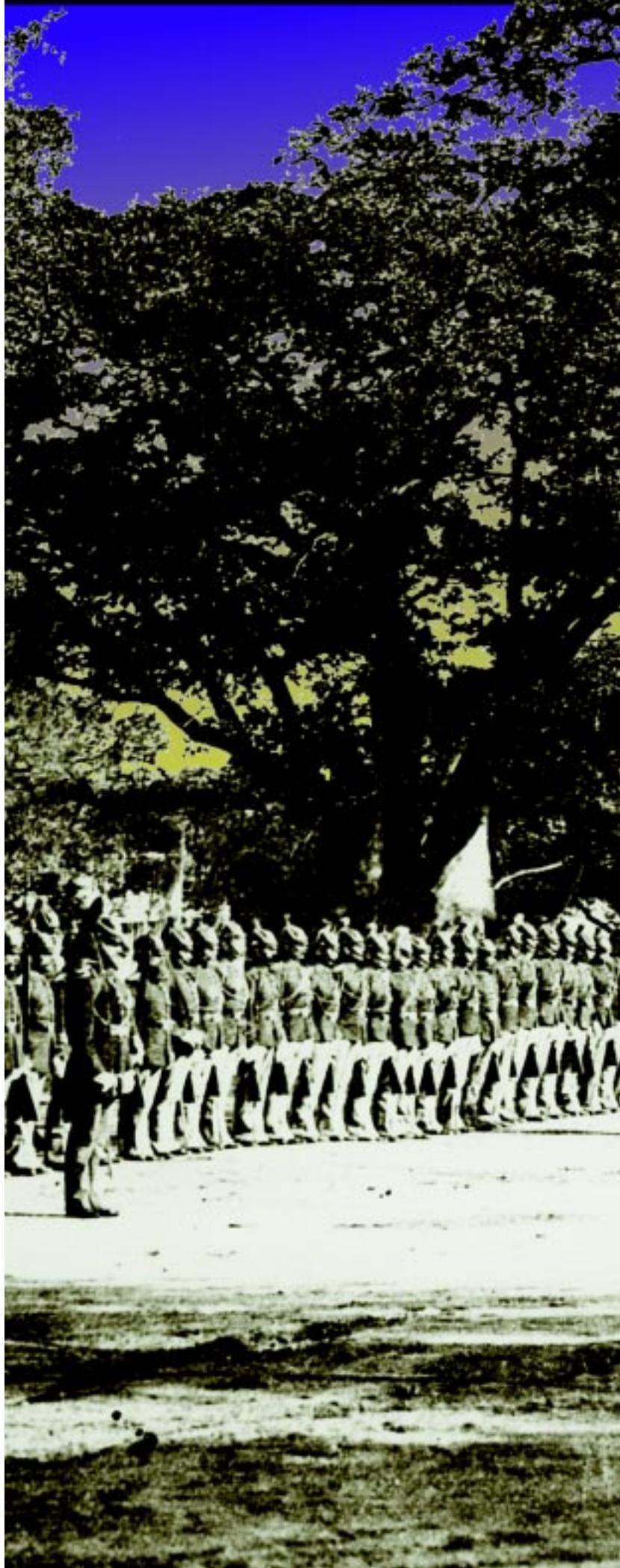


## Introduction

Fort Huachuca is a place like no other on the globe, and if you are reading this within sight of the Huachuca mountain range, it is likely that you are a part of the Huachuca tradition, the latest in a series of men and women who have played out their ephemeral drama on the more infinite, windswept proscenium of the San Pedro Valley. To get a sense of what those actors who have preceded you have thought about this place, read *Huachuca: A Sense of Place* at this site. For those with an association with the military intelligence art, you can get a better idea of where you stand in the march of history by reading *A Brief History of U.S. Army Military Intelligence*.

What gives Fort Huachuca its unique character are the men and women who have been challenged by military necessity and met that task with imagination, wit and a sense of service. They have laid a foundation of values and dedication that gives us meaning for our lives today. They were those singular soldiers of the African-American regular Army regiments collectively known as the Buffalo Soldiers. See *Home of the Buffalo Soldiers*. They were those native Americans unsurpassed in the art of reconnaissance who left their story on the pages of Army history under the banner of Apache Scouts. Look at the narrative on the *Apache Scouts*. They were the heroic women of the Army Nurse Corps who worked so untiringly during World War II. Read the entry on *Women of the Army Nurse Corps and Their Huachuca Beginnings*. There are men and women who rise above the rest and pique our interest as well as call up our respect. See the chapter on *It's OK to Have Heroes*.

There are a great many other ways to get at the stuff of history while at Fort Huachuca. Check out the section on *Museums* and read the entries on the Fort Huachuca Museum (*The U.S. Army in the Southwest: A Dimensional History*) and the Army Intelligence Museum (*A Showcase for Army Intelligence*). For drill sergeants or teachers, there are gallery guides that are intended to enable anyone to get a closer understanding of



the museums and their story lines. See *The Fort Huachuca Museum Story Line* and the *U.S. Army Intelligence Museum Story Line*, for chronological time lines. For the museum visitor or researcher who wants more detailed information on the museum collections, there is the color-coded *Catalog*; a listing of the museums' holdings along with a description.

A far-reaching *Bibliography* contains leading works on the various areas of Southwestern military history; military intelligence; weapons, uniforms and equipment; and more general military history entries.

And, finally, in a section called *The Conso-lations of History*, there are essays about the uses and rewards of studying history, *Bunk or Battle Tested? Historical Mindedness in Today's Soldier*, about visiting a history museum, *Enjoying the Dimensions of History*, an essay on the role of history in transmitting cultural standards, *The Role of History in Transmitting Values*, and lastly, a loose-jointed walk down the thorny path of military history, called *Amity or Armageddon*. These are intended as a more general backdrop to the action on the Huachuca stage.

There are extensive *Images* available under that heading that are in the public domain. Some other graphics are at *People/Huachuca's Heroes* and *People/MI Movers and Shakers*.

Some basic instructions at the *How to Use This Site* marker, including a link to Adobe to download Adobe Acrobat if you should need it, and a page of Related Sites that range from museum conservation and design, to Buffalo Soldiers and other military museums. There are also links to other attractions in the Huachuca area at this page.

For those who are planning a visit to the Huachuca museums, hours and a map are under the heading *How to Find Us*.

Narrative histories and graphics at this site were produced by myself as a government employee and are in the public domain. You may use anything here without seeking permission. The Adobe Portable Document Format allows you to print entire documents or only the "current page."

The purpose of this site should be fairly apparent. We, that is, the History Program at Fort Huachuca and the Huachuca leadership, want members of the Army community and specifically the Huachuca citizenry to know upon whose shoulders they stand. We believe that there is a certain power in history that can help us advance as a society.

English landowners would take their sons out to those markers that circumscribed the boundaries of their estates and drive their heads into them. Banging their heads on these landmarks was intended to make their location unforgettable. The history program at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca wants to do the same thing, but in a gentler, more metaphorical way. Through books and museums, we want to introduce our clients to the traditions that belong to them. We want to knock their heads against the outer reaches of their patrimony, bump their noggins against the hard facts of history, show them in an unforgettable way the values they have inherited. We want them to carry away with them a knob of greater historical understanding. We hope that this volume will act as a conspicuous marker and contribute to that end.

\* \* \*

In this space I will try to acknowledge some people who have made immeasurable contributions to steering the Fort Huachuca Museum in the direction that has taken it to its present harbor. Without these navigators, the museum, which I like to think of as the flagship of the Army museum system, could easily have foundered. By mentioning only these few, I in no way mean to slight the hard and committed work of countless others who have deftly gripped the tiller, or manned the bilge pumps. Let's start at the beginning.

On June 14, 1960, the Army's birthday, the Fort Huachuca Museum opened its doors to the public thus fulfilling a major ambition of Lieut. Col. (USA Ret) John Healy. A cavalry officer who had soldiered for the greater part of his career at Fort Huachuca and retired to his ranch in nearby Carr Canyon, Healy was one of the driving forces behind a committee organized in the early 1950s for the

purpose of preserving the incomparable history of the fort. We know that even before the museum officially opened in 1960, a collection was being assembled in temporary quarters.

The end of the Korean War meant that the post would no longer be needed to train engineers to build airfields. Its usefulness seemed at an end. It was ordered placed in an inactive status with a small caretaker detachment. Even the fort's earliest museum display was affected. A Tombstone newspaper reported that: *"Tombstone fell heir to another museum, temporarily, last week when the Fort Huachuca Museum association had to move its exhibit off the post. ... the museum consists of several exhibits all related to the Huachuca area. There are reptiles, lizards and amphibians in jars; insects under glass; archaeological and geological specimens; typical ores of the Huachuca mountains. An impressive contour map of the Huachuca area is among the items."*

When an installation loses museum displays of such importance, you know it is in imminent danger of being shut down. However, it was through the effort of community leaders throughout the state, calling upon their congressional representatives, that eventually saved Fort Huachuca from extinction. The Department of the Army announced in 1954 that the post would become home for the Electronic Proving Ground, and the associated signal units began to arrive that same year.

When the museum opened its doors in 1960, it was the result of several years of planning, collecting, hoping and just plain hard work by a group of men and women who believed in the value of history and Army traditions.

But it wasn't until a suitable building was made available that the museum could become a reality. That happened when the staff offices of Headquarters, Fort Huachuca, moved into the newly built Greely Hall in 1959 and vacated their old offices in building 41405. An ideal home for the Fort Huachuca Museum, building 41405 was itself an historic structure located at one corner of the parade field around which the original Old Post, now a National Historic Landmark, was laid out. It had been built in 1892 as a bachelor officers' quarters

and would later serve as an officer club (1920-41), post headquarters, and staff office. Around its stone fireplace it witnessed moments in the lives of men who were destined to form the backbone of Army leadership during two World Wars. Henceforth it would house the Fort Huachuca Museum.

By its 38th anniversary celebrated this year, the Fort Huachuca Museum had matured. It was accredited by the American Association of Museums and certified by Department of the Army as meeting professional standards. It is generally recognized by museum professionals and the 80,000 people who visit annually as a dynamic institution which tells the story of the Army on the Southwestern frontier in an interesting and edifying way.

Its growth and success can be attributed to an Army managerial hierarchy that was fully supportive of the goals of the Army's historical program, the dozens of dedicated staff members who have each left their unique and creative marks over the first twenty-five years, and a clientele who have used the museum to focus their pride in the contributions of the U.S. Army to their country's growth.

In a succession of able and devoted museum staffers, one man stands out. He is Orville Cochran (1911-1969), the first civilian hired to direct the efforts of the museum and a man imbued with a sense of Arizona history. He first came to the state in 1925. The fourteen-year-old Cochran enrolled in Holbrook High School, transferred to St. John's High, and then attended the University of Arizona in Tucson where he was the feature editor of the *Arizona Wildcat* in 1931. Pursuing a career in journalism, he was editor of the *Buckeye Review*.

World War II interrupted his newspaper work and Orville Cochran served in the infantry, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Arizona National guard until his retirement in 1958.

That was the year he came to Fort Huachuca to work in the Inspector General's Office. It wasn't his first time at the fort. As an infantry sergeant in 1938 he attended a National Guard summer encampment there and in 1949 he returned in a guard assignment to inventory the assets of the then abandoned post.

His journalistic talents, familiarity with the Army and its traditions as both an NCO and field grade officer, and a love of Arizona history made him the ideal choice to fill the job of historian. He was not the first post historian; he succeeded Wayne Spangler. But he was the first to hold the dual position of historian and museum director. It was a post that he held for the next nine years, until his death in 1969. During that time he presided over the transformation of an empty building into a visually exciting collection of militaria.

Orville Cochran was indefatigable in his quest for artifacts and information about historic Fort Huachuca. He amassed and catalogued dozens of bookshelves of information, interviewing veterans and researching archives. These files became the reference base upon which subsequent historians and scholars have depended and the core of the museum's archives. His public relations work brought the aspirations of the museum to a wide audience and enabled it to benefit from the donations of Arizona neighbors and Army veterans. The intensity of his efforts allowed the museum to emerge from the first decade of its existence as a strong institution with a good collection and a lot to offer the community. Anyone who has ever worked at the museum has reflected with gratitude and admiration at how much easier the way has been made for them because of the immense contributions of Orville Cochran. Likewise, anyone who has ever come away from the museum with a little better understanding of their heritage, owes a debt of gratitude to the museum's first director.

His successor, Dr. Bruno Rolak, also was a man devoted to the idea that the history of Fort Huachuca merited a first rate facility, and under his leadership the museum took great strides. Its collection doubled and the Fort Huachuca story gained definition.

Although a large number of people made significant contributions, it is to these three men—John Healy, Orville Cochran, and Bruno Rolak—that the Fort Huachuca Museum owes its emergence as one of the leading institutions of its kind.

It is appropriate that the Fort Huachuca Museum be the custodian of southwestern military history, not just because Fort Huachuca is the only sur-

living, active Army post between Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Irwin, California, and between Fort Douglas, Utah, and the Mexican border, but because today Fort Huachuca is a National Historic Landmark that, like few other places, evokes a feeling for the past. The landscape retains its grandeur from centuries past; time lingers in Huachuca's canyons; specters of forebearers are everywhere. The land itself serves as a monument to the men it has sustained, tested and struck with wonder.

*Jim Finley,  
Director of the  
Fort Huachuca  
Museums,  
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Intelligence  
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