

# The Fort's Most Famous Troops

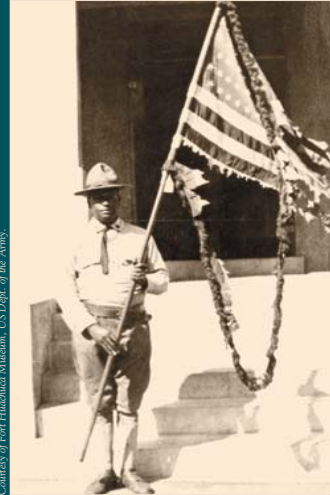


## Buffalo Soldiers

The U.S. Army's famed 10th Cavalry Regiment of African American soldiers were stationed at Fort Ethan Allen from 1909-1913. It was a period of training and quiet for these battle weary soldiers, who had spent the majority of their military careers in brutal campaigns fought in the American Southwest, Cuba and the Philippines. As a sign of respect, Native Americans called them "Buffalo Soldiers" because of their curly black hair and fierce fighting skills.

The community was saddened to see them leave in late 1913 when they were transferred to Fort Huachuca in Arizona. In the spring of 1916, the regiment was part of General Blackjack Pershing's "Punitive Campaign" in Mexico against the legendary Pancho Villa. In June 1916, 80 troopers of a regimental scouting party were outnumbered by about 400 Mexican soldiers in a battle at Carrizal. Forty-four men of the 10th were either killed, wounded or captured. When the citizens of Winooski, adjacent to Fort Ethan Allen, received the news they sent a letter to the commander of the regiment:

*"... we express the sympathy, gratitude and appreciation of all the citizens of this community because of these achievements of men who were our neighbors and friends and who met this supreme test and sacrifice in a manner to thrill and inspire every true American."*



A trooper holds the 10th's battle flag used in Cuba. The Regiment was one of several units that charged up San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders on July 1, 1898.



Lawrence Jonklunda, Courtesy of the John M. Carroll Collection



Troopers of the 10th Cavalry on the move through Winooski. Like other troops stationed at the Fort, they were a source of great excitement and interest to local residents.



Soon after the battle of Carrizal, Mexico released the captured men of the 10th. This photo is believed to have been taken on the International Bridge at El Paso, Texas.