

Chapter 1 : History of the Buffalo Bills - Wikipedia

When a graduate of Williamsville High School returned home on leave from World War II and shared war stories, James A. Kaepfel knew he wanted nothing to do with the infantry.

Visit Website Training the inexperienced and mostly uneducated soldiers of the 9th Cavalry was a challenging task. But the regiment was willing, able and mostly ready to face anything when they were ordered to the unsettled landscape of West Texas. Mustering was slow, partly because the colonel wanted more educated men in the regiment and partly because of a cholera outbreak in the summer of 1865. In August, the regiment was ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, with the task of protecting the Pacific Railroad, which was under construction at the time. Before they left Fort Leavenworth, some troops fought hundreds of Cheyenne in two separate battles near the Saline River. With the support of the 38th Infantry Regiment—which was later consolidated into the 24th Infantry Regiment—the 10th Cavalry pushed back the hostile Indians. The cavalry lost just one man and several horses despite having inferior equipment and being greatly outnumbered. It was just one of many battles to come. Indian Wars Both the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments participated in dozens upon dozens of skirmishes and larger battles of the Indian Wars. For instance, the 9th Cavalry was critical to the success of a three-month, unremitting campaign known as the Red River War against the Kiowas, the Comanches, the Cheyenne and the Arapahoe. It was after this battle that the 10th Cavalry was sent to join them in Texas. Troops H and I of the 10th Cavalry were part of a team that rescued wounded Lieutenant-Colonel George Alexander Forsyth and what remained of his group of scouts trapped on a sand bar and surrounded by Indians in the Arikaree River. A couple weeks later, the same troops engaged hundreds of Indians at Beaver Creek and fought so gallantly they were thanked in a field order by General Philip Sheridan. By 1875, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments had minimized Indian resistance in Texas and the 9th Cavalry was ordered to Indian Territory in modern-day Oklahoma, ironically to prevent white settlers from illegally settling on Indian land. The 10th Cavalry continued to keep the Apache in check until the early 1880s when they relocated to Montana to round up the Cree. About 20 percent of U.S. Cavalry troops that participated in the Indian Wars were buffalo soldiers, who participated in at least 100 conflicts. According to the National Park Service, buffalo soldiers billeted at the Presidio army post in San Francisco during the winter and served as park rangers in the Sierra Nevada in the summer. Even facing blatant racism and enduring brutal weather conditions, buffalo soldiers earned a reputation for serving courageously. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments served in the Philippines in the early 1890s. Despite proving their military worth time and again, they continued to experience racial discrimination. During World War I, they were mostly relegated to defending the Mexican border. Both regiments were integrated into the 2nd Cavalry Division in 1916. Neither saw action during World War II, although they trained for overseas deployment and combat. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were deactivated in May 1956. The last all-black units were disbanded during the 1950s. Buffalo soldiers had the lowest military desertion and court-martial rates of their time. Many won the Congressional Medal of Honor, an award presented in recognition of combat valor which goes above and beyond the call of duty. Buffalo Soldiers and the Spanish-American War.

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: The Things They Carried: "How to Tell a True War Story"

Buffalo soldiers were African American soldiers who mainly served on the Western frontier following the American Civil War. In , six all-black cavalry and infantry regiments were created after.

July 17, A pile of American bison skulls in the mids. The last rail is laid; the last spike driven; the Pacific Railroad is completed. The point of junction is miles west of the Missouri river and miles east of Sacramento City. After more than six years of backbreaking labor, east officially met west with the driving of a ceremonial golden spike. In City Hall Park in Manhattan, the announcement was greeted with the firing of guns. Bells were rung across the country, from Washington, D. Business was suspended in Chicago as people rushed to the streets, celebrating to the sounding of steam whistles and cannons booming. Back in Utah, railroad officials and politicians posed for pictures aboard locomotives, shaking hands and breaking bottles of champagne on the engines as Chinese laborers from the West and Irish, German and Italian laborers from the East were budged from view. Celebration of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, May 10, Ten millions of emigrants will settle in this golden land in twenty years. For in its wake, the lives of countless Native Americans were destroyed, and tens of millions of buffalo, which had roamed freely upon the Great Plains since the last ice age 10, years ago, were nearly driven to extinction in a massive slaughter made possible by the railroad. Following the Civil War, after deadly European diseases and hundreds of wars with the white man had already wiped out untold numbers of Native Americans, the U. But as the Gold Rush, the pressures of Manifest Destiny , and land grants for railroad construction led to greater expansion in the West, the majority of these treaties were broken. In , he wrote to Gen. On the ground in the West, Gen. Early on, Sheridan bemoaned a lack of troops: The consequence was that every engagement was a forlorn hope. As the railways expanded, they allowed the rapid transport of troops and supplies to areas where battles were being waged. Sheridan was soon able to mount the kind of offensive he desired. Custer later reported more than Indian deaths, including that of Chief Black Kettle and his wife, Medicine Woman Later, shot in the back as they attempted to ride away on a pony. Philip Sheridan photographed by Matthew Brady. In the midth century, it was estimated that 30 milion to 60 million buffalo roamed the plains. In mid-century, trappers who had depleted the beaver populations of the Midwest began trading in buffalo robes and tongues; an estimated , buffalo were killed annually. Then the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad accelerated the decimation of the species. Massive hunting parties began to arrive in the West by train, with thousands of men packing. Unlike the Native Americans or Buffalo Bill, who killed for food, clothing and shelter, the hunters from the East killed mostly for sport. Native Americans looked on with horror as landscapes and prairies were littered with rotting buffalo carcasses. Hundreds of men aboard the trains climbed to the roofs and took aim, or fired from their windows, leaving countless 1,pound animals where they died. Nearly every railroad train which leaves or arrives at Fort Hays on the Kansas Pacific Railroad has its race with these herds of buffalo; and a most interesting and exciting scene is the result. Frequently a young bull will turn at bay for a moment. His exhibition of courage is generally his death-warrant, for the whole fire of the train is turned upon him, either killing him or some member of the herd in his immediate vicinity. Hunters began killing buffalo by the hundreds of thousands in the winter months. One hunter, Orlando Brown brought down nearly 6, buffalo by himself and lost hearing in one ear from the constant firing of his. The Texas legislature, sensing the buffalo were in danger of being wiped out, proposed a bill to protect the species. And it is a well known fact that an army losing its base of supplies is placed at a great disadvantage. Then your prairies can be covered with speckled cattle. Wikipedia The devastation of the buffalo population signaled the end of the Indian Wars, and Native Americans were pushed into reservations. By the end of the 19th century, only buffalo were left in the wild. Congress finally took action, outlawing the killing of any birds or animals in Yellowstone National Park, where the only surviving buffalo herd could be protected. Conservationists established more wildlife preserves, and the species slowly rebounded. Today, there are more than , bison in North America. Sheridan acknowledged the role of the railroad in changing the face of the American West, and in his Annual Report of the General of the U. Army in , he acknowledged that the Native Americans were scuttled to reservations with

no compensation beyond the promise of religious instruction and basic supplies of food and clothingâ€”promises, he wrote, which were never fulfilled. Could any one expect less? Then, why wonder at Indian difficulties? Annual Report of the General of the U. Angevine, The Railroad and the State: A People and a Nation:

Proponents of creating a "New South" argued that the Confederacy lost the Civil War because: Buffalo soldiers were: black soldiers who served in the West.

Indian Springs FM 31 miles S. The natural hot springs in this area have been used for centuries by people seeking curative waters. Known as Indian hot Springs, they were used by generations of nomadic Indian tribes. Following the Civil War, the U. Called "buffalo soldiers", by their Indian adversaries, the soldiers conducted numerous scouting and mapping expeditions in this region. Pursuing raiding bands of Mescalero Apache Indians, members of the 10th Cavalry were sent to guard water holes and river crossings known to be frequented by the Indians. At dawn on October 28, , soldiers of companies B and K were attacked on a ridge near this site by Apaches. Although official and contemporary accounts of the battle vary, at least five buffalo soldiers were reported slain in the attack and were buried where they fell. Two soldiers, Scott Graves and Thomas Rach, were reported missing. Their bodies were said to have been found and buried with their comrades weeks later. The seven graves were relocated in this vicinity in the s. Though some information differ from above, the general content in the article below gives an interesting perspective on the battle. While on that trip we also located a number of burial sites of U. Cavalry troopers, Indian Scouts and at least one civilian killed in an all-day firefight with Victorio and his men in I had first been to the location in Last Saturday I was able to return to that battle site through the kindness and assistance of the ranch family who owns the property that the grave sites are on, adjacent to forest lands administered by the U. Most, but not all, of the actual battle site is on public forest lands, but extremely difficult to reach unless you are on horseback or willing and able to hike 10 miles and climb up and over a foot peak in and out of the area. His stated desire was to remain at Ojo Caliente, which the federal government refused. Victorio did not stay there long. His people came from the high country and that fact was totally ignored by the government after giving him the promise that he and his people could remain in their home lands if they turned themselves in and became reservation residents. Victorio eventually turned himself in at Fort Stanton, again asking to return to Ojo Caliente. That request was again refused and he was told that he and his people would be returned to Arizona. It was the string of broken promises that lead up to the Massacre. After leaving Stanton and the Mescalero Reservation on September 3, , Victorio attacked near Camp Ojo Caliente, capturing eighteen mules, fifty cavalry horses, and killing five Black troopers and three civilians guarding the animals. After that attack the cavalry made an all-out effort to capture Victorio and Col. Edward Hatch put four companies of the Ninth Cavalry in the field to find Victorio and either capture him or kill him. And what became known as the "Victorio War" began. In the past Victorio had encountered troopers from the Ninth Cavalry and each and every time was victorious in the field. Why anyone in command of the four companies that met him head on on Las Animas Creek could possibly think that this time is would be different is still an unanswered question today. Victorio was perhaps the finest guerilla fighter ever known and most certainly, one of the finest the United States Army had ever had occasion to meet in the field, and he was an old man. Throughout the so-called "Victorio War" the chief never had more than one hundred warriors, and usually less than The Army had more than one thousand men in the field chasing him. On the morning of September 18, , Company B, under command of Lt. Byron Dawson, and Company E, under command of Capt. The cavalry units were assigned part-time to Camp Ojo Caliente. Their intent apparently was to surprise Victorio. The incorrect use of the name Victoria instead of Victorio has never been corrected. The troopers fell under a heavy concentration of rifle and arrow fire at the junction of Las Animas Creek and Canyon and a side canyon now known as Massacre Canyon. Victorio had command of all the heights surrounding the two companies and there was no way the troopers could approach the Apaches without being hit. All the men in both companies, now dismounted, were pinned down and most certainly would have been wiped out. However, the gunfire was heard echoing and re-echoing down the canyon by men with Companies C and G and they rushed to the battle scene only to be pinned down as well. All four companies withdrew at nightfall. There are conflicting reports about just how many troopers were killed and wounded in that battle. One official report says five troopers

killed, one wounded, thirty-six horses killed, six wounded, three Navajo scouts killed and one civilian killed. Another report places the count at six troopers killed, the horse count is the same, but two Navajo scouts killed and one civilian. Yet three Medals of Honor were awarded to three different men who saved wounded troopers, therefore I do not believe any of the official reports are very accurate. None of these figures account for 32 or more graves located near the battle site. Correct figures would be more like 50 to 60. Victorio chose his ambush site with care. It was on his home turf and at a location which the Army found, to their chagrin, to be impossible to overrun or for them to defend themselves. The canyon walls in Las Animas and the surrounding side canyons are rugged, some pinnacled, a maze of side canyons with numerous caves and overhangs, all highly defensible by those waiting in ambush. Victorio used his knowledge of the terrain to the fullest. Victorio and his men left the immediate area the next day and shortly thereafter met head on with some of the same troopers again on Las Palomas Creek, but that is another story. Several days later Lt. Dawson escorted Major Albert Morrow, commander of all military operations in southern New Mexico, over the battle site and Morrow reported that it took him minutes to climb to the Apache camp and under fire it would have been an "absolute impossibility for any number of men to take the position by storm. Late in the battle Lt. Matthias Day carried a wounded trooper to safety after refusing to leave the battle field and his wounded and in so doing was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. For heroism in the same battle Sgt. John Denny was also awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for saving a wounded private by the name of Freeland. Robert Emmet was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that day. There is no known record of how many men Victorio may have lost, if any, but walking over the battle site can only make one wonder how in the world anyone would be dumb enough to possibly think that they could dislodge Victorio or anyone else from their positions. With the able assistance of Brent Bason the grave sites were found on a flat nearby a homestead cabin maintained as a line cabin for the Bason Ranch. We also walked over a portion of the battle site and found one large boulder that appeared to have been hit by bullets. Because Las Animas Creek is mostly on patented lands, originally homesteads which have been acquired by neighboring ranches through the years, the area is comparatively untouched by "modern" civilization. And the area of the battle site on forest lands is so difficult to reach that generally things are as they were in 1880, although now there appears to be a lot of underbrush and smaller trees that may not have been there at the time. Hopefully being untouched will never change. The public has a habit of ruining anything and everything they come in contact with. The whole region has been used for cattle ranching for over years and it is obvious from the look of the range, the abundance of grass and forage and the cattle, that the land has been well-managed and taken care of for a very long time by those ranching and raising cattle in the region. And bison are also grazing on some portions of Las Animas as well. It is a portion of our State that if at all possible, should remain as it is and in private hands so that it is never ruined or exploited as so many places have been. Standing on a portion of the battle site, in the silence of the mountains, it was not difficult to imagine how that day in September must have gone for the cavalry, they did not have a prayer. In the 1930s members of the Civilian Conservation Corps replaced wooden crosses that had been erected at the grave site but those crosses long ago fell down, were dislodged or simply disintegrated with time. And bear, looking for bugs, have rolled the stones covering the graves over and scattered many of the rocks, making it difficult to identify each individual grave site today. Jimmy Bason, owner of the land which the graves are located on, said that he intends to secure the site and perhaps re-mark each grave that he identified, and we will sure pitch in and help him do that financially and work-wise. Why there are apparently thirty-two or more graves at the site instead of the eight or nine indicated in military reports is unknown. But the most accepted theory is that more men were lost in the battle than the Army was prepared to admit. The graves lay in two rows separated by a 20 to 30 foot span, on level ground above Las Animas Creek. There are also at least three more graves apart from the two rows mentioned above and it has been suggested that those three may be the burial sites of the Navajo scouts. The beauty and silence of the spot today, the last resting place for men, mostly Black Buffalo Soldiers, who fought against Victorio, stands as a reminder of the foolishness and dishonesty of some of those in our government of the time. The battle never had to happen, nor many of the others of the Apache Wars that took so many lives on both sides and all the civilians caught in the middle. All our government had to do was keep its word and maintain the treaties and

DOWNLOAD PDF WHY THE BUFFALO LOST A WAR.

promises made by government officials to the Apaches. That was not done. Pictures, maps and references. You will find 31 graves from the following regiments; 2nd, 3rd, 11th, 13th, 18th, 54th, 56th, 60th, 62nd, 65th, 67th, and the 68th. They are in very poor condition. Helps to know the theater of war, unit, month and year.

Chapter 4 : The Plight of the Buffalo – Legends of America

Buffalo Field Campaign exists to stop the harassment and slaughter of Yellowstone's wild buffalo herds, protect the natural habitat of wild, free-roaming buffalo and native wildlife, and work with people of all Nations to honor and protect the sacredness of the wild buffalo.

Robert Bowen Collection On February 15th, 1898, over 100 American sailors were killed when the battleship Maine blew up and sank in Havana harbor. The war with Spain began in April, when Major General William Shafter, a former commander of the 24th Infantry led an expeditionary force of over 17,000 men, including nearly 3,000 Black regulars, into Cuba. Some troops and many citizens openly questioned whether African Americans should fight for the U. S. Despite emancipation nearly a year before, Blacks routinely were deprived of their rights by federal and state laws. Institutional discrimination was reinforced by savage murder and terror of African Americans primarily in the South. Articles in the Black press during the war showed a diversity of opinion in the African American community. When we are guaranteed freedom and equality before the law, as other American citizens, then we will have the right, as such, to take up arms in defense of our country. But if we had the power we would not permit one Negro battalion or company or regiment to assist in helping to fight against Spain unless they are officered from top to bottom by members of our own race. Thus shall be reaffirmed our claims to equal liberty and protection. However, all loyal citizens must do their duty. Originally billeted near Tampa, Florida, where overt racial discrimination was the norm, local white citizens refused "to make any distinction between the colored troops and the colored civilians" and tolerated no infractions of local discriminatory laws and racial customs. Despite this prejudice, the troops of the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 24th and 25th Infantry served with distinction on the battlefields of Las Guasimas, El Caney, and San Juan Hill. Troops had to deal with heat, rainstorms, mud and yellow fever. When there was an outbreak of yellow fever in the army camps, Black 24th Infantry soldiers served as nurses and hospital orderlies for the stricken Caucasian troops, ordered to do so because of the stereotype that Blacks were physically better able to deal with tropical heat conditions. Library of Congress In four months of fighting the Spanish under these adverse conditions, the Buffalo Soldiers were described as "most gallant and soldierly. After several failed attempts, they succeeded. Each were awarded the Medal of Honor. Called the most integrated battle force of the 19th century, the troops of the 24th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry fought up the slope of San Juan Hill along with White regular army regiments and the 1st Volunteer Cavalry the Rough Riders led by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Twenty-six Buffalo Soldiers died that day, and several men were officially recognized for their bravery. Quarter Master Sergeant Edward L. Pershing wrote, "They fought their way into the hearts of the American people. One newspaper editor stated the general feeling of African Americans, "we are proud of our colored troops, the heroes of the day.

Chapter 5 : Native Americans Went to War to Protect Their Lands

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) - After officially opening this past September, this will be the first Memorial Day weekend that the Iraq Afghanistan Memorial at Buffalo's Naval Park will be open to the public.

They claim the U. On August 30, , President Barack Obama proclaimed to a gathering of veterans: Internet research turns up these lost battles of the Vietnam war: Battle of Ap Bac - In January , American advisors launched a battle after they pressured reluctant South Vietnamese officers to use American air mobility assets to destroy the Viet Cong. The attack was a disaster in which the VC mauled a far larger force while shooting down five American helicopters pictured and damaging eight, while killing three Americans and wounding eight. On May 2, , it was moored in a heavily defended harbor in the Saigon River. Two VC commandos crawled down a sewer pipe and attached explosives to the ship. The explosion knocked a huge hole in the hull and killed five American crewmen, causing the ship to sink 45 feet to the river bed. The attack began shortly after midnight and lasted 20 minutes. It was estimated that there were three 81mm mortars. The attack was devastating as 27 aircraft were hit, including 20 Bs 5 destroyed , 4 helicopters, and 3 A-1H Skyraiders. A fourth Skyraider crashed trying to take off. Five Americans and two Vietnamese were killed, and 43 wounded. On February 10, , Vietcong sappers killed its two guards, placed two large satchel charges, and blew up the hotel, killing 23 Americans and seriously wounding another Attack on Camp Holloway - In , the U. Army established an airfield near Pleiku in central South Vietnam, which grew to include logistics elements and a large advisory group. In early , some Viet Cong slipped past ARVN guards and swept through the camp killing 8 Americans, wounding , destroying 10 aircraft and damaging 15 more. The Viet Cong withdrew to avoid battling reinforcements, with few losses. Several buildings were destroyed, but two FD and three FD fighter aircraft were shot down by ground fire. Thousands of bombs were dropped and eleven American aircraft shot down with several more damaged beyond repair until the iron bridge finally fell in The base was overrun with hundreds of casualties while two dozen Americans died in combat and helicopter crashes, with even more wounded or missing. They destroyed three large C transport aircraft, three F fighters, and damaged three more Fs. The sappers escaped leaving behind one dead. Six Fs were lost to ground fire during the mission while later bomb damage assessment photos showed that neither site had missile systems installed. Five aircraft and three pilots were lost to enemy guns, and seven other planes were damaged, but no SAMs were discovered. Death of Supply Column 21 - Operation Starlite was the first major Marine Corps operation in Vietnam, and fighting was tougher than expected. A ship landed an armored supply column to support combat forces, which became lost and was attacked in a rice paddy on Aug 18, Five of the seven armored vehicles were destroyed including two tanks during a day long firefight. Five of the 27 Marines were killed and 17 wounded as they held off the enemy until daybreak. The plan was to fly an entire battalion into an area where a strong enemy presence was suspected. The intelligence proved accurate as the first company landed next to a large NVA unit and was pinned down. As the second wave attempted to land, several helicopters were shot down and the rest fled without dropping troops after all suffered damage. Helicopters were borrowed from other units and troops eventually landed further away and rushed to save the surrounded company that was nearly overrun. While the NVA eventually fled, this poorly planned battle cost 22 American lives. On Nov 14, , soldiers from the 1st battalion of the 7th Cavalry landed at LZ X-ray and found itself surrounded with little ammunition and no heavy firepower. It was nearly overrun while suffering 79 killed and wounded, and survived only by diverting all available air support in Vietnam. The 7th Cavalry left the area after declaring victory, while survivors pondered the wisdom of an attrition strategy using American foot infantry. After saving its 1st battalion, the exhausted 2nd battalion headed for LZ Albany for an aerial extraction. It was in a long column in open terrain when it ran into a concealed NVA battalion, which attacked and shot it to pieces during a bloody battle that claimed the lives of Americans, with wounded. An intense firefight erupted resulting in 43 Americans killed and wounded as some soldiers fell back leaving dead and wounded behind. Attack on Marble Mountain - Some 90 Viet Cong sappers infiltrated this huge Marine Corps airfield and destroyed 19 helicopters and damaged 35 11 of them severely. After this minute rampage, the Viet

Cong withdrew, leaving behind 17 dead and 4 wounded. American casualties were 3 killed and 91 wounded.

Operation Utah - On March 4, , the 2nd battalion of the 7th Marines helicoptered into an area near Quang Ngai to investigate reports of an NVA regiment in the area. They found it dug into fortifications around Hill Their attacked failed and the Marines fell back, but were surprised when the NVA counterattacked. The battalion was in trouble and more Marine units were flown in to join the battle. The enemy withdrew, but only after the Marines lost 98 dead, wounded, with several aircraft destroyed.

Operation Indiana - On March 28, , the 1st battalion of the 7th Marines helicoptered into the Quang Ngai area to establish a blocking position. Its Company C encountered a VC heavy weapons battalion and attacked, but was shot up and pinned down. It suffered heavy casualties and was forced to withdraw before nightfall leaving most of its dead behind. The Vietcong withdrew that night after having killed 11 Marines and wounding A hundred NVA slipped past and quickly overran a mortar platoon, killing 16 GIs while wounding five soldiers as they escaped. Its three companies were deployed miles apart in hopes the NVA would attack one. They surrounded and blasted Charlie company, killing 38 and wounding 71 of its soldiers before its other two companies came to the rescue. Assault at Srok Dong - In June , units from the 18th Infantry Regiment were assigned to escort engineers to repair a bridge. They encountered dug-in Viet Cong and attacked. All four supporting tanks were disabled as soldiers fought bravely for three days and suffered 34 dead and 84 wounded. They were rescued the next morning, but 15 were dead and 4 wounded while several more Americans were killed during the difficult rescue. None were found, until Company C ran into a large force near Duc Co. Details are scarce, but two platoons were overrun and destroyed; only one soldier survived. The American dead were so numerous that they were hauled away in external cargo nets by helicopters. A company of soldiers was flown to the rescue, but they were shot up and pinned down. More units hastily arrived and found two battalions of entrenched NVA fighters firing away at troopers scattered around an area that became known as "the graveyard. Enemy ground fire caused five large Marine CHA helicopters to crash , killing 13 Marines and seriously wounding a dozen more. There is no account of what happened next, except that 25 were killed and 32 wounded as the company fled aboard helicopters, leaving 16 of their dead behind. It ended in disaster, with 12 killed, 17 missing, two helicopters shot down, and no prisoners rescued. Air Force lost five aircraft and the Navy lost three aircraft to surface to air missiles or anti-aircraft gun fire. They chased some to the shallow Song Thu Bon River and decided to cross. The NVA were waiting and fired away at the exposed Marines struggling to charge across. Only one soldier remained unscathed as 21 were killed and 14 wounded but the platoon held on until rescued at daybreak. Unfortunately, the NVA were there and opened fire on the helicopters as they landed on May 18, Half were damaged and only a few dozen Marines landed. This quickly became a complex rescue operation that cost the lives of 85 Marines with hundreds wounded.

Operation Hickory - In May , U. Several days of frontal assaults killed lots of NVA lodged in fortifications, but also killed Marines and wounded until the marines withdrew after ten days of pointless attacks. Div went into the dense jungle near in Cambodian border to make contact with the NVA. The platoon was surrounded and wiped out with 22 killed and one missing. Seven wounded survivors hid from the NVA that night until their battalion came to the rescue, which lost a total of 48 killed and 96 wounded during this battle. They located a large enemy force yards ahead across an open rice paddy. After some air and artillery strikes, three companies were ordered to charge across the open ground, and were shot to pieces. Other units rushed to help as the Vietcong withdrew after killing 48 Americans and wounding dozens more. All but one of the base buildings were destroyed as friendly gunboats arrived and engaged the invaders aboard the base. The fighting killed 14 South Vietnamese sailors along with an American officer and 20 civilians, while 30 Vietcong prisoners were freed. Eight American aviators were killed or captured. Company B was extracted by helicopter after suffering 25 dead and 28 wounded. Army Generals declared victory and awarded the company commander a silver star. The Marines lacked tank support because recent rains limited road mobility, while the dense vegetation and close proximity of the enemy restricted air and artillery support. The battalion withdrew at dusk, although flee may be a better term since 15 dead Marines were left behind. Veterans of the battle state they lost 34 KIA that day.

Assault on Hill - During Operation Greeley, the 4th Battalion of the rd Infantry Airborne marched through dense foliage in search of the enemy. The battalion was pinned down for hours by heavy enemy fire

and suffered 25 killed and 62 wounded until the NVA withdrew at nightfall. A total 83 NVA mm and mm rockets hit the base just before dawn, resulting in 8 killed, wounded, 10 aircraft destroyed and 49 damaged. They found abandoned base camps and bunkers because the NVA had pulled out and moved around behind them. The Marines had to fight their way back home, and more than half the unit bled as it lost 41 killed and wounded. Air Force launched a second attack on a power plant near Hanoi. Two MIGs slipped into the formation of 28 aircraft and shot down two F fighter bombers. The strike was aborted and several Fs circled to support the rescue effort. Battle for Nui Ho Khe Hill 88 - Marines were concerned that enemy units near their big Con Thien base threatened their main supply route.

The war ended and peace came to the Sioux and the Cheyenne. With peace came a new United States policy toward other Indians of the west. The government decided to put aside an area of land for each tribe.

Indians were also a key factor in the imperial rivalries among France, Spain, and England. Meanwhile, the English and their trading partners, the Chickasaws and often the Cherokees, battled the French and associated tribes for control of the lower Mississippi River valley and the Spanish in western Florida. More decisive was the French and Indian War. Particularly serious was the near-annihilation of Gen. But with English minister William Pitt infusing new life into the war effort, British regulars and provincial militias overwhelmed the French and absorbed all of Canada. Visit Website But eighteenth-century conflicts were not limited to the European wars for empire. In Virginia and the Carolinas, English-speaking colonists pushed aside the Tuscaroras, the Yamasees, and the Cherokees. In , an Ottawa chief, Pontiac, forged a powerful confederation against British expansion into the Old Northwest. Most of the Indians east of the Mississippi River now perceived the colonial pioneers as a greater threat than the British government. Thus northern tribes, especially those influenced by Mohawk chief Thayendanegea Joseph Brant , generally sided with the Crown during the American War for Independence. Leger in upstate New York. Western Pennsylvania and New York became savage battlegrounds as the conflict spread to the Wyoming and Cherry valleys. Strong American forces finally penetrated the heart of Iroquois territory, leaving a wide swath of destruction in their wake. The Americans resumed the initiative in , when Clark marched northwest into Shawnee and Delaware country, ransacking villages and inflicting several stinging defeats upon the Indians. To the south, the British backed resistance among the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Choctaws but quickly forgot their former allies following the signing of the Treaty of Paris. By setting the boundaries of the newly recognized United States at the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, that treaty virtually ensured future conflicts between whites and resident tribes. Yet resistance to white expansion in the Old Northwest continued as a Shawnee chief, Tecumseh , molded a large Indian confederation based at Prophetstown. While Tecumseh was away seeking additional support, William Henry Harrison burned the village after a stalemate at the Battle of Tippecanoe in . Indian raids, often encouraged by the British, were influential in causing the United States to declare war on Great Britain in . Several hundred American prisoners were killed following a skirmish at the River Raisin in early . But Harrison pushed into Canada and won the Battle of the Thames, which saw the death of Tecumseh and the collapse of his confederation. In the Southeast, the Creeks gained a major triumph against American forces at Fort Sims, killing many of their prisoners in the process. Andrew Jackson led the counterthrust, winning victories at Tallasahatchee and Talladega before crushing the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend in . Alaska and Florida were also the scenes of bitter conflicts. Native peoples strongly contested the Russian occupation of Alaska. The Aleuts were defeated during the eighteenth century, but the Russians found it impossible to prevent Tlingit harassment of their hunting parties and trading posts. But the Seminole Indians and runaway slaves refused to relocate, and the Second Seminole War saw fierce guerrilla-style actions from to . Osceola, perhaps the greatest Seminole leader, was captured during peace talks in , and nearly three thousand Seminoles were eventually removed. The Third Seminole War stamped out all but a handful of the remaining members of the tribe. In the United States, the removal policy met only sporadic armed resistance as whites pushed into the Mississippi River valley during the s and s. The acquisition of Texas and the Southwest during the s, however, sparked a new series of Indian-white conflicts. On the Pacific Coast, attacks against the native peoples accompanied the flood of immigrants to gold-laden California. Disease, malnutrition, and warfare combined with the poor lands set aside as reservations to reduce the Indian population of that state from , in to 35, in . The army took the lead role in Oregon and Washington, using the Rogue River , Yakima , and Spokane wars to force several tribes onto reservations. Sporadic conflicts also plagued Arizona and New Mexico throughout the s as the army struggled to establish its presence. On the southern plains, mounted warriors posed an even more formidable challenge to white expansion. Strikes against the Sioux, Cheyennes, Arapahos, Comanches, and Kiowas during the decade only hinted at the

deadlier conflicts of years to come. The Civil War saw the removal of the Regulars and an accompanying increase in the number and intensity of white-Indian conflicts. Disputes on the southern plains culminated in the Sand Creek massacre , during which John M. In Minnesota , attacks by the Eastern Sioux prompted counterattacks by the volunteer forces of Henry H. Sibley, after which the tribes were removed to the Dakotas. The conflict became general when John Pope mounted a series of unsuccessful expeditions onto the plains in Regular units, including four regiments of black troops, returned west following the Confederate collapse. Railroad expansion, new mining ventures, the destruction of the buffalo, and ever-increasing white demand for land exacerbated the centuries-old tensions. The mounted warriors of the Great Plains posed an especially thorny problem for an army plagued by a chronic shortage of cavalry and a government policy that demanded Indian removal on the cheap. Using a series of converging columns, Philip Sheridan achieved more success in his winter campaigns of , but only with the Red River War of were the tribes broken. But arable lands and rumors of gold in the Dakotas continued to attract white migration; the government opened a major new war in A series of army columns took the field that fall and again the following spring. By campaigning through much of the winter, harassing Indian villages, and winning battles like that at Wolf Mountain , Nelson A. Miles proved particularly effective. Another outbreak among the Sioux and Northern Cheyennes, precipitated by government corruption, shrinking reservations, and the spread of the Ghost Dance, culminated in a grisly encounter at Wounded Knee , in which casualties totaled over two hundred Indians and sixty-four soldiers. Less spectacular but equally deadly were conflicts in the Pacific Northwest. In a desperate effort to secure a new reservation on the tribal homelands, a Modoc chief assassinated Edward R. Canby during an abortive peace conference in Also unsuccessful was armed resistance among the Bannocks, Paiutes, Sheepeaters, and Utes in To the far southwest, Cochise , Victorio, and Geronimo led various Apache bands in resisting white and Hispanic encroachments, crossing and recrossing the border into Mexico with seeming impunity. Only after lengthy campaigning, during which army columns frequently entered Mexico, were the Apaches forced to surrender in the mids. The army remained wary of potential trouble as incidental violence continued. Yet, with the exception of another clash in during which protesters temporarily seized control of Wounded Knee, the major Indian-white conflicts in the United States had ended. Militarily, several trends had become apparent. New technology often gave the whites a temporary advantage. But this edge was not universal; Indian warriors carrying repeating weapons during the latter nineteenth century sometimes outgunned their army opponents, who were equipped with cheaper but often more reliable single-shot rifles and carbines. As the scene shifted from the eastern woodlands to the western plains, white armies found it increasingly difficult to initiate fights with their Indian rivals. To force action, army columns converged upon Indian villages from several directions. This dangerous tactic had worked well at the Battle of the Washita but could produce disastrous results when large numbers of tribesmen chose to stand and fight, as at the Little Bighorn. Throughout the centuries of conflict, both sides had taken the wars to the enemy populace, and the conflicts had exacted a heavy toll among noncombatants. Whites had been particularly effective in exploiting tribal rivalries; indeed, Indian scouts and auxiliaries were often essential in defeating tribes deemed hostile by white governments. In the end, however, military force alone had not destroyed Indian resistance. Only in conjunction with railroad expansion, the destruction of the buffalo, increased numbers of non-Indian settlers, and the determination of successive governments to crush any challenge to their sovereignty had white armies overwhelmed the tribes. Eric Foner and John A.

Chapter 7 : List of wars involving the United States - Wikipedia

The Buffalo Bills began to play in as a charter member of the American Football League (AFL) and won two consecutive AFL titles in and The club joined the National Football League (NFL) as part of the AFL-NFL merger.

Before [edit] The Bills were not the first professional football team to play in Buffalo, nor was it the first NFL team in the region. Professional football had been played in Buffalo and in upstate New York since the beginning of the 20th century. After changing their name to the Bisons in and, for one season, the Rangers in , the team suspended operations in , then came back in and re-folded at the end of that season. After the war, when the All-America Football Conference formed, Buffalo was again selected for a team; originally known as the Buffalo Bisons, the same name as a baseball team and at the time a hockey team in the area, the team sought a new identity and named itself the " Buffalo Bills " in Though there was no connection between the AAFC team and the current team, the Bills name proved popular enough that it was used as the namesake for the future American Football League team that would form in The forerunners to the Canadian Football League would also play at least one game in Buffalo in Louis and later Atlanta. Harry Wismer , who was to own the Titans of New York franchise, reached out to insurance salesman and automobile heir Ralph C. Wilson agreed to field a team in the new league, with the words "Count me in. Miami, Buffalo, Cincinnati , St. Louis , Atlanta , or Louisville, Kentucky. Once the AFL established itself, the city reversed its stance and allowed the Miami Dolphins to reside in the city. Schaaf who still resided there. Schaaf assured Wilson that pro-football interest was significant in Buffalo and assembled a coalition of key Buffalo figures who were able to interest Wilson in bringing the AFL franchise to Buffalo. Attorney Paul Crotty father of Paul A. Crotty and a powerful Buffalo political figure negotiated a sweetheart deal with Civic Stadium in Buffalo, offering Wilson full control of the venue and a deep discount on rent. Their efforts to lobby Wilson to come to Buffalo were successful, and Wilson sent Hunt a telegram with the now-famous words, "Count me in with Buffalo. The franchises are not officially related, other than in name, to each other. After an inaugural season that saw the Bills finish 5â€™8â€™1 third in the four-team AFL East Division , the Bills gained four of the first five picks in the AFL draft, including the top slot, which they used to draft offensive tackle Ken Rice. They also drafted guard Billy Shaw in the same draft. Success did not come overnight. Because of that game, they also hold the dubious distinction of being the only current NFL team to have ever lost to a CFL team, as the Tiger-Cats won, 38â€™ In the offseason, Buffalo began to get good players for the first time in franchise history. The Bills also drafted Syracuse running back phenomenon Ernie Davis and had a serious chance of getting him to play for Buffalo after the Redskins, a team Davis refused to play for, drafted him; however, Davis instead opted to play for the NFL after the Redskins traded him to Cleveland , and he died of leukemia before playing a single down of professional football. Offensive lineman Bob Kalsu quit the team after his rookie season to serve in the Vietnam War. He never returned; Kalsu was killed in action in and is often cited by Bills fans as the first professional football player to die in action in war during his playing career. Kalsu would be the only NFL player to lose his life in Vietnam. The season was a tumultuous one. The result was disastrous, and the Bills once again dropped to last in the league, resulting in the Bills earning the first overall draft pick in what was now the combined AFL-NFL draft. The Bills selected O. Simpson with their pick. Simpson-"Electric Company" era[edit] See also: Electric Company football O. Before the season , the Bills drafted running back O. Simpson , who would become the face of the franchise through the s. Their first season in the NFL saw the team win only three games, lose ten, and tie one. Despite good on-field performances, he struggled with injuries before being traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in Joe Ferguson became their new quarterback, they moved into a new stadium, Simpson recorded a 2,yard season and was voted NFL MVP, and the team had its first winning record since with eight wins. The team made the NFL playoffs at 9â€™5 for the first time in history in , but in their divisional playoff, they lost to the eventual Super Bowl champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers. After an 8â€™6 season , the Bills had internal troubles in ; Ferguson was injured and Gary Marangi proved ineffective in replacement. The team dropped to the bottom of the AFC East at 2â€™12, where they stayed for the rest of the s. On a high note, the Thanksgiving Day game saw

Simpson set the league record for rushing yards in a game, despite a 27-14 loss to the Detroit Lions. After the season, Simpson was traded to the San Francisco 49ers. They beat the archrival Miami Dolphins for the first time in 11 years in their season opener, en route to a season and their first AFC East title. However, they lost to the San Diego Chargers in the divisional playoffs. In 1974, the Bills made the playoffs as a wild-card team with a record. They defeated the New York Jets in the wild card round of the playoffs, but lost in the divisional round to the eventual AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals. The following year - the strike-shortened season of 1975 - the Bills slipped to a 4-5 final record and missed the playoffs. In the famous draft, the Bills selected quarterback Jim Kelly as their replacement to an aging Joe Ferguson, but Kelly decided to play in the upstart United States Football League instead. To the brink of collapse, Chuck Knox left his coaching position to take a job with the Seattle Seahawks, and running back Joe Cribbs also defected to the USFL, a loss incoming head coach Kay Stephenson unsuccessfully attempted to stop in court. In 1976, the Bills went 2-10. Wilson was fielding offers, including one from Leonard Tose to trade the Bills for the Philadelphia Eagles. Midway through the season, the Bills fired coach Hank Bullough and replaced him with Levy, who in addition to the Blitz had also previously coached the Kansas City Chiefs and Montreal Alouettes. Levy and Polian put together a receiving game featuring Andre Reed, a defense led by first-overall draft pick Bruce Smith, and a top-flight offensive line, led by Hull along with Jim Ritcher, Will Wolford and Howard "House" Ballard. After the strike year of 1977, in the rookie season of running back Thurman Thomas, the Bills went 12-4 and finished atop the AFC East for the first of four consecutive seasons. After a victory over the Houston Oilers in the divisional playoff, they lost the AFC championship to the Cincinnati Bengals. The Bills had a chance to win the game as time was running out, but Ronnie Harmon dropped a Kelly pass in the corner of the end zone. During this season, the Bills were called the "Bickering Bills" by the fans and media due to significant infighting among the players and coaches throughout the season. The Bills were favorites to beat the New York Giants whom they had beaten on the road during the regular season, but the defensive plan laid out by Giants coach Bill Parcells and defensive coordinator Bill Belichick kept Buffalo in check and without the ball for much of the game. The game featured many lead changes, and with the score 20-19 in favor of New York with eight seconds left, Bills kicker Scott Norwood attempted a yard field goal. His kick sailed wide right, less than a yard outside of the goalpost upright. The Redskins opened up a 17-0 halftime lead and never looked back, handing the Bills a 37-24 loss. Early in that game, Thurman Thomas lost his helmet and had to sit out the first two plays, making the Bills the butt of jokes nationwide. Backup quarterback Frank Reich started their wild card playoff game against the Houston Oilers, and they were down 35-3 early in the third quarter. But the Bills rallied behind Reich, taking the lead late in the 4th quarter and winning the game in overtime. The deficit remains, to this day, the largest deficit 32 points overcome to win a game in NFL history. Buffalo then defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in the divisional playoff and upset the archrival Dolphins in the AFC Championship to advance to their third straight Super Bowl. Buffalo committed a Super Bowl-record 9 turnovers en route to a 52-17 loss, becoming the first team in NFL history to lose three consecutive Super Bowls. Lett started celebrating too early and held the ball out long enough for Beebe, who had made up a considerable distance to get to Lett, to knock it out of his hand. The play resulted in a touchback, not a touchdown, thus stopping Dallas from breaking the record for most points scored by a team in a Super Bowl 55, which was set three years earlier and is still held today by the San Francisco 49ers. The Bills became the only team ever to play in four straight Super Bowls, and in this game became the first team to face the same team in 2 straight Super Bowls, and looked ready to finally win one when they led at halftime. Decline The four consecutive failures to win the title game, despite a 14-2 regular-season record against the NFC, inspired many jokes. Tasker recalled that when he made motivational speeches to groups of children, "invariably, some little guy raises his hand. The team stumbled down the stretch and finished 7-9, fourth in the division and out of the playoffs. In 1981, Buffalo signed free agent linebacker Bryce Paup to anchor the defense. The Bills again made the playoffs with a 10-6 record, and defeated Miami in the wild card round. They would not get a chance to get back to the Super Bowl - the Pittsburgh Steelers, who went on to advance to the Super Bowl, beat Buffalo in the divisional playoffs 40- In 1982, the Bills saw their commanding lead in the AFC East race disappear to a surging New England Patriots team; the Bills won against the Patriots

in September, then in late October the Patriots won after three touchdowns were scored in the final 85 seconds. The Bills still made the playoffs as the Wild Card home team; they became the first victim of the cinderella Jacksonville Jaguars, the first and as of the present only visiting team ever to win a playoff game at Rich Stadium. Jim Kelly retired after the season after the Bills management told him they were moving in a new direction and wanted him to help develop a younger QB to take over, signaling an end to the most successful era in Bills history. Thurman Thomas gave way to new running back Antowain Smith. Coach Marv Levy retired after the season. The Bills, under new coach Wade Phillips signed two quarterbacks for the season, one that Buffalo traded a high first round pick for, and one that was signed as almost an afterthought. Despite many Bills fans wanting Flutie to get the starting job after Flutie looked the better of the two QBs in camp and in preseason, Phillips named Johnson to the position. The Bills stumbled to begin the season, and after Johnson suffered a rib injury against the Indianapolis Colts, Flutie came in and led the Bills to a playoff spot and a 10-6 record. They faltered in their first playoff game against the Miami Dolphins. Wade Phillips gave Rob Johnson the starting quarterback job in the first round playoff game against the Tennessee Titans even though Flutie had won 10 games and had gotten the Bills into the playoffs. The Bills scored a field goal with 16 seconds left to give them a 16-15 lead. But the Titans won the game on a controversial play that became to be known as the "Music City Miracle": During the ensuing kickoff, Frank Wycheck lateraled the ball to Kevin Dyson who then scored the winning touchdown. Until, this was the last appearance by the Bills in the postseason. Antowain Smith, Eric Moulds, and Marcellus Wiley respectively had long since eclipsed them on the depth chart. After an 8-8 season, and the team still caught up in the Johnson vs. Flutie controversy, general manager John Butler departed for the San Diego Chargers and took Flutie and Wiley with him, among many other Bills contributors. Doug Flutie left the Bills with a. Antowain Smith also left as a free agent for the New England Patriots, where he was the starting running back on their first two Super Bowl championship teams. Both Flutie and Smith were dominant in their final game as Bills, in a 42-23 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. Thomas would be quickly replaced by rookie Travis Henry.

Chapter 8 : Buffalo Soldiers History, U.S. Indian and Span-Am Wars

Buffalo soldier: Buffalo soldier, nickname given to members of African American cavalry regiments of the U.S. Army who served in the western United States from to , mainly fighting Indians on the frontier.

Two months pass, and the sister never writes back. Lemon stepped into the sunlight and onto a rigged mortar round. Sometimes, he says, a true war story is impossible to tell. He describes a story that Mitchell Sanders tells. Sanders recounts the experience of a troop that goes into the mountains on a listening post operation. He says that after a few days, the men hear strange echoes and musicâ€”chimes and xylophonesâ€”and become frightened. One night, the men hear voices and noises that sound like a cocktail party. After a while they hear singing and chanting, as well as talking monkeys and trees. They order air strikes and they burn and shoot down everything they can find. Still, in the morning, they hear the noises. So they pack up their gear and head down the mountain, where their colonel asks them what they heard. They have no answer. A true war story cannot be made general or abstract, he says. The significance of the story is whether or not you believe it in your stomach. He explains that the platoon crossed a muddy river and on the third day Lemon was killed and Kiley lost his best friend. Later that day, higher in the mountains, Kiley shot a Viet Cong water buffalo repeatedlyâ€”though the animal was destroyed and bleeding, it remained alive. Finally Kiowa and Sanders picked up the buffalo and dumped it in the village well. He says that though war is hell, it is also many other contradictory things. He explains the mysterious feeling of being alive that follows a firefight. For this reason, in a true war story, nothing is absolutely true. Lemon was smiling and talking to Kiley one second and was blown into a tree the next. He says that sometimes the truest war stories never happened and tells a story of the same four menâ€”one jumps on a grenade to take the blast, and all four die anyway. Before they die, though, one of the dead turns to the man who jumped on the grenade and asks him why he jumped.

Chapter 9 : Lost Battles of the Vietnam War

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It started much earlier. But it was their first large scale employment during the American Civil War, that they made their real entrance into American History. But his effort was abortive and the regiment was "turned off without a shilling, by order of the War Department. Higginson of Massachusetts took command of the First Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers, the first slave regiment mustered into the service of the United States. By the end of the war , Negroes had served in the Union army and taps had sounded over the bodies of 33, of them. Sadly, little has ever been written of the Negroes that served in the Confederate Army, so we know little of their reasons for fighting for the Confederacy or the outcome of these efforts. We know that the Negro soldiers fought bravely and the first Medal of Honor awarded to a black soldier was awarded for Battery Wagner, S. This is the main battle shown in "Glory". Since the filming of "Glory," there has been mention of the Negro soldier several times in documentaries, such example as "Buffalo Soldiers", Re-discovering America, narrated by David Hartman. All this has sparked a growing interest, which has brought a whole new group of re-enactors onto the playing field. Many have chosen to portray the Negro soldier of what is referred to as the Indian War period, the Buffalo Soldier. As I write, not more than a hundred and fifty miles away in southern Arizona, a movie about the Buffalo Soldier has just been filmed by Turner Productions. It stars Danny Glover and will probably be release later this year. I await, curiously, their interpretation. Six regiments, 2 of Cavalry and 4 of infantry were authorized. The Ninth 9th and Tenth 10th U. They built roads and telegraph lines, mapped and explored. They played a major part in building the west and making it safe for the coming westward expansion. White Officers In the beginning there were no black officers and the military was not willing to deal with this issue. It was still unclear how the Negroes would hold up in the Military in the peacetime army. The process of recruiting officers for these new regiments was a slow process and by February , only 11 officers had reported to duty. While waiting for the necessary number of officers, the troopers became surly and unruly. Two companies, L and M were to take station at Brownsville on the Rio Grande while the remaining 10 companies were to encamp near San Antonio and undergo further training. But marching orders had come to soon. Hatch had little more than an ill- disciplined mob on his hands and the stage was set for violence and tragedy. Enroute to San Antonio mutiny flared in K company and was suppressed only with great difficulty. When the city was reached, no brass bands turned out to welcome black men in blue uniforms, after all this had been Confederate territory, and friction developed quickly between the troopers and citizens. Clashes with the police became an almost daily occurrence. Serious trouble was only a matter of time, and it came on April 9th as too few officers strove to control their men. Mutiny broke out in A, E and K companies, and before order was restored, young Lieutenant Seth Griffin of A Company received a mortal wound and Lieutenant Fred Smith of K company was forced to shoot two of his own troopers. Colonel Hatch placed the blame on a shortage of officers. Albert, of the Sixth Cavalry, was assigned to investigate the mutiny. His report found that many of the men were "too light, too young and had a weak constitution". He should of added that careless or indifferent recruiters had enlisted far too many men who were unfit for military service. Enlistment Recruits were plentiful, though officers were scare. Negroes were eager to enlist, as the army gave them the chance for social and economic betterment. Something difficult to achieve in a society all but closed to them. The American Civil War was over, but many knew nothing of the world outside, the world beyond the city or plantation they had spent their whole life on. They could not go back, now they were free, but many did not have skills to go forward or a place to go. So many felt that the army would be a new home. To others, it was the adventure of being sent west to help tame an untamed wilderness. Perhaps this could lead them to their great dream. The dream of building a new life on their own land. Those who were accepted, for the minimum of 5 years, received the basic troopers pay of thirteen dollars per month, plus quarters, meals and uniforms. They felt they were now on their way to acceptance, little did they know of

the hardship they would face in the west. Most started with uniforms and equipment that was castoff remnants of both American Civil War armies. New recruits used cotton compressors as barracks, ate boiled beef, hash, beans, corn bread and occasionally sweet potatoes, molasses and coffee, not much better off than what they had come from. But to most, the major inducement for enlistment was the prospect of learning how to read and write. They felt this would bring them closer to learning and earning the respect of the white men, and by knowing what the white man new would help them survive and prosper. Mounts The cavalry had always been given the finest of horses, but not the Negroes. They received the crippled and sickly horses left from the American Civil War. But they quickly learned that sometimes your horse could be the difference between life and death. They soon learned to care for their horses better than they cared for themselves. Upon arriving at Fort Stockton and Davis they found to their dismay that the forts were in disrepair and required complete rebuilding. So work details were put together at once, cutting logs, making adobe bricks, constructing sinks and erecting quarters and corrals. With so much work to be done there was little time for complaint. Then in late October a revenge-bent party of Kickapoos drew first blood from the Buffalo Soldiers. By December a force of Kickapoos, Lipans, Mexicans and some white renegades, estimated at nine hundred strong, attacked the bivouac of Captain William Frohock and K Company at Fort Lancaster, some seventy-five miles as the crow flies east of Fort Stockton. This was the Buffalo Soldiers first opportunity to face their foes "toe to toe". It turned into a vicious three- hour fight, leaving K Company in possession of the field. Their victory was twenty dead and a large number wounded. But they had also suffered, the loss of three herd guards. Now missing and presumed dead. But this fight proved the virtues of hard work, discipline and a sense of purpose. It showed the Ninth that they were combat effective, at least to the ones that fought that day. With the serious outbreaks in - 82, General Crook returned to Arizona and restored peace, but Chiricahua and Warm Springs outlaws, one being Nana himself were holed up in the mountains of northern Mexico, ready to launch raids into Arizona. In March of a small band of theses Indians under Chatto struck like a hurricane in southern New Mexico and Arizona. A number of ranches were looted and burned. In just 6 days, 25 people were killed, and 1 young boy captured. Then like wraiths the Apaches disappeared across the border, leaving citizens and troops in a state of shock. General Crook reacted swiftly by gathering a powerful force along with a large body of Apache scouts to cross into Mexico and invade the Sierra Madres. In a 3 week campaign, Crook forced the surrender of the Chiricahua irreconcilables. Out of this Chatto, Geronimo, Nachez, Loco, Benito, Mangus and their followers, as well as Nana and his Warm Springs Apaches, agreed to march to the San Carlos reservation where they were to remain under control of the army. One hostile chief, Mangus and his band remained at large after separating from Geronimo. On September 18th a detachment of H Company under Captain Charles Cooper found a trail in the White Mountains, and a pursuit of more than 40 miles over rough terrain led to a small party of Apaches. After a running 15 mile fight the troopers cornered the Indians and forced their surrender. Now the chapter was over with the last holdout - Mangus, 2 warriors, 8 women and children. Arizona was finally at peace. The Indians felt that like the mighty buffalo, the Buffalo Soldiers fought ferociously to the end. Their motto became "Ready and Forward. Then on to serve in the Philippine Insurrection. Many a young officer cut their teeth serving with the Buffalo Soldiers, some went on to become famous, like John J. And the rest is history. Copyright Francis E.