

HAILEY, W. E.

SIXTH INTERVIEW

5938-b

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Grant Foreman  
Indian Pioneer History  
May 25, 1937.

Interview with W. E. Hailey  
Municipal Judge.  
McAlester, Oklahoma.

In sending you the item sometime since about Perryville, it occurred to me afterward, that a story rather complimentary to the Indian soldiers has been told many times, and I am sure has a basis in fact, that seems to me interesting and at the same time indicative of the character of the Indian of that time.

It seems that General Albert Pike, who was stationed at the time in Fort Smith, was paying a visit to General Cooper in charge of the Indian troops at Perryville. While they were in Cooper's tent, an Indian came in and said "Cooper, going home, back Tuesday." Cooper replied, "All right". When he had gone, General Pike remarked that it didn't look like soldierly discipline. General Cooper explained, that if he didn't let them go when they asked permission they would go anyhow. If he gave the permission he could count on them being back at the exact time they set.