

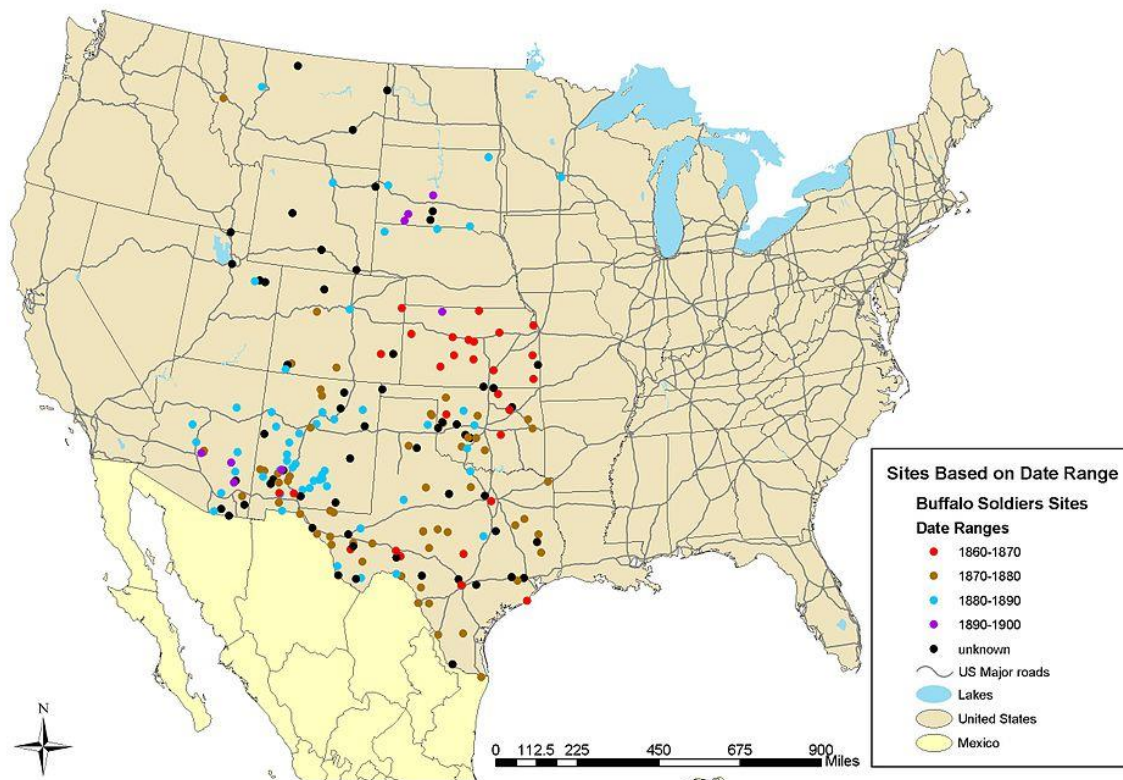
# Military Research – Buffalo Soldiers

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**Buffalo Soldiers** – A term coined for those African-Americans who served with the US Army after the Civil War. The term “Buffalo Soldiers” has been attributed to several sources for the units formed after 1866 by an act of Congress. Originally Congress reorganized the Army after the Civil War and created two “Black” Cavalry Units ([9th](#) and [10th](#) U.S. Cavalry) and four Infantry Regiments (the [38th](#), [39th](#), [40th](#), and [41st](#) Infantry Regiments (Colored)). (The 38th and 41st were reorganized as the [25th Infantry Regiment](#), with headquarters in [Jackson Barracks](#) in [New Orleans, Louisiana](#), in November 1869. The 39th and 40th were reorganized as the [24th Infantry Regiment](#), with headquarters at [Fort Clark](#), Texas, in April 1869. [Wikipedia])

It is the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments best known for fighting in the West against the Indian Tribes. **22 Buffalo Soldiers received the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars.**



According to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the name originated with the [Cheyenne](#) warriors in the winter of 1877, the actual Cheyenne translation being "Wild Buffalo". However, writer Walter Hill documented the account of [Colonel Benjamin Grierson](#), who founded the 10th Cavalry regiment, recalling an 1871 campaign against the Comanche. Hill attributed the origin of the name to the Comanche due to Grierson's assertions. The Apache used the same term ("We called them 'buffalo soldiers', because they had curly, kinky hair ... like bisons") a claim supported by other sources.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Some sources assert that the nickname was given out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th Cavalry.<sup>[5]</sup> Still other sources point to a combination of both legends.<sup>[6]</sup> The term Buffalo Soldiers became a generic term for all black soldiers. It is now used for U.S. Army units that trace their direct lineage back to the 9th and 10th Cavalry units whose service earned them an honored place in U.S. history. (Source: Wikipedia)

### Notable Officers of the Buffalo Soldiers

[Benjamin Grierson](#), first commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He was a music teacher, then a career officer in the [United States Army](#) serving in the Civil War. After the war he organized and led the [Buffalo Soldiers](#) of the [10th Cavalry Regiment](#) from 1866 to 1890.

[Edward Hatch](#), first commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He was a career [American](#) soldier who served as a general in the [Union Army](#) during the [American Civil War](#). By the end of the Civil War, he held the rank of brevet lieutenant colonel, colonel of volunteers and also received a commission to first lieutenant in the Regular [United States Army](#). After the war he took the rank of Colonel

and became the first commander of the [9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment](#), a [Buffalo soldier](#) regiment with [African-American](#) troops commanded by white officers.



[Henry O. Flipper](#), first black graduate of [West Point](#). He was assigned to A Troop, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry where he served with distinction and honor. He was an [American soldier](#), former [slave](#), and the first African American to graduate from the [United States Military Academy](#) at [West Point](#) in 1877, earning a [commission](#) as a [2nd lieutenant](#) in the [US Army](#). Unsubstantiated rumors led to his court martial and dismissal from the Army in 1882. After losing his commission in the Army, Flipper worked throughout Mexico and Latin America and as an assistant to the [Secretary of the Interior](#). He retired to Atlanta in 1931 and died of natural causes in 1940. In 1994, his descendants applied to the [US military](#) for a review of Flipper's court martial and dismissal. A review found the conviction and punishment were "unduly harsh and unjust" and recommended Flipper's dismissal to be changed to a [good conduct discharge](#). Shortly afterwards, an application for [pardon](#) was filed with the [Secretary of the Army](#), which was forwarded to the [Department of Justice](#). President [Bill Clinton pardoned](#) Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper on February 19, 1999. (Source: Wikipedia)



[Charles Young](#), third black graduate of [West Point](#). (see [National Park Service](#)) He was the first black U.S. [national park](#) superintendent, first black [military attaché](#), first black man to achieve the rank of [colonel](#), and highest-ranking black officer in the Regular Army until his death in 1922.

[John J "Black Jack" Pershing](#) - [General of the Armies John J. Pershing](#) is a controversial figure regarding the Buffalo Soldiers. He served with the 10th Cavalry from October 1895 to May 1897. He served again with them for less than six months in Cuba. Because he saw the Buffalo Soldiers as good soldiers, he was looked down upon and called "Nigger Jack" by White cadets and officers at West Point. Only later during the [Spanish–American War](#) did the press change that insulting term to "Black Jack".<sup>[27]</sup> During [World War I](#), Pershing bowed to the racial policies of President [Woodrow Wilson](#), [Secretary of War Newton D. Baker](#), and the [southern Democratic Party](#) with its "separate but equal" philosophy. For the first time in American history, Pershing allowed American soldiers (African Americans) to be under the command of a foreign power. [Wikipedia]

[Medal of Honor](#) recipients

1) [Louis H. Carpenter](#) a [United States Army brigadier general](#) and a recipient of the [Medal of Honor](#) for his actions in the American Indian Wars. By the end of the Civil War, he held the rank

of brevet lieutenant colonel, colonel of volunteers and also received a commission to first lieutenant in the Regular [United States Army](#).

2) [Nicholas M. Nolan](#) a [United States Army major](#) who served with the [10th U.S. Cavalry](#) (after the Civil War) known as the [Buffalo Soldiers](#) for fourteen years. He was the commanding officer of [Henry O. Flipper](#) in 1878, the first Negro officer who graduated from [United States Military Academy](#) at West Point. He commanded several frontier forts before his untimely death in 1883.

3) List of African-American Medal of Honor recipients (All Recipients – See Indian Wars) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_African-American\\_Medal\\_of\\_Honor\\_recipients](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African-American_Medal_of_Honor_recipients)

## Buffalo Soldiers in New Mexico

PBS – Moments in time. See Video.

<http://www.newmexicopbs.org/moments-in-time/buffalo-soldiers-in-new-mexico/>

## 1898-1918

After most of the Indian Wars ended in the 1890s, the regiments continued to serve and participated in the 1898 [Spanish–American War](#) (including the [Battle of San Juan Hill](#)) in [Cuba](#), where five more Medals of Honor were earned.<sup>[13][14]</sup>

The men of the Buffalo Soldiers were the only African Americans that fought during the war. Up to 5,000 "Black men" enlisted in volunteer regiments in the Spanish–American War.<sup>[15]</sup> Several African-American regiments of United States Volunteers were formed and nicknamed "Immune Regiments", but none of these volunteer regiments served overseas in that war.<sup>[16]</sup>

The Buffalo Soldiers regiments also took part in the [Philippine–American War](#) from 1899 to 1903 and the 1916 [Mexican Expedition](#).<sup>[13][14]</sup> In 1918, the 10th Cavalry fought at the [Battle of Ambos Nogales](#) during the [First World War](#), where they assisted in forcing the surrender of the federal Mexican and Mexican militia forces.<sup>[13][14][17]</sup>

Buffalo soldiers fought in the last engagement of the Indian Wars, the small [Battle of Bear Valley](#) in southern [Arizona](#) which occurred in 1918 between U.S. cavalry and [Yaqui](#) natives.<sup>[13][14]</sup>

## WW1

The Buffalo Soldiers did not participate with the [American Expeditionary Forces](#) (AEF) during World War I, but experienced noncommissioned officers were provided to other segregated Black units for combat service—such as the [317th Engineer Battalion](#). The soldiers of the [92nd](#) and the [93rd](#) infantry divisions were the first Americans to fight in France. The four regiments of the 93rd fought under French command for the duration of the war.

## WW2

Prior to World War II, the black 25th Infantry Regiment was based at Ft Huachuca. During the war, Ft Huachuca served as the home base of the Black 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were essentially disbanded and the soldiers were moved into service-oriented units, along with the entire [2nd Cavalry Division](#). The [92nd Infantry Division](#), the "Buffalo Division", served in combat during the [Italian campaign](#). The [93rd Infantry Division](#)—including the [25th Infantry Regiment](#)—served in the [Pacific theater](#).<sup>[36]</sup> Separately,

independent Black artillery, tank and tank destroyer battalions, as well as quartermaster and support battalions served in World War II. All of these units to a degree carried on the traditions of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Despite some official resistance and administrative barriers, Black airmen were trained and played a part in the air war in Europe, gaining a reputation for skill and bravery (see [Tuskegee Airmen](#)). In early 1945, after the [Battle of the Bulge](#), American forces in Europe experienced a shortage of combat troops, so the embargo on using black soldiers in combat units was relaxed. The American Military History says:

“Faced with a shortage of infantry replacements during the enemy's counteroffensive, [General Eisenhower](#) offered Negro soldiers in service units an opportunity to volunteer for duty with the infantry. More than 4,500 responded, many taking reductions in grade in order to meet specified requirements. The 6th Army Group formed these men into provisional companies, while the 12th Army Group employed them as an additional platoon in existing rifle companies. The excellent record established by these volunteers, particularly those serving as platoons, presaged major postwar changes in the traditional approach to employing Negro troops.”

## Korea

The 24th Infantry Regiment saw combat during the [Korean War](#) and was the last segregated regiment to engage in combat. The 24th was deactivated in 1951, and its soldiers were integrated into other units in Korea. On December 12, 1951, the last Buffalo Soldier units, the [27th Cavalry](#) and the [28th \(Horse\) Cavalry](#), were disbanded. The 28th Cavalry was inactivated at Assi-Okba, [Algeria](#), in April 1944 in North Africa, and marked the end of the regiment.<sup>[37]</sup>

Monuments to the Buffalo Soldiers are in Kansas at [Fort Leavenworth](#) and [Junction City](#).<sup>[38]</sup> Then-[Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell](#), who initiated the project to get a statue to honor the Buffalo Soldiers when he was posted as a brigadier general to Fort Leavenworth, was guest speaker for the unveiling of the Fort Leavenworth monument in July 1992.

## Military Resources and other References:

**New Mexico History.org** (<http://newmexicohistory.org/people/buffalo-soldiers-in-new-mexico> )  
A brief description of the Buffalo Soldier's history in New Mexico.

**The Buffalo Soldiers & Indian Wars** (<http://www.buffalosoldier.net/> )

**Wikipedia [Buffalo Soldiers]** ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo\\_Soldier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Soldier) )

**The Buffalo Soldier National Museum**, (<http://www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com/> ) Web site contains a database of Buffalo Soldier's names who served. Not searchable, but has over 44 pages of data containing names in alphabetical order, occupations, places of birth, dates, ages, enlistment place, and regiment served.

Buffalo Soldier Roster Lookup:								
Surname	Given Name	Occupation	Place of Birth	Age	Date	Enlistment Place	Reg't	ROE ref.
Abbott	Westly	farmer	Culpepper Co, Virginia	22	11/7/1867	Washington, District of Columbia	10 Cav	65.022.0857
Abraham	Josiah	laborer	Mansfield, Ohio	21	8/5/1867	Chicago, Illinois	10 Cav	65.017.0653
Acre	Henry	laborer	Memphis, Tennessee	21	5/28/1867	Louisville, Kentucky	10 Cav	65.009.0357
Adams	Alexander	laborer	Mason Co, Kentucky	25	9/17/1866	St Louis	10 Cav	62.015.0589
Adams	Alexander	laborer	Anne Arundel Co, Maryland	22	12/3/1867	Washington, District of Columbia	10 Cav	65.023.0891