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Fort Sill
Geronimo
Apaches

Field Worker: Hazel M. Haralson
March 17, 1937

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BIOGRAPHY OF Claude Oliver Huff
1006 South Chautaugua
Norman, Oklahoma
(1/8 Cherokee Indian)

BORN East of Cuba, Fulton County, Illinois
October 2, 1875

PARENTS Father, David Hugg, Indiana 1840-1923
German descent- carpenter
Mother, Emmaline Brunner, Kentucky
1848- 1881 German, Dutch and Indian
descent- Died 1881 of Small Pox
(1/4 Cherokee Indian)

In the fall September 18, 1896, I enlisted in Company C 10th U. S. Infantry and was sent from Springfield, Illinois to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Fort Sill was on the banks of Cache Creek near the Wichita Mountains. I was in training as a buck private for about two years.

At this time Col. Pierson was on detached service and Lieut. Col. Kellogg was in command of Fort Sill. Captain Duggan commanded Company "C" 10th Infantry while Captain Hoffman commanded Company "G" 10th Infantry. Captain Lincoln was in command of Company "D" 10th Infantry and Captain Drumm had charge of Company "E" 10th Infantry.

There were two troops of the First Cavalry also stationed at Fort Sill.

Company "C" quarters were on the south side as was the pest hospital. Officers quarters were on the north and east side. They occupied quarters according to their rank. There was a chapel on the north side and we had an Episcopalian Chaplain.

Companies "B", "D", "G" and the Troops were quartered on the west side. The guard house was south west of the Parade Grounds; the ordnance Department was on the south and the quartermaster Department was east of the Ordnance Department. The adjutant and the officer of the day were quartered east of Company "C" quarters, West of the companies quartered on the west side were the troops stables and west of the stables was the post Indian Traders store. They handled a general line of goods. This store was also the post office. A man by the name of Addison was the post photographer.

Each Company had their artificer or handy man who did odd jobs around the company quarters; they also had their own barber, tailor and shoe repair man. Each officer had his "Dog Robber" who was relieved of certain duty. The "Dog Robbers" duty was to clean up inside and out of the officer quarters look after his shoes and clothing for which he received special privileges and about \$10.00 per month. The soldiers who filled this position were not always received by the other soldiers with the glad hand, but the officers were usually good and kind to them often giving them freedom that the other soldiers did not receive.

The buildings at Fort Sill were stone. Most of them being one story high. They were long and not very wide with wings which were used for kitchen and mess halls, bathrooms and toilets, barber shops, tailor shops and shoe repair shops.

The barber, tailor and cobbler all received pay for his work from the soldiers who they worked for. This was in addition to their pay from the government.

In the soldiers quarters were iron bunks or iron cots,

pillows, mattress and blankets. At foot of the bunk was a box three feet long, eighteen inches wide and twelve inches deep.

This held the soldiers personal effects and each box had a number, also a lock and key.

There was a Squad Gun Rack in each Squad Room. There were usually one or more Sergeants and Corporals in each Squad Room whose duty it was to keep order. There were card tables, cards, dominos and so forth, also, which were used for past time after drills and other duties were done.

A soldier soon learn two things, Come and go. Right or wrong he must obey orders. If he bucks it is just too bad for they sure rubs it in.

In 1896, the library at Fort Bill was very poorly equiped not many books or papers.

Most soldiers are troubled with bunk fatigue. Eat, sleep drink and play form a big part in a soldiers life. "Soupy, soupy, perky, perky, beanie, beanie" all play their part. Bread, coffee, hash, slum, spuds and onions were the main stays in a soldiers diet, also beef and brown gravy. (There was a bakery there which furnish the bread).

The poor Rookie soon finds out that butter and cream are not a part of a soldiers eats.

Sun up and sun down are two very important hours for the soldier. Hot or cold, Rain or shine, you get up first call of trumpet, fall in line in front of Company quarters and answer roll call. Then get ready for mess call. After morning meal of black coffee and what ever you get, you clean up for drill and what ever other duties

you happen to be detailed to do.

Remember you go and come when they say unless you are sick. In that case you have a chance to convince the post doctor every morning and you had better be really sick. They have a way of telling and monkey business is taboo. The dentist came now and then so I decided I would have my teeth cleaned. I got in the chair for my first time, he took a drill which he peddled with his foot and drilled and drilled and after changing bits a number of times admitted the tooth was harder than the bits. Finally he drilled a hole large enough to fill with a chunk of lead and charged me two bucks. Believe it or not that is the only tooth I have ever lost.

The laundry man was a Chinaman and there were several widows near the Fort who did laundry also.

The army teams and army train wagons were shod and repaired at a blacksmith shop, just east of officer quarters. These wagons were used to haul supplies from the railroad at Rush Spring. There was a mail and passenger line between Rush Springs and the Fort with relay stations where the teams were changed to fresh teams who picked up the load and went on in a few minutes. This trip was made daily. The top cover was canvas with curtains for side and back to use in bad weather. They could accommodate about twelve passengers beside carrying mail and express. Often it would take from three to six head to pull the load.

At this time a number of men were engaged in cutting and baling the prairie hay, much of which was used by the government for feeding the stock.

Geronimo, the bad chief was held as prisoner while I was

there. He and his tribe were camped near Medicine creek west of Fort Sill. He would occasionally display the scalps of people he had scalped in the form of an overcoat. (Some men scalps and others women) He was a small man, quick in eye, hand and feet, nervous and restless. He and his tribe were guarded by the First Cavalry troops.

During my first six months I learned many things besides "Come and go". There was a non-commissioned officer, who nearly ran me to death, just because I thought quick time meant to get up and put all the speed you could into your actions. Really I thought I was being trained to run instead of standing and taking what the enemy had to give. After many weeks of hard boiled instruction it finally broke through that quick time did not mean to speed up.

On guard you must know your general orders also special orders- too bad if you forget but every rookie usually does at one time or another. If the Officer of the day caught you napping or a sleep on post or sitting down, you would sure catch it. When detailed for Guard duty, you walk post two hours and off duty four hours. Every two hours the guard is changed, this caused your sleep to be broken. The corporal of the guard or sergeant of the guard went from post to post to make exchange of guard. It is the guard on duty who by night halts every body who approaches his post. If it is the new guard they halt at the command of the guard, then the non-commissioned officer advances and give the counter sign, post ward and when this is done the newguard advances and takes the post. The old guard falls in and continues until new guards have relieved all old guards, then you return to guard house where you are

halted and received by the Officer of the Day. You stay in guard house until you are sent out again four hours later to guard duty at your post. Thus it continues for twenty four hours. When you are relieved and detailed on Old guard Fatigue when it is your duty to Police up. Doing any and every thing that needs doing. After this you are allowed a twenty four hour pass to go where you please. Hunt, fish and what not.

Pay day was a great day for the soldiers. We were usually paid in cash. At the proper date a number of soldiers and officers would go to rail road station at Rush Springs and get the money from the agent. They would return and we would be paid. Things were pretty lively for a few days. Most of the soldiers would pay back the money they had borrowed, if they had borrowed \$5.00 they would pay back \$6.00 on pay day.
