

Apache Scouts





General Crook aboard his mule, White Mountain scout Alchesay on the right, and an unknown Apache scout on the left. Taken in Apache Pass near Fort Bowie. U.S. Army photo.

The American Army had used Indians as guides ever since its inception, but they were employed as civilians. It was not until an Act of Congress in July 1866 that Indians were actually enlisted and became an official unit of the U.S. Army. Brig. Gen. George Crook made extensive use of Apache scouts in Arizona territory to track down Apache renegades. Crook would emphasize their worth in his official report: "I cannot too strongly assert that there has never been any success

in operations against these Indians, unless Indian scouts were used. These Chiricahua scouts...were of more value in hunting down and compelling the surrender of the renegades than all other troops...combined. The use of Indian scouts was dictated by the soundest of military policy."

Apache Scout companies were made up of twenty-five Indians with a white officer in command and often direction was given by a civilian chief of scouts. In 1877 and 1878 there were as many as 600 Indian

Scouts in the U.S. Army. By the time of the 1885-6 Geronimo campaigns, that number had dropped to 200.

First Lieutenant Augustin Gabriel Tassin was a commander of Indian Scouts at Huachuca in 1879. He had led a company of White Mountain Apaches on a scout with the unlikely dual mission of finding the renegade chief Juh, while at the same time preparing an illustrated report for the Smithsonian on the flora and fauna of Arizona. Later he wrote about the qualities and methods of Apache

scouts on the trail.

...I marched, knee-deep in the Gila sands, ...to Camp Thomas, thirty-five miles above the agency, presented each man [scout] with a Springfield rifle of the latest pattern and forty rounds of ammunition on behalf of the United States, and put the whole concern into military uniform by purchasing twenty-five yards of coarse red flannel from the post trader, which, being divided among them, they wrapped turban-wise around their foreheads in such an artistic, business-like manner, that it transformed them with almost miraculous rapidity from a set of rather mild-mannered cut-throats into as hard-looking a set of blood-thirsty scoundrels as probably the world had ever seen, —so much

so that I was afraid of them myself.

* * *

On a trail, hot or cold, the scouts go first in single file, Indian fashion, followed by the rest of the command....

Generally, however, the Apaches march with no semblance of regularity; individual fancy alone governs. To the trained soldier, accustomed to the tactics of civilized warfare, the loose, straggling, war-path methods of the Apache scouts appear at first sight startling, if not contemptible; but he soon realized that a more perfect *eclaireur* does not exist.

On breaking up a bivouac to take up the march there is no falling-in single or double ranks, no breaking of arms-stacks, roll-call, or other delaying formalities. The last mule

being packed and ready for the start, the chief of scouts gives a short, jerky order, ...”Get,” and the Apaches start as if shot from a gun, rapidly covering the ground in a rough, shambling gait, which in the long run abolishes distance in a manner wonderful to behold. They go by twos, by threes, scattered by clumps and groups to every point of the compass; but whether singly or in clusters, they move onward indefatigably, with vision as keen as a hawk’s tread as untiring and stealthy as a panther, and ears so sensitive that nothing escapes them.

* * *

Each wore a loosely fitting shirt of red, white, or gray stuff, generally of calico, in some gaudy figure, or the woolen one issued to white soldiers.

Company “G,” White Mountain Apache Scouts. Photo taken about 1882. Apache Scouts enlisted for six months service. Signal Corps Photo 111-SC-85773.



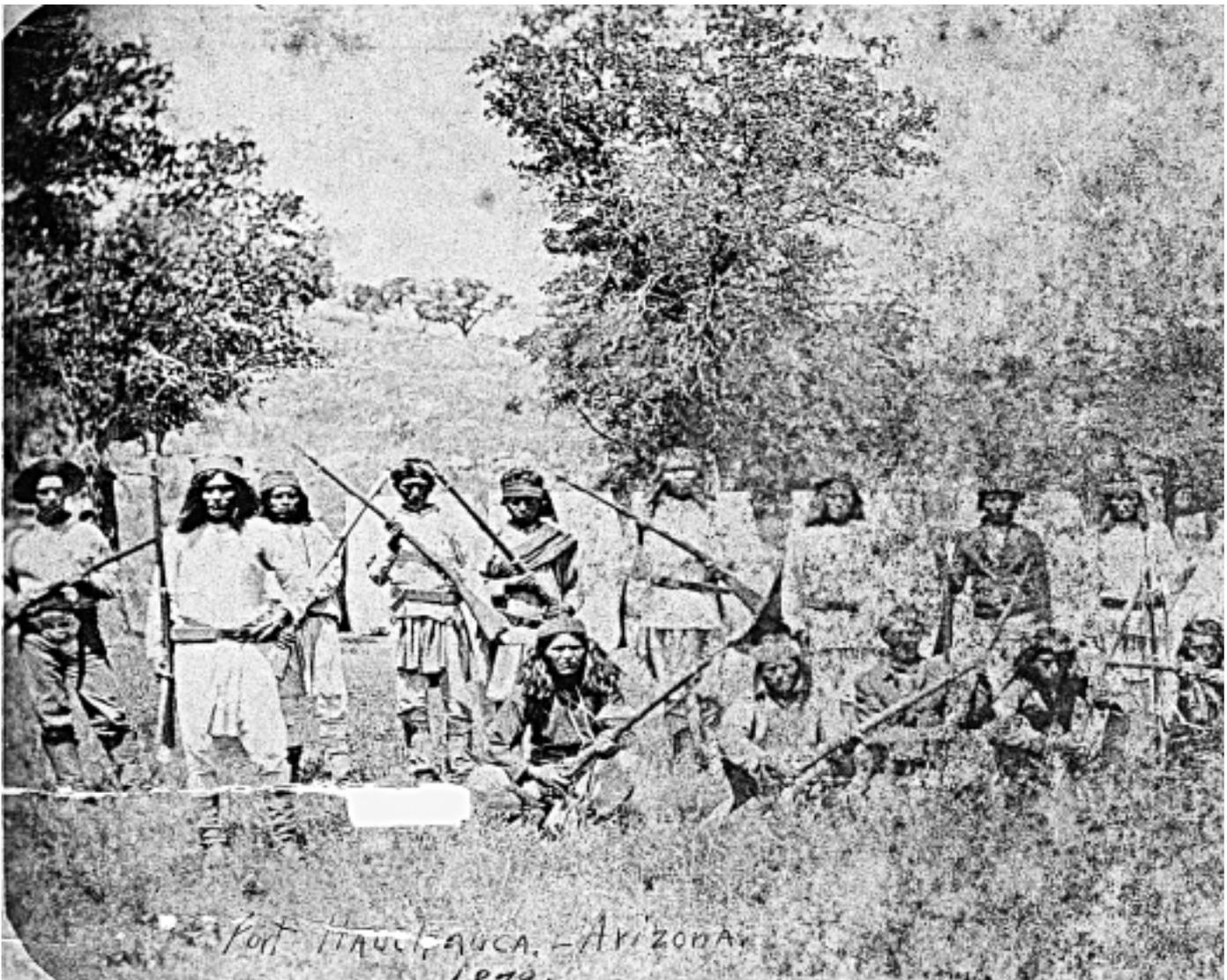
This came down outside a pair of loose cotton drawers, reaching to the moccasins, which last are the most important articles of Apache apparel. In a fight or on a long march they discard all else, but always retain the moccasins. Before leaving [Fort] Thomas I had procured a lot of fresh rawhides from the agency, and my scouts had been hard at work at the shoemaking business. The Indian to be fitted stands erect upon the

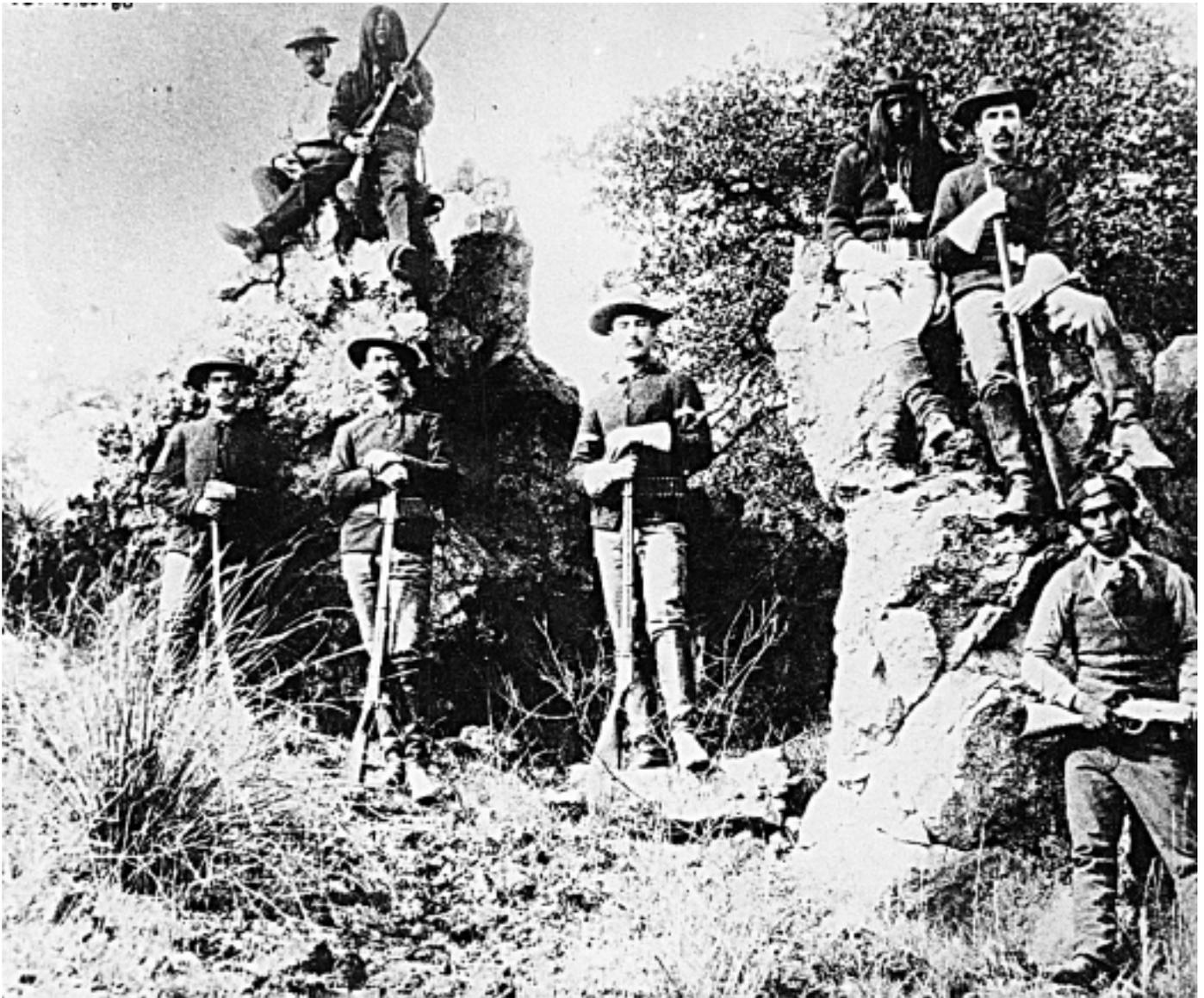
ground, while a companion traces with a sharp knife the outlines of the sole of his foot upon a piece of rawhide. The legging is made of soft buckskin attached to the sole and reaching to mid-thigh. For convenience in marching it is allowed to hang in folds below the knee. The rawhide sole is prolonged beyond the great toe, and turned upward in a shield, which protects from cactus and sharp stones.

In addition to his rifle the Indian scout carries a canteen full of water, a butcher knife, an awl in leather case, and a pair of tweezers; and a leather belt holding forty rounds of metallic ammunition encircles his waist. The awl is used for sewing moccasins or work of that kind, and he uses the tweezers to pick out each and every hair appearing upon his face.

Many among them carry, strapped at the waist, little buckskin bags of

Apache Indian scouts at Huachuca in 1879. At the extreme left is sergeant Edward Murphy. Photo courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Leng.





Troop I, 4th Cavalry, with their Indian Scouts in the mouth of Bisbee Canyon, 1884. Sgt. Emil Pauly is standing on the right with stripes on arm. Photo courtesy Lt. Col. John H. Healy.

had-dentin, or sacred meal, with which to offer morning and evening sacrifice to the sun or other deity. Others are provided with amulets of lightning-riven twigs, pieces of quartz crystal, petrified wood, concretionary sandstone, galena, or chalchihuitls, or fetiches, representing some of their countless planetary gods of *kan*, which are regarded as “dead medicine” for frustrating the designs of the en-

emy or warding off arrows and bullets in the heat of action, —from which may be inferred that the idea of a personal God is pre-eminent in Apache mythology, for each has one personal to himself.

The rate of speed attained by the Apaches in marching is about an even four miles an hour on foot, or not quite fast enough to make a horse trot. They keep this up for about fif-

teen miles, at the end of which distance, if water be encountered, and no enemy be sighted, they congregate in bands of some ten or fifteen each, hide in some convenient ravine, sit down, smoke cigarettes, chat and joke, and stretch out in the sunlight, basking like lizards.

* * *

All the scouts paint their faces while on the march with red ocker, deer’s



Indian Scouts at Fort Apache in March 1918. From left to right: Jess Billy, Alejo Quintero, Ka-Gethl, Ka-Gethl's baby, and wife. Photo courtesy Lt. H. B. Wharfield, 10th Cavalry, Indian Scout Commander in 1918.

blood, or the juice of roasted mescal, for the double purpose of protecting them from the wind and sun, as well as distinctive ornamentation. The ornamentation is a matter of taste and tribal obligation. The other part of the operation is one of necessity, for it is a well known fact that dirt and grease protect the skin against inclement weather. An Indian seldom washes unless he can grease himself afterwards;

and with him in many instances grease takes the place of clothing, for he knows the necessity of an equality of the activity of the skin and the calls upon it, and why, when exposure is very great, the pores should be defended.

When the command reaches camp, the scouts build in a trice all kinds of rude shelter. Those that have the army dog tents up them upon frameworks

of willow or cottonwood saplings; others less fortunate, improvise domiciles of branches covered with grass, or of stones and boards covered with gunny sacks. Before these are finished, smoke curls gracefully towards the sky from crackling embers, in front of which, transfixed on wooden spits, are the heads, hearts, and livers of the *choddi* (deer) killed on the march.

* * *

...My scouts were occupied in preparing their beds for the night. Grass was pulled by handfuls, laid upon the ground, and covered with one blanket, another serving as cover. They generally sleep with their feet pointed towards little fires, which they claim are warm, while the big ones built by the white soldiers are so hot that they drive people away from them, and besides, attract the attention of a lurking enemy.

All this time scouts are posted on knolls commanding every possible line of approach. The Apache dreads surprise. It is his own private mode of destroying an enemy, and knowing what he himself can do, he ascribes to his foe—no matter how insignificant may be his numbers—the same daring, recklessness, agility, and subtlety possessed by himself.

The two great points of superiority of the savage soldier over the representative of civilized discipline are his absolute knowledge of the country, and his perfect ability to take care of himself at all times and under all circumstances. Though the rays of the sun pour down from the zenith, or the scorching sirocco blow from the south, the Apache scout trudges along as unconcerned as he was when the cold rain or snow of winter chilled his white comrade to the marrow. He finds food, and pretty good food, too, where the white man would starve. Knowing the habits of wild animals from his earliest youth, he can catch turkeys, quail, rabbits, doves, or field mice, which supply him with meat, in addition to the flesh of a horse or mule that has dropped exhausted on the march, and of which he is exceedingly fond.

The stunted oak growing on mountain slopes furnishes acorns; the Spanish bayonet a fruit that, when roasted, looks and tastes something like the banana. The whole region of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico is marked with varieties of the cactus, producing fruit and seeds with which he varies his menu. The broad leaves and stalks of the mescal are roasted between hot stones, and the product is rich in saccharine matter, and extremely pleasant to the taste. The wild potato and the bulb of the tule are found in the damp mountain meadows, and he raids the nest of the ground bee for its store of honey in common with the bear. Sunflower seeds pounded between two stones are rich and nutritious.... He boils the sweet, soft inner bark of the pine with the seeds of wild grasses and wild pumpkins and the gum of the mesquite into savory stews, which may not be very appetizing to an Anglo-Saxon's vitiated taste, but are more than welcome to an Indian. The nimble cactus rat is very much the thing in his...bills of fare, for the pleasure it gives him in the primary catching is enhanced in the subsequent eating of the succulent, silver-robed little rodent.¹

On the reservation where many Indian factions intrigued against each other and the U.S. Army, a network of "Confidential Indians" would report to the military any plans or dissatisfaction. This proved useful in 1882 when informants alerted the Army to the intentions of renegades to attack the reservation at Camp Goodwin and breakout Loco and his Warm Springs people to join them in raiding. A Chiricahua named Sam Kenoi explained:

At Fort Apache they said Geronimo

was always suspicious. There were two women and three men who were secret service agents for Lieutenant Davis. They were Western Apache. These are a different tribe. That is what caused many of the stories that were going around. The two women who were secret service agents would go after midnight to these army officials and tell them what had been said, what the Indians intended to do. Most of the trouble came through the Western Apache. They told stories, mostly false. We don't know who the secret service people were. But I don't think the government officials can deny that they had secret agents, men and women.²

However, this information received from spys did not prevent the renegades from spurring Loco and his people from the reservation. After Geronimo's surrender, there was less of a need for Indian scouts and, in 1891 the number of scouts apportioned to Arizona was limited to fifty.

In 1891 the Army experimented with enlisting scouts in units of the regular army. The number of scouts authorized Army-wide was reduced to 150, fifty being allocated for Arizona. The General Orders, dated March 9, allowed for L Troop of each cavalry regiment and I Company of each regiment of infantry to be converted to 55-man Indian units. The 9th and 10th regiments of black cavalry were excepted as were the 6th, 11th, 15th, 19th, 24th and 25th infantry regiments. In 1897 the provision was dropped and the Indian companies and troops were disbanded. The Indian scout units were distinct however, and were not affected. But they were reduced so far in numbers that they were no longer functional as companies and were redesignated as

detachments.

By 1915 only 24 remained in service. It appears that an additional 17 Apache scouts were enlisted to join Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico because in 1916 the number rose to 39, and in 1917 fell back to 22. Apache scouts from Fort Huachuca accompanied the 10th Cavalry and others from Fort Apache joined the 11th Cavalry on their long scouts into Mexico in search of the bandit/revolutionary, Pancho Villa.

During the Punitive Expedition in 1916, twenty Indian scouts were sent down from Fort Apache to join the 11th Cavalry. They arrived too late to take part in the search for Villa which had been suspended due to the protests of the Carranza government about the U. S. presence on Mexican soil. But they did have ample opportunity to show their tracking skills. Captain James A. Shannon with the 11th wrote an article in the *Journal of the U. S. Cavalry Association* for April 1917, entitled "With the Apache Scouts in Mexico." He described their cautious way of operating.

The Indian cannot be beaten at his own game. But in order to get results, he must be allowed to play that game in his own way. You tell a troop of white soldiers there is an enemy a thousand yards in your front and they will go straight at him without questions. The Indian under the same circumstance wants to look it all over first. He wants to go to one side and take a look. Then to the other side and take a look. He is like a wild animal stalking its prey. Before he advances he wants to know just what is in his front. This extreme caution, which we don't like to see in the white man, is one of the qualities that makes

him a perfect scout. It would be almost impossible to surprise an outfit that had a detachment of Apache scouts in its front. They do not lack courage by any means. They have taken part in some little affairs in Mexico that required plenty of courage, but they must be allowed to do things in their own way.

The Apaches had a centuries-old hatred of Mexicans and it surfaced during the expedition. Shannon recalled an evening when they encountered some government troops.

...As we approached this outfit and opened a conversation with them, Sergeant Chicken (First Sergeant of the Scouts) fingered his gun nervously and gave vent in one sentence to the Indians whole idea of the Mexican situation: "Heap much Mexican, shoot 'em all!" There was no fine distinctions in their minds between friendly Mexicans and unfriendly, Carranzistas and Villistas, *de facto* troops and bandits. To their direct minds there was only one line of conduct—"Heap much Mexican, shoot 'em all!" They had to be watched pretty carefully when out of camp to be kept from putting this principle into practice.

The Apache scouts proved useful in tracking American deserters and on at least one occasion located some of the *villistas*. They picked up the trail of some stolen American horses that were two or three days old. Shannon writes:

They started off on the trail and after going a short distance came to a rocky stretch where the trail was hard to follow. They circled out like a pack of hounds and soon one of them gave a grunt and all the rest went over where he was and started off again. After a while the trail seemed to di-

vide, so the detachment split up into two parties following the two trails. After about an hour or so, one of these parties overtook the villistas in a very narrow ravine. They shot two of them, and on account of the narrowness of the pass, unfortunately shot two of the horses, one of which proved to be the private horse of Lieutenant Ely of the Fifth Cavalry. They recovered one government horse and got some Mexican saddles, rifles, etc.³

New regulations were written to govern Indian Scouts in 1917. The main change from previous regulations were the period of enlistment. Heretofore scouts had been enlisted for at varying times for three months, six months or a year. Now they would sign up for a seven-year hitch like other soldiers. The new regulations provided:

479. Indians employed as scouts under the provisions of section 1112, Revised Statutes, and Section 1, act of Congress approved February 2, 1901, ...will be enlisted for periods of seven years and discharged when the necessity for their services shall cease. While in service they will receive the pay and allowances of cavalry soldiers and an additional allowance of 40 cents per day, provided they furnish their own horses and horse equipments; but such additional allowance will cease if they do not keep their horses and equipments in serviceable condition.

480. Department commanders are authorized to appoint sergeants and corporals for the whole number of enlisted Indian scouts serving in their departments, but such appointments must not exceed the proportion of 1 first sergeant, 5 sergeants, and 4 corporals for 60 enlisted scouts.

481. The number of Indian scouts

allowed to military departments will be announced from time to time in orders from the War Department.

482. The enlistment and reenlistment of Indian scouts will be made under the direction of department commanders. The appointment or mustering of farriers or horseshoers on the rolls of Indian scouts is illegal.

483. In all cases of enlistment of Indians the full Indian name, and also the English interpretation of the same, will be inserted in the enlistment papers and in all subsequent returns and reports concerning them.

Colonel Wharfield, a lieutenant commanding scouts in 1918, would later describe how the Apaches were expected to be employed that year.

The Apache scouts were not trained or drilled to maneuver as the soldiers of the army. Their operations were in accordance with the Apache's natural habits of scouting and fighting. The only directions given by the military were general in nature for the requirements of the movements of the troops. On the march small groups of the scouts were out several miles on the flanks and in front, keeping occasional contacts with the main body. At night most of them came in, leaving a few of the scouts posted as lookouts. An Apache never wanted to be surprised, and all of their movements were based on that principle. They approached ridges and high ground with extreme caution, peeking around, looking as far ahead as possible, using cover, and keeping exposure to the minimum. In a fight they did not believe in charging and battling against all odds, which was the quality of many of the Indians of the Plains. Always they sought for an advantage over the foe, and retreated rather than expose themselves

to gun fire. These characteristics made the Apache invaluable scouts in the field for operations with troops. Likewise it accounts for the fact that small numbers of hostile Apaches were able to thwart the efforts of the army in so many instances....

During my service in 1918 at Fort Apache the scouts wore cavalry issue clothing, shoes and leggins, but some retained the wide cartridge belt of their own construction and design. An emblem U.S.S. for United States Scouts was fastened on the front of the issue campaign hat. The regulation emblem was crossed arrows on a disc with the initials U.S.S.; but I never saw such a design on the scouts' uniform nor in the Quartermaster supply room.⁴

Lieutenant Wharfield talked about some of the scouts who stood out in his memory.

At Fort Apache I had excellent relationships with Chicken. We hunted together for a few days on Willow Creek, a branch of the Black River. He was on a manhunt with me after a trooper, who went AWOL and was hiking southward toward Globe. The scouts successfully tracked the soldier. We apprehended him near the lower White River bridge, close to Tom Wanslee's trading store. In addition to those trips together, there were many other routine contacts at the fort. He, of course, did not handle the first sergeant's paperwork; that was done by white soldiers of the Quartermaster Detachment, but I always gave him the orders and other matters regarding the scouts for him to execute and pass along. He was a good leader, and a highly respected man at the fort.

* * *

During my tour of duty at Fort

Apache in 1918..., old Billy was my favorite scout. He could speak only Apache and did not even understand pidgin-English. He lived by himself in a tin shack on the scout row just outside the east gate of the post proper. Frequently in the evenings when riding my mount around the post, I stopped at his place for a visit. We would squat on the ground, smoke hand-rolled cigarettes, and gaze at the evening sky without a word between us. When I got up to leave, it is my recollection that we always shook hands.

* * *

Upon retirement Charles Bones located in a little Indian settlement called Canyon Day, some four miles southwest of old Fort Apache. Here he opened a restaurant and served big meals for twenty-five cents. At that price many of the Indians ate there instead of purchasing more expensive food at the trader's store. Bones had a good trade but did not much more than break even. The old scout also kept a saddle horse and a good team. He exercised his horses by riding the saddle animal in front of the team hauling the wagon, using a lariat for a lead-line. By this method the old Apache was again in the saddle instead of jolting along on the wagon seat with the pony tied behind. Of course a stranger might wonder why the wagon was taken along, but Bones probably figured that was a method of keeping his team wagon-broke.

It is noted that the officer, who commanded the scouts in 1932, failed to have Sergeant Charles Bones advanced in grade upon retirement; such as was the custom of the old army in recognition of the long years of faithful service.⁵

The separate units of Indian

Scouts which had existed since 1866 were discontinued on June 30, 1921, and since that time the Apaches were carried on the Detached Enlisted Men's List.

In 1922 the scouts were moved to Fort Huachuca which would become their permanent home until the remaining few retired in 1947. At Huachuca they patrolled the boundaries of the military reservation and took part in ceremonial functions, stirring memories of a proud past.

On March 18, 1924, a first sergeant of scouts with the colorful name of Sergeant Chicken retired from the Army at Fort Huachuca. His Apache name, all but unpronounceable to the Americans served with, was Eskehnadestah. He had first joined the Army in 1893 and was a trailer for General Pershing's 1916 Punitive Expedition after Pancho Villa. A lieutenant on the expedition had praise for the senior scout. "First Sergeant Chicken is probably, all things considered, the most valuable man in the detachment. He is finishing his seventh enlistment period. He speaks pretty fair English, is an excellent trailer and scout, and an absolutely reliable man."

Chicken retired to Whiteriver on the reservation where he lived to the age of 95, dying on February 3, 1955. Colonel Allen C. Miller II was a former commander of Apache scouts at Fort Huachuca and he remembered well when, in 1933, the Army built new quarters for them.

The scouts remained rugged individualists to the end. Only one of the last twelve scouts spoke English. All were very large, well built men. Not only were they excellent horsemen, but foot marches of up to 85 [?] miles in a single day are recorded.

Individually and as a unit they were fine soldiers, but they never gave up many of their tribal ways. Until the mid-thirties they lived with their families in tepees which were located in an area of the garrison some distance apart from the other troops. When the WPA [Works Projects Administration] offered to improve their housing conditions, the post commander at Fort Huachuca enthusiastically set about building adobe houses for the Indians. An impressive dedication was held to celebrate the movement of the Indian families into their new quarters. Great was his consternation to find soon thereafter that all the families had moved back into tepees and that the scouts' horses were the only occupants the new quarters.⁶

David B. Stone was a 2d Lieut. with the 25th Infantry from 1935-7, and, like so many other veterans of Huachuca, remembered vividly the Apaches.

The Apache Scouts were still active, and an integral part of the Fort garrison. Their function was to patrol the Fort's extensive boundaries, about 10 to 20 miles each side of a rectangle. They lived in their broken down little hogans and kept their chickens and pigs in the quarters the Army built for them.⁷

Other duties relegated to the Apaches since their assignment to Fort Huachuca was to appear in their traditional dress in parades and reviews. If their traditional dress did not always coincide with the expectations of the press or movie directors, they would embellish their costumes a little, adding feathers and headdresses. After all they were representing not only Apaches but all Indians who had served the Army as scouts. An April

6, 1938, article in the *Arizona Republic* reported about an Army Day celebration at the fort:

One of the colorful events of the afternoon program was the appearance of the Apache Indian scouts in a simulated attack on a covered wagon train. The Apaches were clad in colorful ceremonial costumes and remained on the field for about a quarter of an hour to pose for literally hundreds of candid camera fans and amateur movie directors.

Wharfield reported that "Corporal Alejo Quintero retired in 1941, Private Jess Billy in 1944, and Private Jim Lane in 1945. About the same time Private Andrew Paxton was thrown from his horse and died in the Fort Huachuca hospital."

The Quartermaster Corps had to order twenty-five crossed arrow insignias in January 1941. These would be for the eight remaining Apache Scouts stationed at Fort Huachuca. These men were Sgt. Sinew Riley, 49; Corporal Ivan Antonio, 52; Corporal Alejo J. Quintero, 51; Private Jess Billy, 47; Private Kessay, 43; Private Jim Lane, 51; Private William Major, 39; and Private Andrew Paxton, 53.

S. Sgt. Sinew Riley was the ranking Apache scout at Huachuca in the 30s and 40s. From the Whiteriver Reservation, Riley was a third generation scout. His grandfather was Dead Shot who had been hanged in 1883 for the Cibicue mutiny. Riley, a 1910 graduate of the Phoenix Indian School, lived with his second wife, known only as "Mamma," and his sixteen children in the little Indian village on the northwest side of Huachuca Creek just across from the housing area which would become known as Apache Flats. The village

APACHE SCOUTS

was off-limits for non-Indians and the scouts and their families lived just outside of the mainstream of Army life on the post.

For entertainment Riley loved hunting with his Savage .30-.30, taking in bullfights in Nogales, working on his Ford truck, and typing letters on his old Remington to his son Larrie who was serving in the Army during World War II. Much of the story of his life is learned from these letters which survive in the Fort Huachuca Museum.

Lieut. Wharfield hired the young



Below: Sinew Riley and wife, Peela, at Fort Huachuca in 1935. Photo courtesy Rev. Arthur A. Guenther, Lutheran Apache Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona. Above: Sinew Riley as a Corporal at Fort Huachuca in the 1920s, aboard his horse "Peanuts."



usefulness as an Army unit. He regretted that he could not get in on the fighting in Europe and the Pacific. He wrote, "As for me I am Old for Service, only good for home Guard."

The Apache scouts were getting up in years in 1944. One lieutenant stationed at Huachuca in World War II said they sometimes needed help to mount their horses. But they still rode the forts perimeters keeping the fences in repair, tended livestock, and acted as the post's Service Company, doing odd jobs of carpentry and blacksmithing.

And they also participated in parades. Sinew Riley noted that he and his comrades were building fire breaks in the Huachuca mountains in 1944. There was always a danger of fires in these dry slopes, most caused by lightning. But with an entire division maneuvering around the Huachuca foothills, the danger was multiplied.

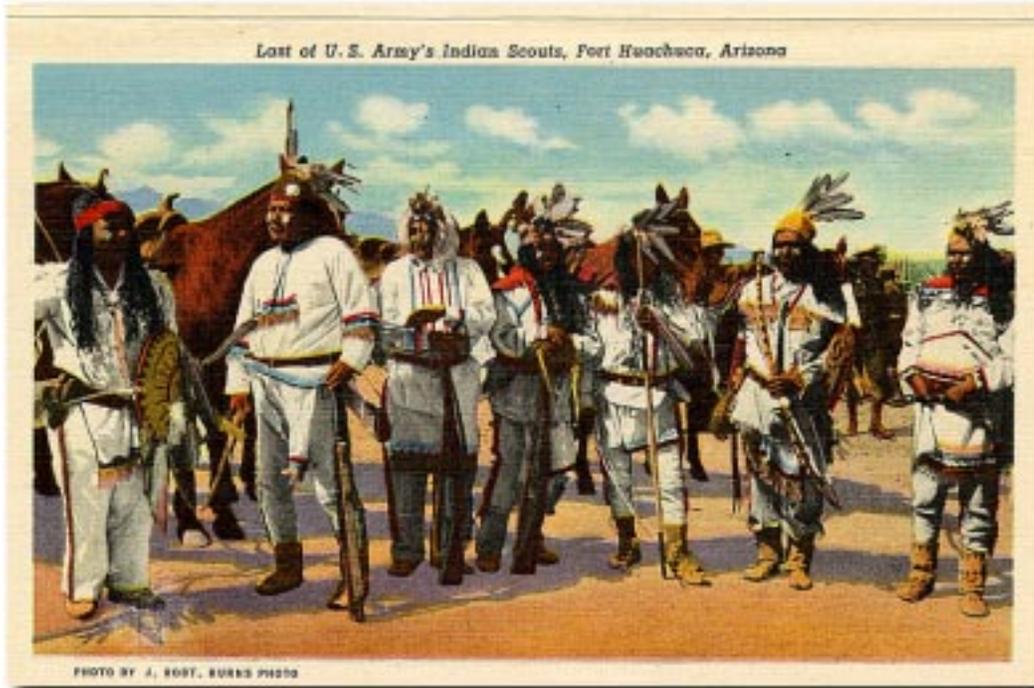
Riley wrote about fires caused by "Cannon Balls."

The detachment of Indian scouts at Fort Huachuca was disbanded by direction of the Army on November 30, 1943. That meant that the scouts

were carried only as a local Fort Huachuca unit known as Detachment Indian Scouts, Service Command Unit 1922. With the closure of the post in September 1947, there was no place in the Army for the last of the Apache scouts, so the detachment was disbanded on September 30, 1947, and the last four scouts officially retired in the grade of staff sergeant.

Wayne Spengler, the post historian at Huachuca in 1958, paid a visit to the Fort Apache and San Carlos reservation in September of that year to

ous health. Though he runs a few beef cattle on the tribal range, he spends most of his time taking part in Indian ceremonial exhibitions and explaining Apache customs and language. His father, John Riley, was also an Indian scout, as was the sergeant's grandfather, Dead Shot, one of the originals enlisted by General Crook in 1870 [1871]. Sgt. Riley tells in a quite matter-of-fact way—but insists they got the wrong Indians—the story of hanging of Dead Shot along with two other scouts for going over from



A colorized postcard from World War II era which depicts the Apache Scouts in their costumes they often wore for public appearances.

find and interview the remaining scouts. He found three of them—Sgts. Sinew Riley, William Major and Joe Kessay. He reported:

Sgt. Riley, now 67 years old, is friendly, talkative, and still in vigor-

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[Riley
died of
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1960.]

Sgt. Major, the youngest of the remaining scouts, speaks beautiful English and was delighted to relate experiences at Ft. Huachuca, where he spent his boyhood days, as well as 24 years in service, and where his father had been a scout before him.



With Fort Huachuca finally closing in 1947, the scouts had no home station and they were disbanded. Here, in 1944, they answer questions for school children on the parade field.

He recalled hearing his father tell about taking part in a cavalry fight with Geronimo in the Dragoon Mountains and of following Geronimo's trail up through the Huachuca Mountains and as far down towards the border as Lochiel. The sergeant's wife, Mary, hospitable vivacious, and very well groomed kept a simple but spotlessly clean house, having adopted the ways of white women during many years at Fort

Huachuca.

Sgt. Kessay, born in 1889 and older than the other two, told of being a ranger while on duty at Fort Huachuca—which all the other scouts of that time were too—of looking after the range animals at the Fort, of searching out and reporting fires, and of watching for desperadoes and stray persons who often came onto the Fort reservation from Mexico.

Joe is about five feet eight inches

in height, tall for an Apache, and a very genial old man. The fourth of the Apache scouts, Sgt. Quintero, though around 85 years of age, was still rugged enough to be out on the range acting as cook for the Apache cowboys in their current round-up. He could not be contacted.

Over the subsequent years all of the Apache scouts would pass away at their Whiteriver Reservation. On January 18, 1988, 80-year-old Julius Coley was the last to die. He had

enlisted in the U. S. Army at the age of 15 and served at Huachuca from 1923 to 1929 when he was honorably discharged.

Apache Sergeant Sinew Riley, in his retirement speech, spoke for all the Indian Scouts:

“We were recruited from the warriors of many famous nations. We are the last of the Army’s Indian Scouts. In a few years we shall have gone to join our comrades . . . beyond the sunset, for our need here is no more. There we shall always remain very proud of our Indian people and of the United States Army, for we were truly the first Americans and you in the Army are now our warriors.”

3. Shannon, James A., “With the Apache Scouts in Mexico,” *Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association*, April 1917.

4. Wharfield, Harold B., *Apache Indian Scouts*, published by the author, 1964, 22-3.

5. Wharfield, Harold B., 1964, 86, 91-2.

6. Miller papers in FHM files.

7. Stone papers in FHM files.

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Notes

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