



The Buffalo Soldiers; A Narrative Of The Negro Cavalry In The West

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Negro soldiers who wanted to remain in the United States Army after the Civil War were organized into the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments. Their service in controlling hostile Indians on the Great Plains during the next twenty years was as invaluable as it was unrecognized.

The Buffalo Soldiers; A Narrative Of The Negro Cavalry In The West Details

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From Reader Review The Buffalo Soldiers; A Narrative Of The Negro Cavalry In The West for online ebook

Craig Coleman says

Superb!

Perri says

A book club selection to follow The Big Burn, this has to be the definitive edition on everything you can possibly wish to know about how the Negro Cavalry helped to settle the west. You will amaze your friends and family with your depth of knowledge about this somewhat obscure piece of American history. I like a book with less history and more narrative, so just couldn't get through it. Since it's not my choice of book, probably unfair to rate, but for the two chapters I pushed myself through-snore

Thomas Isern says

William Leckie's work is a landmark not only because of the salience of its subject but also because of the time of its publication: 1967. Some sections of the work lack narrative coherence, perhaps because the service of the 9th & 10th US cavalry regiments, the Buffalo Soldier regiments, was so arduous and pell-mell. The Red River Wars, the West Texas Frontier, the Mexican Border, the Lincoln County War, the Oklahoma District, Wounded Knee--these guys saw hard duty, extensive duty, heroic duty. Stay with this book, and you come to understand a lot about the situation of the Buffalo Soldiers and, in a way, America in their era. You come to see how hopelessly messed up Indian policy and military affairs both were, and how sadly bigoted were national attitudes. When I have time I intend to look deeper into the story of Medal of Honor winner George Jordan, who died in 1904 at Fort Robinson after being refused medical care at the post. The version of the book I just read is the one with revisions by Shirley Leckie, of which the epilogue is of particular value. I write this review on Independence Day, 2012, and feel moved today by the stories of the American heroes of the 9th & 10th cavalry regiments.

Kgwhitehurst says

A good corrective to Haley, sometimes difficult to follow, especially in the beginning.

Ira Livingston says

What an amazing piece of American history that is overlooked in most bigger textbooks. You can easily see why this book is still a main go-to for information, written in 1960s it still has the ability to keep modern readers enhanced by all of the stories within its pages.

Would highly recommend for any readers looking into history of the expansion towards the west after the

American Civil War.

Kiston says

This was a collection of actual military entries for about the first 25 years of the 9th and 10th calvary. Kind of a dry read, but an interesting view of their history.

Max R. says

Note: The title has been changed to substitute "Black" for "Negro" and some other material has been added in the most recent edition of this important and entertaining history.

Leckie is a good writer, but he's not the master of narrative history that Shelby Foote is, so (perhaps unfairly) I knocked off one star on my rating. One vital lesson from reading this book was the detail given on the everyday lives of black troopers, who faced additional challenges because of racial prejudice at every turn, as if frontier Army life wasn't tough enough; even so, the desertion rates for the 9th & 10th Cavalry was significantly lower than for white-only units.

One bit of firearms trivia I learned from this work is that the Spencer repeating carbine used by Union troops in the Civil War also became the standard long gun for the U.S. Cavalry after Lee's surrender at Appomattox in 1865, until adoption of the single-shot Springfield carbine circa 1873 (a step backward in firepower, but we can presume that the Springfield firm had lots of political support in Washington, D.C.). See: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/historical...>

I can highly recommend "Buffalo Soldiers" to all lovers of American history.

Gregory Scheib says

Provides plenty of details about the activities of the Ninth and Tenth cavalry in the southwest, but little analysis of their important role in western history.

Eric says

Military historian William Leckie has written a fine history of the black soldiers who served in the Army after the Civil. Dubbed buffalo soldiers by the Indians they fought, these tough, brave men served with distinction and honor in horrible conditions: drought, heat, cold, poor supplies, shoddy horses, and often lack of support from the Army command in Washington. And yet, by the early 1890s, their desertion rate was the lowest in the Army.

Many blacks - 180,000 - served in the Civil War on the Union side. After the war, Congress created six new regiments of black troops - four infantry and two cavalry. The cavalry regiments became the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry. Congress required that all officers were white - not so much out of racism, but because there weren't enough qualified blacks (that would quickly change, of course). And each regiment got its own chaplain,

which taught the men reading, writing, and arithmetic, in addition to ministering to their spiritual needs.

On General Grant's recommendation, Generals Benjamin Grierson and Edward Hatch were appointed to lead the Tenth and Ninth Cavalries, respectively. By Leckie's account, both were honest, decent men who treated their black troops well and respected their fighting ability. The white officers they appointed were much the same.

The difficulties the black regiments faced came mainly from Washington. Grierson and Hatch had to fight, scratch, and claw for decent supplies and horses. The Ninth and Tenth often received the worst horses and leftover, substandard foodstuffs. They also faced opposition and outright hostility from white base commanders, who resented serving with black troops.

But despite the obstacles, and to their credit, the men's morale remained high, and their contribution was essential for making the American frontier safe for settlement. They fought against Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, and other hostile tribes in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They also confronted Mexican bandits and white horse thieves.

As fighters, there were probably no superior cavalry forces in the army. These guys were tough, often marching hundreds and thousands of miles with little food and water, fighting Indians along the way. But they did their duty and did it well. Of course, there was the occasional troublemaker, and military discipline took care of them.

Leckie has written a fine book, giving these soldiers their long overdue credit.

John says

Anyone interested in American Military, Frontier, or Black history should read this book. I still have my 1967 edition. BTW the cover shown is not the one I have.

Fredrick Danysh says

Following the Civil War, Congress established two regiments of Negro cavalry to fight the Indians in the American West. This is their well told story.
