clubs. Please explain _____

c. Are there other activities which should be mentioned? If so, please list with a short explanation:

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

10. Can you recall any incidents that might have been in the newspaper, involving members of the 10th Cavalry while you were here. Yes or No (Please Circle) If yes, please list below:

DATE

INCIDENT

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

*Give approximate date, i.e., summer 1933

11. How was the morale of the troopers of your unit? () Very High
() Good () Fair () Poor Why was the morale as you indicated?

12. How were you treated by the non-commissioned officers (sergeants) in the unit? () Very Good () Good () Fair () Poor Can you give any specific examples?

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

13. How were you treated by the officers in the units? () Very Good
() Good () Fair () Poor Did the officers "stand up" for you against on and off post criticism? Yes or No (Please Circle)
Can you give any examples:

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

14. Where and how often did you see the officers _____

15. How do you feel the citizens of Leavenworth felt about the troopers of your unit?

a. Black Citizens () Liked Them () Had No Opinion () Did Not Like Them

b. White Citizens () Liked Them () Had No Opinion () Did Not Like Them

Please list any information you feel is necessary to better explain your answer.

(1)
(2)
(3)

16. Did you have frequent contact with white citizens off post? Yes or No (Please Circle). If yes, how did they treat you? () Friendly () Business Like () Unfriendly

Please list any information you feel will help explain your answer.

(1)
(2)
(3)

17. Did you have frequent contact with black citizens off post? Yes or No (Please Circle). If yes, how did they treat you? () Friendly () Business Like () Unfriendly

Please list any information you feel will help explain your answer.

(1)
(2)
(3)

18. If you had a chance to visit Leavenworth for the night, did you enjoy going? Yes or No (Please Circle). Was there more to do on post during your off duty time than there was off post? Yes or No (Please Circle). Please list any information you feel will help explain your answer.

19. What was your monthly pay _____

20. How did your Army pay compare with what you would have made had you been a civilian with the same skills and education?

() More () About the Same () Less () Not as Much

21. As best as you can recall, what effect, if any, did segregation have on you as a soldier? Please explain _____

22. What was the most valuable thing the Army did for you _____

23. What way did the Army hurt your life? _____

24. Looking back, what is the biggest disappointment you had in the service? _____

25. If you could live your life over again, would you join the service? Yes or No (Please Circle). Please explain _____

26. While you were in the Army, did you try to encourage relatives or other blacks to join? Yes or No (Please Circle) Please explain _____

27. Were you married when you were in the Army? Yes or No (Please Circle) Please list your wife's likes and dislikes about Army life.

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____

28. Did you return to the state where you originally entered the service? Yes or No (Please Circle) Please explain why you did not settle in Leavenworth _____

29. Is there any other information you would like to provide that you feel would help tell the story of the 10th Cavalry while at Ft Leavenworth? Yes or No (Please Circle) If yes, please list below:

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____

Added:

1. If you have any questions or comments about the questionnaire, please call me "collect": Captain Jesse Jackson, Jr., 913-684-5148.

2. I plan to mail a copy of my paper to each member of the 10th Cavalry who participate so they will be able to see the whole as well as their part.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66027

16 December 1975

Dear Sir,

I have been given your name and address by LT (Ret) Albert O. Bly, President, 10th Cavalry Association. He told me you were a member of the 10th Cavalry while the unit was at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, between 1931 - 1941.

I am currently a student at the Command and General Staff College and am doing a masters' thesis on the 10th Cavalry. Since there is no official history written to cover the period 1931 - 1941, most of my information must come from former members, like yourself.

In this regard, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed envelope. Please note, no stamp is required.

Your immediate attention will ensure that your information may be assembled and made a part of this important document. The black soldier has always played an important role in United States Military History and continuity of the records must be maintained. We must insure that their contributions are a part of the official history.

Please allow me to thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

JESSE JACKSON, JR.
CPT, QMC
632-5 McClellan Ave
Ft Leavenworth, KS 66027

APPENDIX C

Tenth Cavalry's Enlisted
Congressional Medal of Honor Winners

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Earned</u>
Sgt William McBryar	March 7, 1890
Pvt Dennis Bell	July 1, 1898
Pvt William H. Thompkins	July 1, 1898
Pvt Fitz Lee	July 1, 1898
Pvt George H. Wanton	July 1, 1898
Sgt Edward L. Baker	July 1, 1898

APPENDIX D

Enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry commissioned as officers from the Des Moines Training Camp, October 15, 1917.

Sergeant Mil H. Green, M.G. Troop, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant William Gillum, M.G. Troop, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt James Cranson, Troop E, 10th Cav	Captain
Reg Q. M. Sgt William W. Thompson, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt Walter R. Sanders, Troop A, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt Henry Houston, Troop K, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt William D. Peeks, Troop D, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant Howard D. Queen, Troop K, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant Edgar O. Malone, Troop F, 10th Cav	Captain
Q. M. Sgt Fletcher Sewell, Troop A, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant Vance H. Marchbanks, Troop C, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt Clifford A. Sandridge, Troop H, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant Reuben Horner, HQ Troop, 10th Cav	Captain
1st Sgt Daniel Smith, Troop C, 10th Cav	Captain
Sq Sgt Major James F. Booker, 10th Cav	Captain
Sq Sgt Major William F. Scott, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant Hanson Johnson, Supply Troop, 10th Cav	Captain
Sergeant George C. Hall, Troop L, 10th Cav	Captain
Sq Sgt Major Edward W. Spearman, 10th Cav	Captain
Reg Q. M. Sgt William H. Williams, 10th Cav	Captain

//

Sergeant Robert T. Shobe, Troop C, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant James E. Beard, M.G. Troop, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant John Combs, Troop L, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Richard M. Norris, Troop A, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant William T. Johnson, Troop A, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant John Q. Lindsey, Hq Troop, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant John P. Walker, Troop E, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Floyd Gilmer, Troop A, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Corporal Waddell C. Steele, Troop E, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Carey McLane, Troop L, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Walter Lyons, Troop C, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Corporal William H. Brown, Jr., Troop D, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Hazel L. Raine, Troop F, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Rosen T. Brown, Troop D, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Russell Smith, Troop B, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Frank M. Goodner, Troop M, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Cleveland Morrow, Troop B, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Gus Williams, Troop D, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Vest Douglas, MG Troop, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Almando Henderson, Troop K, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant George E. Edwards, Troop H, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant William S. Stith, Troop M, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Corporal William T. Burnes, Troop D, 10th Cav	1st Lieutenant
Sergeant Stephen B. Barrow, Troop B, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
Sergeant Clyde Roberts, Troop G, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
Sergeant Benjamin Bettis, Troop A, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant

Sergeant William Collier, Troop B, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
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Sergeant Edgar F. Malone, Troop F, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Out of a total of fifty-seven non-commissioned officers sent to the training camp, forty-eight obtained commissions.

Commissioned From Training Camp at Leon Springs, Texas

Reg Sgt Major Eugene P. Frierson, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Sq Sgt Major John Coleman, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
-------------------------------------	----------------

Commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants of Cavalry, September 27, 1918

Sergeant William H. Marshall, Troop D, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Sergeant John C. Sanders, Troop D, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Sergeant Arthur Chambliss, Troop E, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Corporal James Everett, Troop E, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Corporal General Lee Grant, Troop H, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Sergeant Howard W. Fields, Troop L, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Sergeant Livingston J. Williams, Troop L, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Band Corporal John Clarke, Hq Troop, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Sq Sgt Major Benjamin F. Preston, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Sergeant John A. Ford, Machine Gun Troop, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

Sergeant Henry Clay Be-nett, Supply Troop, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
---	----------------

Band Leader William H. Lewis, 10th Cav	2nd Lieutenant
--	----------------

APPENDIX E

This information was taken from questionnaires. The names of the former members of the Tenth Cavalry were provided by LT (Ret) Albert O. Bly, Executive Secretary, Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Association. Forty-one questionnaires were distributed - thirty of the forty-one were mailed to former members outside the Leavenworth area while eleven were distributed to personnel who now reside in the local area.

Twenty-two questionnaires were completed and returned.

The completed questionnaires have been donated to the Command and General Staff College Library.

APPENDIX F

RECREATION BULLETIN

Published weekly by the Recreation Office
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

October 15, 1937.

11

BOXING

I promised you a good show and, from number of comments, we feel that a show was presented! The men appeared in excellent condition which gave an indication of the care and effort spent in training. The bouts were well watched and every man appearing gave his best to entertain.

The bout between Huntsman and Donohoe kept the crowd on edge during the entire fight and, although the crowd did not approve of the decision, after the rules were explained, they understood and approved. Both men are anxious for a return bout and will appear on the next card as an added attraction.

Briefly, a summary of the bouts was as follows: "Her won by technical KO over Walker in the first. Walker was injured and the bout was stopped. Spencer, CCC, won decision over Weaver, 10th Cav. Anderson won by KO over McCord in the second. Lemming and Carter put up a great fight, both boys working hard, Lemming winning a close decision. Green of the 10th defeated Williams, also of the 10th Cav., by decision.

Tull connected with a terrific body blow and won over Finnell by a KO in the second. Taylor, 10th Cav. lost on a technical KO to Clemmons of the CCC, the latter giving an excellent exhibition. Ince, Med. Corps, was too strong for Hawkins, winning in the second on a KO. Gordon didn't show up so well against the fast stepping Thomas and lost on a KO. Holloway of the CCC carried the fight to Elliott and won the decision. In the final bout Berry had too much reach and experience for Greve who lost on a KO in the second, after putting up a hard fight.

There, briefly, is the story of the bouts. Knockouts, close decisions and hard efforts on the part of all featuring the card.

The judging was in the hands of Captains Gamble and Honnen, the referee was Lieut. Tom Taylor, and the timekeeper, Mr. Ferguson. All proved highly satisfactory to the crowd.

We thank the Post for their support and cooperation. This office made a great effort to provide these fights under first class conditions. If the

SWIMMING POOL

In case you've forgotten, the Post swimming pool in the Service Club is still open and available for the enlisted personnel and their families.

Drop in and enjoy a swim, the pool is delightful and open every afternoon and evening, except Thursday and Sunday evenings.

FOOTBALL

The goal line of the "Big Green Tide" is still uncrossed. The Santa Fe Chaps made a valiant effort to push over a touchdown last Sunday but the 10th was just too strong.

The Tenth Cavalry took them into camp by the score of 19-0 before a large and enthusiastic crowd. These games are exceptionally well played and deserve a good attendance. This Sunday the St. Joseph's Athletic Club will attempt to be the first to score on the "Tide."

Harry Hollowell, the fast hitting back, will be in the game Sunday, along with Barnes, Lyons, Reynolds, Thomas and Winston.

The game will start at 3:00 PM. See the game from your car.

DANCES

Thursday night the Medical Corps will sponsor the Enlisted Men's Dance to be held at the Service Club. Dancing will start at 8:45 PM. All enlisted personnel and their families are invited to attend. These dances are proving very popular and exceptionally well attended. The Orchestra will feature several vocalists during the numbers as an additional new feature. These dances are for the enjoyment of the enlisted personnel -- drop in and see for yourself how popular they are.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PATROL

The cooperation of all motorists is requested in the observation of traffic control by the members of the Boy's Traffic Patrol. The members of this patrol were nominated by the Student Council and are outstanding students in the Post Schools. They will be on duty at critical points, during periods just prior to opening and closing of school sessions.

TENTH CAV

SPORTS!



SPECIALIZED IN THE HIGH JUMPS.



MEMBER OF THE TEAM - HIS HIGH BALL ALWAYS GETS THE FAIR COLLEGE HARRY A-FLUTTER.



- AND IN A PIERCE COULD FALL IN A AS HIGH JUMPER

HARRY HOLLOWELL!

- LEADS THE 10TH CAV BACKFIELD IN YARDAGE GAINED - AND THE SPARK PLUG OF THE ATTACK THAT FINALLY DOWNED THE NINTH CAV 13-9 - THE TURKEY DAY BIRDSONG BATTLE WAS ONE OF THE HARDEST BATTLES

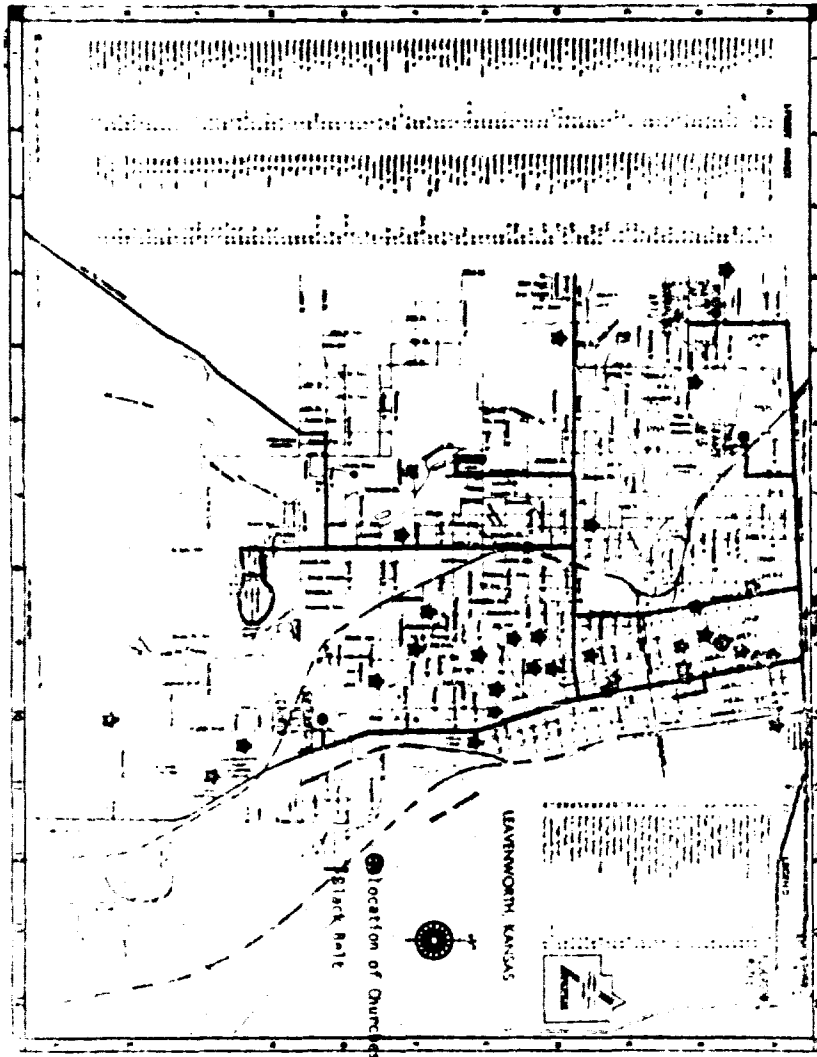
- VOTED THE BEST ALL AROUND ATHLETE AT SOROKA HIGH IN 1936

OF THE YEAR WITH THE NINTH CAV DESPERATELY TRYING TO PROTECT THE 9 POINT LEAD WHICH THEY HELD FOR THREE QUARTERS!



- HIS UNIQUE CROSS ARM BATTING DIDNT PREVENT HIM FROM PLACING HIGH IN THE PREP LEAGUE STANDING!

HARRY



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