

P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County San Diego County and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Campo Date 1959 T 18S R 5E pf pf Sec _____; B.M.

c. Address _____ City Campo Zip 91906

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone __, __ mE/ __ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 6560300400, 6560301900, 6560302500, 6560405900, 6560406200. Camp Lockett is located fifty-four miles east of San Diego and approximately one mile north of the International Border within the town of Campo. The facility extended five miles from east to west and nearly three miles north to south. The average elevation is approximately 2570'.

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Camp Lockett, located near Campo, San Diego County, is a World War II military installation built in 1941 and occupied by the military until 1946. The Landmark application encompasses 122 acres of the original 7,000-acre facility owned by the County of San Diego. Many of the original buildings are gone but the remaining buildings reflect the architecture of temporary WWII military construction and date to one of the three phases of construction or camp development: the Mobilization Phase (1941), the Expansion Phase (1942-1943), and the Hospital Phase (1944-1946).

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP34--Military Property

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #)
Camp Lockett, circa 1941

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: 1941-1946

Historic Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address:

County of San Diego

9150 Chesapeake Rd.

San Diego 92123

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Patrick McDonough & Lynne Newell

Christenson, County of San Diego,

Department of Parks & Recreation, 9150

Chesapeake Dr., San Diego, 92123

*P9. Date Recorded: 2003& 2009

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

California Historical Landmark

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") none

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record

District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record

Other (list) _____

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Camp Lockett

D1. Historic Name: Camp Lockett D2. Common Name: Camp Lockett

***D3. Detailed Description** (Discuss overall coherence of the district, its setting, visual characteristics, and minor features. List all elements of district.):

In the summer of 1940, the United States began to prepare for war. San Diego was particularly important because of its harbor and location along the Mexico-United States border. Beginning in 1940, the Department of Defense began acquiring land in Campo, California so that the Army could protect the border. Eventually, they acquired over 7000 acres of land. The center of activity was a 500-acre parcel in Campo, which was named Camp Lockett. Beginnings in 1941 troops were living in Camp Lockett. Various cavalry regiments were stationed there, including the black regiment known as the Buffalo Soldiers. Between 1941 and 1944 troops patrolled the border. In addition, part of Camp Lockett served as an Italian Prisoner of War Camp. From 1944 until 1946, Camp Lockett served as the Mitchell convalescent hospital. By 1949 the land had been returned to its previous owners, the majority of which belonged to the County of San Diego. The Camp Lockett California Historical Landmark nomination contains 65 buildings, structures, and building remnants remaining on the property owned by the County of San Diego. **(See Continuation Sheet 3)**

***D4. Boundary Description** (Describe limits of district and attach map showing boundary and district elements.):

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 6560300400, 6560301900, 6560302500, 6560405900, 6560406200. This application includes approximately 122 acres, roughly bound by Parker Road and SR 94 on the north and Forrest Gate Road on the south and west and Shannon Road on the East. The property is owned by the County of San Diego and contains 65 buildings, structures, and building remnants constructed and/or used during the Camp Lockett period.

***D5. Boundary Justification:**

The proposed Camp Lockett California Historical Landmark is located entirely within the County of San Diego and replicates the locally recognized Camp Lockett Historic District boundaries designated by the County of San Diego Historic Site Board. At its height Camp Lockett involved 7,000 acres. The present subset of 122 acres includes the functional center of that much larger military installation, and is referred to as the main base or cantonment area. Within the boundaries many major aspects of the camp during its period of significance, including administration, housing recreation, infrastructure, equestrian facilities, hospital, and civilian and employee accommodations.

D6. **Significance:** Theme Military and Social History Area Southern California Region

Period of Significance 1941-1946 Applicable Criteria Last training installation for African American cavalry troops (Buffalo Soldiers) Last regional mounted cavalry training facility

Discuss district's importance in terms of its historical context as defined by theme, period of significance, and geographic scope. Also address the integrity of the district as a whole.)

Camp Lockett meets eligibility as a California Historic Landmark as the last military installation housing and training African American cavalry units before their units were permanently disbanded as a mounted horse cavalry division. African American cavalry, or Buffalo Soldiers, were a vital component of the U.S. military since the Civil War. During the World War II era, Buffalo Soldiers endured significant discrimination while providing protection to the citizens of San Diego. Not unusual for its time, this discrimination is reflected in many aspects of Camp Lockett's architecture, building function, and the numerous stories and memories of the soldiers. Camp Lockett also meets eligibility as the last military facility constructed for mounted cavalry units in the greater Southern California region. Camp Lockett troops were trained to fight war as mounted cavalry. The African American units at Camp Lockett were shipped to North Africa in 1944 and broken up into service units. With their departure from Camp Lockett, the era of the horse soldier ended. Mechanized cavalry was the wave of the future. **(See Continuation Sheet 7)**

***D7. References** (Give full citations including the names and addresses of any informants, where possible.): **(See Continuation Sheet 16)**

***D8. Evaluator:** Patrick McDonough & Lynne Newell Christenson **Date:** 2009 **Affiliation and Address:** County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation, 9150 Chesapeake Dr., San Diego, 92123

D3. Detailed Description (continued):

Two buildings were built before the construction of Camp Lockett but were used by the U.S. military during the occupation. The pre-Lockett buildings are the Gaskill Brothers Stone Store (1885) and the rebuilt privately owned Ferguson Ranch House (c.1920s-1930s).

With these two exceptions, all of buildings are of military design and date to one of the three phases of construction or camp development. The three phases of camp construction include the Mobilization Phase (June 23 December 1, 1941), The Expansion Phase (1942-1943), and the Hospital Phase (1944-1946). Except for a few additions to the Hospital, all of the contributing buildings within the boundaries date to the Mobilization Phase. Most of the buildings from the Expansion Phase were built on leased private property and were demolished after the camp was decommissioned at the end of the war. A few were moved to the Hospital or elsewhere. Properties represent a wide range of functional types. Personnel support functions are represented in mess halls, day rooms, officers' quarters, supply buildings. Recreational buildings include the base theater, swimming pool (now filled), and bathhouses. Buildings associated with care of the horses include stables and blacksmith shop. General support buildings include firehouse, guardhouse, maintenance, motor pool garage, and cellblock. The hospital area contains administrative buildings, barracks, wards, mess halls, storehouses, dispensary, and civilian employee housing. Camp infrastructure properties include the sewage plant, portions of the water system, and the incinerator.

A total of seven non-contributing buildings exist within the district boundaries. Six of these are relatively modern buildings that do not occur at locations or on footprints of any buildings that are shown on historical maps or photographs of Camp Lockett. One Camp Lockett era building (the Community Center) has been evaluated as not eligible to be a contributing property to the district because of lack of integrity.

Mobilization Phase

Ground was broken for Camp Lockett on June 23rd, 1941. A total of 132 buildings to accommodate 1,568 men and 1,668 horses were constructed. The structures conform to standard War Department plans in what is known as the *World War II 700 Series Mobilization Style* (Garner 1993; Wasch and Kriv 1992). The architecture of these buildings is straightforward. The design, greatly influenced by cost was intended to facilitate efficient and speedy construction. The design of these buildings was guided by the following five principles: speed, simplicity, conservation of materials, flexibility and safety. The most quickly constructed building during WWI was completed in three hours. The average during WWII was one per hour with the record being fifty-four minutes. To accomplish this speed, the Army used techniques such as using a few standardized plans, prefabricated components, and the assembly-line approach to construction. The wood-frame buildings were set on either concrete footings or full, poured concrete, slab foundations. The gable roofs, covered with asphalt roofing material, had a slope of 5 to 12 degrees. The gabled roofs had boxed eaves on the sides and close eaves on the gable ends. Windows were evenly spaced, wood-framed, 6-over-6 light, and double-hung. Walls were constructed of diagonally laid .75" x 11.5" planks covered with asbestos shingle siding. The stables, however, were covered with horizontal wood clapboard and not covered with asbestos shingles until later in the use-lives. Windows were evenly spaced, wood-framed, with 6-over-6 or 8-over-eight lights, and double hung.

These "temporary" buildings represent a construction methodology that swept the country after the war; that is, standardized plans, prefabrication of components and construction crews that specialized in only one aspect of the construction process. Developers were faced with the same pressure for expediency after the war as millions of

Page 4 of 32 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Camp Lockett
 *Recorded by Patrick McDonough & Lynne Newell Christenson, County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation *Date 2009 Continuation Update

veterans returned home with the dream of owning a home for the first time. The many suburban developments that sprung up all over the country - where entire tracts were laid out, constructed, and marketed by a single developer - were largely made possible by the experience that both developers and laborers gained while constructing the "temporary" military structures.

Expansion Phase

The initial set of buildings constructed during this phase to accommodate the extra cavalry units at Camp Lockett were complete and ready for occupancy on June 30, 1942, but continued to be constructed into the following year. Theater of Operations construction was used. These buildings were cheaply built with a width of almost a standard 20' and lengths varied according to use. They were covered with plywood siding and green rolled roofing.

Hospital Phase

On July 7, 1944 the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital was activated at Camp Lockett. During this period, many of the vacant original buildings from the Mobilization Phase were removed, moved and/or converted for Hospital use while additional buildings were added during its two-year operation. All of the 2-story barracks (mainly in the private inholding within the district) were painted with bright cheerful pastel colors and sprinkler systems and indirect, soft lighting was installed. The buildings were also insulated and concrete fire stairways erected. Day Rooms were painted, floors were covered with asphalt tile and indirect lights were installed in these buildings also. The rehabilitation program required construction of recreational and athletic facilities for swimming, horseback riding, golf, softball, handball, and tennis. During the time the Italian POWs contributed to the construction activity and were responsible for many of the rock retaining walls, as well as their own shrine and chapel that was built near their barracks in the former 28th Cavalry C Troop Area at the north end of the Camp Lockett complex. This area is outside of the boundaries established in the California Historical Landmark nomination. The hospital was declared surplus on June 19, 1946 and today the core area houses the Rancho Del Campo Youth Detention Facility.

Table 1.Camp Lockett Building Inventory

Primary No. P-37-	SDI-No. CA-SDI-	1944 Serial No. (1941 No.)	Building	Resource No.	Est. Year Built	Phase and Architectural Style
9610	9610	n/a	Gaskill Bros. Stone Store (Campo Stone Store)	n/a	1882	Pre-Lockett Stone I- House Family.
25218	16710	T-525	Post Motor Pool, garage	9A	1941	Mobilization
25218	16710	T-527	Post Motor Pool, grease racks	9	1941	Mobilization
25221	16713	T-504	Fire Station and attached residence, garage	13	1941	Mobilization
25227	16719	T-401	Administration Building; Medical Processing and B of A Vault	19	1941	Mobilization
25229	16721	T-241 (T-203)	Theater	22	1941	Mobilization
25229	16722	T-279	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-1	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-278	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-2	1942	Expansion

Primary No. P-37-	SDI-No. CA-SDI-	1944 Serial No.	Building	Resource No.	Est. Year Built	Phase and Architectural Style
25229	16722	T-274	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-3	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-275	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-4	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-270	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-5	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-271	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-6	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-267	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-7	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-265	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-8	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-266	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-9	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-269	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-10	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-263	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-11	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-262	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-12	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-261	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-13	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-264	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-14	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-268	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-15	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-276	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-16	1942	Expansion
25229	16722	T-272	Civilian Housing Area (staff housing)	23-17	1942	Expansion
25230	16723	12	Hospital Dental Clinic (currently main admin building)	25A	1943	Hospital
25230	16723	T-101 (T-109)	Hospital Administration Building (classrooms) same as bldg 7, 16, 17, 18	25B	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-102 (T-101)	Hospital Nurses Quarters (staff housing)	25C	1941 & 1944	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-103 (T-102)	Hospital Ward (classrooms)	25D	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	n/a	Hospital Storeroom (laundry room)	25U	1941	Mobilization/ moved to Hospital
25230	16723	T-104 (T-103)	Hospital Mess Hall (classrooms)	25E	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-105 (T-104)	Hospital Boiler Room Area (tool shed)	25F	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-106 (T-110)	Hospital Area (weight room)	25G	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-110 (T-108)	Hospital Officers Quarters and Mess (School Admin)	25K	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723	T-111 (T-107)	Hospital Ward (Campo 3)	25L	1941	Mobilization

Primary No. P-37-	SDI-No. CA-SDI-	1944 Serial No.	Building	Resource No.	Est. Year Built	Phase and Architectural Style
25230	16723	T-112 (T-106)	Hospital Ward (clinic)	25M	1941 & 1944	Mobilization and Hospital
25230	16723	T-113 T-114 (T-105)	Hospital Enlisted Medical Detachment Barracks (Campo 1 & Campo 2)	25N/O	1941	Mobilization
25230	16723		Hospital Dispensary	25V	1943	Hospital
25234	16726	T-51 T-52	Ferguson Ranch House & Garage (Commandant's house)	28	c.1930	Pre-Lockett Spanish Colonial Revival with decorative rafter tails.
25235	16727	T-303	10th Cavalry A Troop, storeroom	31A	1941	Mobilization
25235	16727		Day Room, (foundation)	31B		Mobilization
25235	16727	T-305	10th Cavalry A Troop, Mess Hall	31C	1941	Mobilization
25237	16729	T-341	10th Cavalry C Troop, Mess Hall	34A	1941	Mobilization
25237	16729	T-341	10th Cavalry C Troop, Supply House (foundation)	34B	1941	Mobilization
25237	16729	T-341	Day Room (foundation)	34C	1941	Mobilization
25239	16731	T-331	10th Cavalry G Troop, Day Room	36A	1941	Mobilization
25239	16731	T-333	10th Cavalry G Troop, Mess Hall	36B	1941	Mobilization
25239	16731	T-335	10th Cavalry G Troop, Supply House	36C	1941	Mobilization
25240	16732	T-427	Post Exchange	38	1941	Mobilization
25241	16733	n/a	Stockade	39	1941	Mobilization Style Expansion Phase
25241	16733	T-421	Stockade	39	1941	Mobilization Style Expansion Phase
25242	16734	T-373 (T-422)	Day Room	40	1941	Mobilization
25242	16734	T-375	Storehouse	40	1941	Mobilization
25243	16735	T-426	Recreation Building	41	1941	Mobilization
25244	16736		NCO Club	42	1942	Expansion
25245	16737	T-380 T-381 T-832	Swimming Pool Area (Two bathhouses, stone storeroom, bleachers, and pool)	43	1941	Mobilization
25247	16739	T-515	10th Cavalry Motor Pool	45	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-609	Lockett Stables	47B	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-610	Lockett Stables	47C	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-614	Lockett Stables	48B	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-615	Lockett Stables	48C	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-618	Lockett Stables, (foundation)	49A	1941	Mobilization
25280	16772	T-620	Lockett Stables, (foundation)	49B	1941	Mobilization
25267	16759		Incinerator	109	1941	Mobilization
25268	16760		Sewage Treatment Facility	110	1941	Mobilization
25271	16763	T-300	Officers Club (school library, extensive renovation)	116	1941	Mobilization
	None	T-625	Homemakers Club	118	1941	Mobilization

D6. Significance (Continued):

In 1941, the United States Army selected a remote valley in the mountains of eastern San Diego County for construction of new facilities to house the mounted cavalry regiments for training and border protection activities. Within the first year of establishing Camp Lockett, the Army transferred the installation to an all-black cavalry. The ranks of black soldiers at Camp Lockett grew to nearly 3,000 as the camp transformed the quiet rural valley into a busy military base. Through their social interactions in San Diego and the choices of many to remain in Southern California after the war, the black soldiers of Camp Lockett brought significant social change to the area, and the legacy of their influence is evident today. Camp Lockett was among the very last bases within which the Buffalo Soldiers trained and operated before they were permanently disbanded as a mounted horse cavalry division. Such units ceased to exist within the armed forces ever since. In essence the closing of Camp Lockett marked the conversion of the U.S. Cavalry to modern mechanized armor and also the final manifestation of the segregated army. Additional significance is also gained when viewed against current national concerns about homeland security and undocumented immigration, as the primary mission of the cavalry detachments at Camp Lockett was to patrol the U.S.-Mexican Border. Once closed for military training, Camp Lockett went on to become the first Army Service Forces convalescent hospital in the United States, yet another distinction.

Racist attitudes and the policies of segregation, which were the norm at that time, had a strong influence on the selection of Camp Lockett as a base for black soldiers. The prohibition against black soldiers engaging the enemy in combat prevented them from going overseas. Finding suitable locations to quarter black soldiers in the States was difficult, because it required adequate facilities to allow segregation of white and black troops. The availability of civilian centers that would accept black soldiers and could provide separate facilities for troops with passes was also important. Many communities strongly objected to African-American soldiers in their vicinity. Camp Lockett combined a remote location with room enough for new facilities and mounted cavalry training for the protection of an international border zone believed to present serious risks for national security, and a key railroad connection to the east.

In early 1944, the black horse cavalry was reorganized and shipped out of Camp Lockett. A military hospital and prisoner of war camp were established in their place. Camp Lockett became the site of the first Army Service Forces convalescent hospital in the United States. Later named the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital, the facility grew to a patient capacity of 207 officers and 1,252 enlisted patients. The hospital closed in 1946.

Prisoners of war who were transferred to the facility in 1944 first included about 200 Italian POWs, later replaced by German POWs. The POWs were put to work on the day-to-day operations of the hospital and throughout the facility. The Italian soldiers worked in the mess halls, warehouses, shops, and on the grounds and roads as landscapers, masons, carpenters, and clerks. German prisoners who replaced the Italians remained at Mitchell Convalescent until the POW camp was closed in May 1946.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND THE 10TH CAVALRY

African Americans have been part of American military history since the colonial period. During the 1560s, free and enslaved Africans were part of the Spanish militia in St. Augustine shortly after it's founding, and were a

constant component of colonial society. In 1683, the first exclusive African American militia was formed to help defend Spanish Florida against English encroachment. (Fort Mose, 2006)

Following the conclusion of the American Civil War many of the all-African American Army units were reorganized, along with the all-white units, for duty during Reconstruction, the western Indian Wars, and survey expeditions of the western territories. This reorganization included the establishment of the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Infantries in 1866. These soldiers later came to be known as “Buffalo Soldiers” a name given to them by the Native Americans that they encountered during the western Indian War campaigns. Significant campaigns in which the 10th Cavalry participated include the pursuit of Chief Geronimo of the Apache in 1885. During the western Indian Wars, Henry O. Flipper became the Army’s first African American officer in 1877, as a 2nd Lieutenant for the 10th Cavalry. Flipper was also the first African American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (Fort Mose 2006) Besides participating in Reconstruction, the western Indian Wars, and survey expeditions of the western territories, all-African American Army units also participated in the Spanish-American War. The 10th Cavalry participated in the charge up San Juan Hill lead by Lieutenant Colonel Teddy Roosevelt.

From 1916 to 1918, the 10th Cavalry participated in the Pershing Expedition into northern Mexico in pursuit of Mexican Revolutionary leader Francisco “Pancho” Villa. Many other African Americans also participated in World War One through the U.S. Army as well as the militaries of allied countries, such as the French Foreign Legion. Between the two world wars the U.S. military was significantly downsized; however, the historic African American units, such as the 10th Cavalry were maintained. In 1940, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, making him the highest-ranking African American in the armed forces.

The following year the first African American fighter plane, tank, and artillery units were formed. During World War Two, the 10th Cavalry was stationed at Camp Locket near Campo, California, where it served in a reserve defensive role on the U.S. – Mexican border. In 1942, the 9th and 10th Cavalries were merged into the 2nd Cavalry Division. Later in 1942, President Roosevelt signed the act that created the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). WAC enlisted both white and African American volunteers, with Charity Adams (Earley) as the first African American woman. African Americans fought in segregated units in all of the U.S. armed forces throughout World War II.

Following World War Two, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 in 1948, which specified the racial integration of all units within the armed forces. However, Executive Order 9981 was not implemented until 1951 during the Korean War when all-white units began accepting African American replacements into their ranks as replacements for losses from heavy casualties. With the military success of these units during the Korean War, the U.S. Armed forces formally went about integrating all of their military units. All-African American military units were abolished in 1954. The Vietnam War therefore became the first war in American history to have fully racially integrated military units.

CAMP LOCKETT DEVELOPMENT

The 1939 outbreak of World War II in Europe had a profound effect on Campo, as the United States began preparations for war. A part of this early mobilization effort was the War Department's assignment to the Army to secure the international borders, especially the boundary shared with Mexico, to the Army. There were fears that enemy agents could enter the country from the south to conduct sabotage and that an enemy Army could be

landed on the west coast of Baja California to invade the United States from the south. To meet the needs for border security in eastern San Diego County the Army established Camp Lockett at Campo. Named for Colonel James T. Lockett, the facility would be the new home of the 11th Cavalry Regiment, at that time stationed at the Presidio in Monterey, California. Lockett had commanded the 11th Cavalry from 1913-1919. It was hoped that if an enemy force invaded from the south these troops would act as the first line of defense until reinforcements could arrive (Vezina 1994; 1989:127-137).

Several important factors influenced the Army's decision to construct a military base at Campo. The community's proximity to Mexico played a major role. In addition, the village was the port of entry for the San Diego Arizona Eastern Railroad, which was the only direct east-west line to San Diego. Tunnels and trestles needed protection from sabotage. In addition, three of San Diego's major water reservoirs, Morena, Barrett, and Otay dams were close to the border and needed protection (Vezina 1994; 1989: 127-137).

In early October 1940, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt conducted an initial inspection of the Camp Lockett site. In November, the Army transferred the 450 officers and men of the 11th Cavalry, along with their 730 horses, from the Presidio of Monterey to the border, establishing them in tent camps at Seeley in Imperial County and at Morena Reservoir. These would serve as temporary facilities until construction of Camp Lockett was completed (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 2:5, Sept – Oct. 1988).

While the 11th began training exercises and patrols along the border from their tent camps, work on Camp Lockett began. A cost-plus-fixed-fee contract was awarded to the Los Angeles firm of Kistner, Curtis and Wright on April 8, 1941. On the 15th of the same month, the Army leased 510 acres from Ellswort M. Statler that included his Circle S. Ranch and the Campo town site. At that time Stratler was the principal property holder on Campo, controlling nearly 16,700 acres that including most of the town. His buildings played an important role on Camp Lockett's early development. Construction crews and the military took over the entire village, which included the old two-story Gaskill store, four cottages, and the old hotel. They were used to house employees of the architect – engineer and the construction quartermaster. In all, the Army wanted 702 acres of land at Campo. Most of the remaining portions of the town site and additional parcels were ultimately purchased and leased from other owners. (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 2:5, Sept – Oct. 1988; Vezina 1994; 1989: 127-137).

Initial plans called for the construction of 132 buildings to accommodate 1,568 men and 1,668 horses. The project necessitated the hiring of approximately 1,000 workers, a "civilian Army" of engineers, plumbers, carpenters, and other craftsmen. Labor was hard to find in San Diego as a result of its booming defense industry so most of the men who worked at Camp Lockett were recruited from Los Angeles. Local Campo residents were also employed. Frank J. Warren and Annulfo B. Ortega worked as handymen. George A. Cameron and John J. Blackwell were hired as senior guards, a job that paid \$1,500 per year (Vezina 1989:142-144). In order to complete the project by December 1, 1941 the general contractor, George A. Fuller and Company, erected a sawmill and lumberyard near the railroad tracks where material could be precut and delivered by truck to various building sites on the base (Vezina 1989:143). The class of buildings erected during the initial construction of Camp Lockett was what the Army termed "mobilization type." This meant that they were wood framed and generally placed on concrete footings instead of cement slabs. Asbestos siding shingles covered exterior walls. Horse stables were constructed with plank siding (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 2:5, Sept. – Oct. 1988).

When news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor reached Campo, Camp Lockett went on functioning wartime basis. Troops were dispatched to guard railroad tunnels and bridges and guards were doubled along the border. Although all available materials and equipment had already been transferred from Seeley by this time, the majority of the troopers were still encamped in the Imperial Valley. They continued with their prewar transfer schedule and left Seely on the morning of December 9th. Traveling on horseback through the rain they reached Campo at 10:30 p.m. the following night to find Camp Lockett under a blackout. “As wet frightened horses were slowly led into strange dark stables” the 11th Cavalry took up residence in its new home (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 1:3, Sept. – Oct. 1987; Vezina 1989:144-148). By the end of 1941 Camp Lockett was completed and operating smoothly. The camp had 138 buildings, including 25 two-story-barracks that accommodated 63 troops each, 11 mess halls, an officer’s quarters, hospital and recreation center (Vezina 1989:156). Troops were employed at Morena Dam, at a nearby electrical relay station, and kept constant surveillance of railroad tunnels and bridges.

With the outbreak of War, the San Diego and Arizona Railroad line through the valley now became even more important. Previous traffic had consisted of one to two trains a day. After the declaration of war, traffic increased to as many as ten trains a day passing through the valley. With the labor shortage, ranch hands, Indians, illegal immigrants and off duty cavalry were employed to maintain the track. The railroad also employed troopers as guards.

The results of establishment of the 11th Cavalry at Campo were profound. In less than a year the valley had been transformed and the “village” of Campo had ceased to exist. With the exception of the customs house and train depot, the military occupied all other buildings. The community lost its direct link to Mexico and a major source of the area’s prewar economic vitality when the military closed the road to the border.

Throughout the war, a major activity at Camp Lockett would be the training of troops. As a result, training facilities were established at the base by the 11th Cavalry and later regiments who followed them. The 11th established a series of ranges and mounted training courses. These included a ten obstacle-mounted course constructed on the western edge of the regiment’s parade ground, a mounted pistol course, a mounted saber course, and approximately 6 to 8 pistol ranges for dismounted firing at various locations near the border where the terrain provided a suitable barrier. In addition, three to four sub machine gun ranges were established near the border. The mounted pistol course was about ¼ mile in length and had 10 – 12 targets of half to full-size simulated enemy spaced 15-20 yards apart and partially obscured by brush on both sides of the course. The mounted saber course was in the same vicinity, but was used very little except for sport. Farther to the east in Smith Canyon, the Army constructed both an infiltration course and a mock village for troop training. To meet other weapons training requirements, an auxiliary 1000-inch range was established across the road directly west of the post chapel (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 4:6, Dec. 1990).

After only seven months at Camp Lockett, the 11th Cavalry was transferred. The regiment was sent to Fort Benning Georgia in July 1942, and converted from horse cavalry to a motorized division (Hinds 1987 - *Camp Lockett News* 1:3, Sept. – Oct. 1987). The departure of the 11th Cavalry brought even greater changes to the Campo area. Lockett was now to be the home of two regiments of Negro cavalrymen and the base would have to be expanded to accommodate 2,500 troops. At a time when racial intolerance was the norm rather than the exception, it is surprising to note that there was no recorded opposition to the quartering of black troops in their midst by Campo residents (Vezina 1989:164).

The 10th and 28th Cavalries and the Southern Land Frontier Sector

The 11th Cavalry was replaced at Camp Lockett by the Southern Land Frontier Sector. This command consisted primarily of administrative personnel responsible for planning the defense of southern Arizona and California. It was supported by the 10th Cavalry, which constituted a portion of the 4th Cavalry Brigade. This group was composed of the Army's two Black cavalry units, the 9th and 10th regiments. Both were veteran regular Army units with established combat histories dating back seventy-six years. Since their formation in 1866, the 10th Cavalry had participated in the Indian Wars, Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, and the Mexican Punitive Expedition, seeing combat in all of these engagements. Because black soldiers were prohibited from rising beyond the rank of sergeant, white officers led the regiments. While fighting Indians during the late 19th century, the black regiments had been named "Buffalo Soldiers" by Native Americans. During the war with Spain, the 10th charged Kettle Hill in Cuba with Teddy Roosevelt (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 1:2, July – Aug. 1987; 1:4; Nov. – Dec. 1987; Vezina 1989:167-168).

Since February 1941, these two African-American regiments, which together constituted the 4th Cavalry Brigade, had been part of the 2nd Cavalry Division stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. In mid-1942, the War Department decided to deactivate the 2nd Cavalry Division and use its white soldier units to form the 9th Armored Division. Due to racist attitudes that would not allow blacks to take part in combat during the early part of World War II, despite their distinguished service from the time of the Civil War through World War I, the 9th and 10th regiments were not included in this plan and were retained as horse soldiers for duty in the United States. The 9th Cavalry was sent to Fort Clark, Texas and the 10th to Camp Lockett to replace the 11th Cavalry and support the Southern Land Frontier Sector (Vezina 1989:167-168; Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 1:2, July – Aug. 1987).

The 10th Cavalry would have Camp Lockett to itself for less than a year. In order to replace the white units that had been converted to armored divisions, the War Department decided to assign new Black units to serve with the 9th and 10th Cavalries and create a new 2nd Cavalry Division. The Army's decision to establish a second Cavalry Regiment at Camp Lockett required a doubling of the base's facilities since it had been originally planned and built for only a single regiment. An entirely new cantonment area, stables area, and veterinary area had to be constructed as well as utilities and roads. The Army located the new cantonment to the east of the existing facilities on land leased from Etty L. Leach and Manuel Ortega. Stables and veterinary areas were built adjacent to already existing facilities on the base. When the draftees arrived there was some construction remaining to be done in the cantonment area, which they completed as well as clearing their own dismounted parade fields. In total 136 buildings of all categories, including 3 hay sheds, 24 stables, 7 blacksmith shops, a veterinary clinic and motor pool were built (Hinds - *Camp Lockett News* 1:4, November – Dec 1987).

The expanded base also required more land than the original 702 acres procured in 1941. The Army acquired an additional 2,538 acres of public land from the Department of the Interior and 4,047 acres from private landowners. The additional tracts were primarily used for staging and maneuvering activities. In all, the military controlled over 7,107 acres of land in Campo Valley. Camp Lockett extended five miles from east to west and nearly three miles north to south (Hinds – *The 10th Cavalry – Camp Lockett News* 1:4, November – Dec 1987).

As an isolated self-contained community, Camp Lockett provided a basic level of recreational activities for its personnel when they were off duty. These included the Post Theater, swimming pool, Post Exchange, and Chapel. The officers' club was located in the old Campo Hotel near the main gate. On base entertainment occurred through horse shows performed by the Camp Lockett troopers, as well as traveling USO shows that preformed at Merritt Bowl, a small outdoor amphitheatre located near the 28th Cavalry area. A variety of white and black entertainers appeared there including Betty Grabel, Sammy Davis Jr., the Bill Monstun Trio, the Nickle (Nicolas) brothers, Ethel Waters, Hattie McDaniels, and heavy weight prize fighter Joe Louis (Green 1991; Hollis 1991; Hinds –*Camp Lockett News* 2:1 – Jan. – Feb. 1988; 5:3 May-June 1991).

For many troopers their relationship with their horses also became a memorable part of their Camp Lockett experience. As cavalrymen, they were trained to depend on their steeds as their partners. It was also emphasized that because of wartime shortages and the decline of the perceived need for the horse cavalry, replacement mounts would be hard to get.

In January and February, 1944 the 4th Cavalry Brigade at Camp Lockett was shipped to North Africa and broken up. With their departure from Camp Lockett, the era of the horse soldier ended. Consistent with the prohibition of assigning Blacks to fighting troops, the combat ready soldiers of the 10th and 28th Cavalries were put in to service units. Some were sent to Italy as part of an engineer company and were later reassigned as a quartermaster truck company (Hinds – *Camp Lockett News* 1:4, Nov. – Dec. 1987; Vezina 1994).

The experience of the troopers of the 10th and 28th Cavalries was typical of most black soldiers during World War II. Even though Blacks had participated and proved themselves in combat in all major U.S. military engagements from the Civil War through World War I, they were not welcomed on the fighting theaters of the Second World War. Deployment of African American troops to overseas posts became an acute problem for the Army. In some areas, even though there were clear shortages of combat troops, commanders refused to take Black soldiers. As a result, the percentage of black troops overseas was considerably smaller that their overall proportion in the Army (Vezina 1994).

MITCHELL CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

After the horse Cavalry left, Camp Lockett became the location of the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital. A prisoner of war camp was also established here to provide a labor force for the facility. The following history of the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital was originally written by historian Jim Hinds and appeared in the *Camp Lockett News*, Volume 2, no. 2 – March – April 1987).

Following the departure of the horse cavalry in February of 1944, Camp Lockett was spared the fate of other bases that had been declared surplus after their soldiers had left. Instead Camp Lockett was placed on stand-by in April 1944 for future use as an Army convalescent hospital and was redesignated as a Class I facility.

At this time there were no convalescent hospitals in the United States. As it would turn out, Camp Lockett would achieve the distinction of being the first Army Service Forces convalescent hospital

in the United States. Administratively Camp Lockett was within the Army's 9th Service Command, headquartered at Fort Douglas, Utah.

Two months were to pass from April until the War Department announced the establishment of an Army Services Forces convalescent hospital at Camp Lockett on the 7th of June 1944. Then on the 17th of July the commanding general of the 9th Service Command established the yet unnamed hospital effective August 1, 1944. At the same time he redesignated the station complement as Service Command Unit 1961, Army Services Forces Convalescent Hospital, Camp Lockett, California. The cadre for the new hospital was drawn from Camp White, Oregon.

At the same time a branch prisoner of War camp was established at Camp Lockett and Italian prisoners were transferred from the main P.O.W. camp in Riverside California.

Finally, on August 1, 1944, the still unnamed convalescent hospital was activated under the command of Colonel Frank Chamberlain. Four days later the war department named the facility the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital in honor of Civil War Surgeon Silas W. Mitchell. The patients for the hospital were to be for the most part patients who had previously been hospitalized in other facilities for treatment of acute conditions and whose condition had improved to the extent that they could now participate in educational and recreational programs.

Both the station complement and the patients were quartered on main post, while the branch Prisoner of War camp was out in the East Garrison (where the 28th Cavalry had formerly been quartered). In the early days of the hospital's operation there was almost no transportation available for the patients to use so they could enjoy weekend passes to San Diego and Los Angeles. But government busses were brought in and inexpensive schedules established. The bus between the hospital and San Diego would be known as the "Lockett Rocket."

In its material conservation efforts, surveys in 1944 were instituted to raze old buildings no longer useful, and to use the material for essential hospital construction. This was the first step that would ultimately alter the cavalry era appearance of Camp Lockett.

For the patients at the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital the Reconditioning Program consisted of both educational and physical reconditioning. There was occupational therapy for those men whose medical advisor prescribed it for them. There was a wide range of educational and physical activities.

The reconditioning program functioned eight hours a day, five days a week. The program broke down thusly: physical reconditioning – 2 hours, orientation – 1 hour, educational reconditioning, including occupational or physical therapy – 3 hours; consultation, free time, etc. 2 hours; total 8 hours. Upon a man's completion of his convalescence at the Mitchell. . . he was either returned to military duty or discharged from the Army.

For the physical reconditioning program there was a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities available for the patients. At the field house they could participate in: gymnastics, volleyball, boxing, wrestling, bag punching, handball, badminton, basketball, and shuffleboard. There was horseback riding on 100 former cavalry horses at the hospital. There were instructions in golf, on the hospital's 9 hole golf course. There were other outdoor courses on Lockett Field in sports from horseshoe pitching to football. In addition, there was fishing and boating at Lake Morena. There were also company level intramural sports.

In March 1945 the Army awarded a construction contract to the Phoenix, Arizona based Del Webb Construction Company to renovate the hospital. While the patients remained on the main post, the station complement was moved out to the East Garrison, which was linked by bus service with the main post. The renovation work would greatly alter the appearance of Camp Lockett and when coupled with the work done by the POW's would significantly change the camp. Gone would be the plain drab camp that had existed during the cavalry era. And during this work the majority of the 1941 buildings on the main post were converted to permanent buildings.

All the two story, sixty-three man barracks were painted with bright cheerful, pastel colors, in harmony with the War Department's Directives. A sprinkler system and indirect soft lighting were installed. Orderly rooms were painted throughout and tile flooring completed in the offices. . . . The hospital's patient capacity was 207 officers and 1,252 enlisted patients.

But the renovation work was halted about August 15, 1945 on all major Del Webb construction work. At this time these facilities were not completed: mess hall, numerous athletic field installations, physiotherapy indoor swimming pool and adjacent buildings. During the winter patients needing remedial work were bussed once weekly to the Swimming Pool at Warner's hot springs.

During 1945 members of the Women's Army Corps were assigned to the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital. In strength they numbered 326 women. In addition to the WAC's Army Nurses, officers and enlisted men, the Hospital also utilized civilian personnel in its operation. The American National Red Cross also had a branch at the hospital. The hospital also provided emergency medical, dental, and veterinary service to civilians in the surrounding area.

For the Mitchell Convalescent Hospital, 1946 was the final year of operation. On June 19, 1946, the hospital was declared surplus. By this time the Army had invested \$5,787,955.00 on Camp Lockett in both improvements and land acquisitions since 1941. The hospital consisted of nearly 405 buildings. Only 82 biddings were on leased land.

There was no movement towards disposing of the camp until 1949 when the General Services Administration, acting for the Federal Government, transferred approximately 39 acres of land to the Mountain Empire Union High School District on September 15, 1949. The leased land with improvements had reverted to original owners. On June 17, 1950, the Federal Security Administration citing the Federal Government transferred approximately 600 acres of federally

owned land to the county of San Diego. The approximately 63 acres of land was also disposed of. The day of the Army at Campo was over.

PRISONERS OF WAR

To help facilitate the day-to-day operations of the hospital, war prisoners were used. Two hundred Italian prisoners were housed at the east end of the camp, the area previously occupied by the 28th Cavalry. Employed throughout the facility, the Italian soldiers worked in the mess halls, warehouses, shops, and on the grounds and roads as landscapers, masons, carpenters, and clerks. Subsequently, German prisoners replaced the Italians and they remained at Mitchell Convalescent until the POW camp was closed in May 1946. In the POW camp the Italians erected a religious shrine that remains in the granite outcrop where it was constructed. Except for one strike over the quality of food, there were no major problems. During the first few weeks of internment in Campo, the Italian soldiers were required to erect a stockade fence around their section of the camp, obviously a security measure. For unknown reasons a prison gate was never built. Security was so lax that prisoners drove trucks on unsupervised missions to obtain supplies in neighboring towns (Vezina 1989:187-188; Hinds –*Camp Lockett News* 2:2 – March – April 1988).

Biographical Sketches taken from, "The Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers and Their Relationship with Greater San Diego African Americans", by Karen L. Huff. First submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation as part of a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Camp Lockett Rural Landscape Historic District.

The 10th CAVALRY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES:²⁴

The following three biographical sketches of 10th Calvary Buffalo Soldiers provide a personal perspective of their experiences at Camp Lockett and while on leave in San Diego.

Sgt. Melvin Thompson (Buffalo Soldier)

Born October 7, 1919 in Boley, Oklahoma. Died 1980. After volunteering for the Army, he immediately married Elizabeth Oatman on June 3, 1941. He soon found himself at Camp Funston in the 10th Cavalry Regiment's Special Weapons Troop, where he rose to rank of sergeant. According to Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson,²⁵ Sgt. Thompson "was a trainer." Though most of the soldiers received horse training at Camp Funston, many required additional training at Camp Lockett and the "white officers" looked to Sgt. Thompson to drill and refine the riding skills of new recruits. Since Sgt Thompson was married, he lived off base and therefore interacted with San Diego's African American community on a regular basis. This was the case for most married Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers.

Mrs. Winnie Polk, an African American landlady in San Diego resided in a large house at 29th and L Street in Logan Heights. She rented several rooms in her home to local "coloreds," including Sgt. Melvin Thompson and his wife Elizabeth. According to Mrs. Thompson, "*Mrs. Polk was well known in the community at that time. She was a great lady, a Christian woman.*" The Thompson's were members of the Logan Heights Lutheran Church at 31st and Clay. Sgt. Thompson returned to his San Diego residence from Camp Lockett each day unless he had duty. This was typical of married Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers at that time. Many were stationed at Camp Lockett but they'd head home to San Diego at the end of the day. The Thompson's didn't own a car, so car pooling with friends or other married Buffalo Soldiers with cars was how Sgt. Thompson traveled back and forth each day from Camp Lockett. This was also the norm for other Buffalo Soldiers without cars.

The Thompson's were not alone in San Diego. Indeed numerous Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers resided in San Diego's downtown black community as well as the Logan Heights area. "*There were quite a few living off base in San Diego that we knew of like the Sassers (Joe Sasser); the Moore's (William Moore); there were a lot of the fellows here with wives. It was very interesting. We'd all go out together on the weekends when they were off duty. We'd all go to the Black and Tan Club. We'd go downtown to the Douglas Hotel and Creole Palace, the Yesmar, and there was a place upstairs on Fifth Avenue we'd all go to. Another place on Fifth Avenue the Buffalo Soldiers loved going to was the Silver Slipper.*" In fact, the first time me and Melvin had ever seen Nat King Cole was at the Silver Slipper on Fifth Avenue, and he really impressed us."²⁶

According to Mrs. Thompson the wives would visit Camp Lockett from time to time especially during the holidays when the guys were on duty and unable to come home, the wives would visit the base and bring Christmas dinner with them. But that sometimes the wives would simply eat at the base commissary. During the 1940s, the route to Camp Lockett from the San Diego area was rustic with narrow highways and dirt roads. And during the holidays there'd be fog and rain from time to time. Sometimes a driver would have to stick his or her head out the car window in order to see. This caused many of the wives visiting Camp Lockett to rush to get out of Dodge before the

²⁴ All Buffalos Soldiers and Officers featured in biographical sketches are alive and well unless noted as deceased.

²⁵ Wife of Sgt. Melvin Thompson.

²⁶ Oral History: Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson (wife of Sgt. Melvin Thompson, former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldier, 10th Cavalry); Black Historical Society of San Diego, Audio Collection.

sun went down on incimate weather days. Though Hwy 94 was also used, most Buffalo Soldiers preferred Hwy 1 *“because it was a better road. Hwy 94 was too narrow and had too many curves.”*

The military was concerned about horses slipping and falling in the snow which could result in broken legs and subsequently the horse being put down. *“My husband said wherever it snowed up there in the mountains or near the base, they had to clear the roads for the horses. But when he first saw that, he though they were cleaning it for the people. But sure-nuf, they were shoveling it for the horses because they didn’t want any horse to walk in that snow when it was on the roads. They really loved those horses but sometimes they’d get sick and die or break a leg. He’d then have to break in a new horse or bunch of new horses. As a matter of fact, he broke two ankles breaking in those horses out there at Camp Lockett, but nothing kept him off those horses. Mostly because it was his duty as Buffalo Soldier.”*²⁷

Cpl. Bruce E. Dennis (Buffalo Soldier)

Born December 21, 1924 in Gainesville, Texas. As of May 2006 he’s alive and well at the age of 81. Cpl. Bruce E. Dennis was drafted by the Army around the first week of July 1943 and sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for a couple of weeks of training. By the 3rd week in July 1943, he too was transferred to Camp Lockett as part of the 10th Cavalry Regiment. The route for the majority of Buffalo Soldiers bound for Camp Lockett was a train ride straight through the racially segregated south. For Cpl. Dennis, this was no exception and the indignities suffered on the road to Camp Lockett by most would be remembered for the rest of their lives.

According to Cpl. Dennis, *“we arrived at Camp Lockett on what was known as a troop train. And when we made it through Texas we had to pull the shades down so that the townspeople (white folks) would not see thousands of colored troops coming through their town. And boy was it a hot trip to Campo. The troop trains had the old velve seats and at that time there was no air conditioning. The only way to get air was to open the train windows but when we opened the windows soot would sometimes pour through the windows and into the cabin.”*²⁸

In 1869, a Supreme Court decision in the case of *Plessey vs. Ferguson* established the separate-but-equal doctrine upon which was built the legal institution of racial segregation.²⁹ A major of American states enforced the segregation through Jim Crow laws. This term is often used to describe such laws and rules against African Americans from the 1870s through the mid-1960s.³⁰

Upon arrival in Campo most soldiers had but a few hours of rest before it was time for orientation. Its April 1942 and the 17 year old draftee, Bruce E. Dennis, has reported for duty at Camp Lockett. He’s immediately assigned to the weapons troop. As a single man, he was resided on base. And soon as a shipment of horses arrived for Camp Lockett’s earmarked for the new cavalrymen, it was time learn to ride, cold turkey. This was an interesting proposition considering than many of the Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers were city kids who hadn’t seen a horse much less, ridden one. However, many other soldiers were from the country and therefore very familiar with them.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Oral History: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers): Black Historical Society of San Diego Video Collection.

²⁹ Hotel for Colored People, p.8, Huff, Karen L.

³⁰ Ibid

But according to Cpl. Dennis they all loved those horses. He remembers vividly his first Camp Lockett horse experience. *“They marched us all down to the stable and they gave us a halter, which was just a rope. They then said, soldier go pick yourself a horse. So you go out looking for a horse you might like. The officer would then say; now soldier, get on him. And we’d have to get on the horse bareback. Later you’d get assigned a saddle. But once you picked out a horse. That was your horse, and you had to love and respect him and take care of that horse. In fact, when we arrived back on base after a day of patrolling, the first thing we were required to do was to wash down the horse and feed him. And only then could we work on our saddle. You know, polishing it. The next thing we did was to go back to the barracks and shine our boots and eat. But that horse was number one priority. You know what? Those horses loved us back too, and they recognized us and our voices. For example, I would go to the corral and call my horse’s name amongst hundreds of horses there. I’d say, Slats! And he’d hear me and come running. His name was Slates you know. Each trooper gave his horse a name Slats was a beautiful black horse. I’d take him apples and things. I heard they sold the horses for a few bucks to the surrounding communities when we left Camp Lockett.”³¹*

During fire season in the mountains, cavalymen doubled as firemen and rescue personnel. “Seemed like every weekend there was a forest fire and they would send the Buffalo Soldiers to fight these fires.”³² One such fire was the deadly Hauser Canyon Fire of 1943. The 10th Cavalrymen were called upon to rescue other servicemen trapped, and many killed, by the fire. In fact, while fighting the fire, at least five marines burned to death.³³

Jim Crow was alive and well at Camp Lockett. Though the 10th Cavalry and 28th cavalries we all black units. The officers, with very few exceptions, were white. Prior research had suggested that all officers of the 10th and 28th Cavalries were white. And that black cavalymen couldn’t rise above the rank of sergeant. This popular belief is well founded but not exactly correct. Black officers did scarcely exist. For example, there were at least two black officers in the 10th Cavalry in 1941, they being, First Lieutenant James C. Griffin, Chaplain, and First Lieutenant Edward A. McDowell, Assistant Regimental Surgeon. Both spent time at Camp Lockett.³⁴

The indignities suffered at Camp Lockett were not unlike what was suffered by African Americans in the South. For example, when black soldiers encountered white clerks, especially female white clerks, at the base commissary, Buffalo Soldiers were careful not to touch the hands of the white clerks nor look them in the eye unless asked to do so by the clerk.³⁵ In fact, the money had to be placed on the counter to avoid hand contact with a white clerk and a Buffalo Soldier. Eventually this ritual became increasingly obsolete when black clerks were hired at the commissary and well as the PX (Exchange). Moreover, blacks were not allowed to enter the swimming pools. “There was a swimming pool there but it was for whites officers only. They may have changed this before we were deactivated. But as I recall, it was off limits to blacks.”³⁶ However, at some point, one of Camp Lockett’s pools was in fact

³¹ Oral History: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers): Black Historical Society of San Diego Video Collection

³² Ibid

³³ Defending the Border: The Cavalry at Camp Lockett

³⁴ 10th Cavalry Camp Funston, 1941 (Yearbook) p 47, 81: Black Historical Society of San Diego Library Reference Collection.

³⁵ Oral Histories: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers): Black Historical Society of San Diego, Video.

³⁶ Ibid

desegregated, kind of. A pool was eventually used exclusively for black troops.”³⁷ A 1942-3 picture of black troop at Camp diving into a swimming pool lends credence to trooper Fred Jones’ assertion that eventually a black pool existed.

But black troops and their families were kept away from white officers and their families. What’s more, the approximately 300 white soldiers,³⁸ officers and support personnel, at Camp Lockett had a separate “chow hall.”³⁹ Though Camp Lockett was clearly segregated, many surviving cavalrymen say they were treated well by white officers. According to Cpl Bruce Dennis, “the officers weren’t prejudiced,” and they treated the black soldiers well.’

Though a few headed to Los Angeles on weekend passes, most Buffalo Soldiers ventured to San Diego each weekend for fun and relaxation and Cpl Dennis was no exception. He interacted with San Diego’s African American community on a regular basis. Like Sgt. Thompson, Cpl Dennis also patronized the Douglas Hotel and Creole Place in downtown San Diego as well as the Silver Slipper. He also made friends with a sailor, which was unusual for a Buffalo Soldier, as you shall see. As a result of this friendship, he also partied at the “Navy yard.”

When the Buffalo Soldiers arrived on the streets of downtown San Diego, for example, on weekend passes, “...we were always in uniform. We didn’t change into civilian clothes because we didn’t have any. We wore our uniform everywhere but we had a lot of different uniforms. Our boots were spit shined and every button polished.”⁴⁰ Indeed there was no shortage of outfits to wear. There was at least four types of Buffalo Soldier uniforms such as: green fatigues, kakis, dress uniform, and wool uniform and coat, for the winter.

Hundreds of Buffalo soldiers, “truck loads” including MPs, would arrive in downtown San Diego on the weekends. There were several drop off points for military trucks from Camp Lockett in downtown, one being near “Market and Second.” Some Buffalo Soldiers would catch rides to San Diego but most of the time they’d catch military trucks which offered service to and from Camp Lockett to downtown San Diego on the weekends. The hours were limited. If you missed the returning truck at a certain hour, you’d have to thumb a ride back to the base.

According to Cpl. Dennis, he stayed at the Douglas Hotel a couple of time, but most of the time it was full on the weekend. *“Boy, when we arrived and got that liquor in us down there and you combine that with drunk sailors too. Every weekend there was a fight downtown. Most of those sailors and marines at time were white. So they had the race thing going on and loved picking at the black cavalrymen for a lot of reasons. To tell you the truth, the women loved the black cavalrymen uniforms so they come to us many times before going to the sailors and marines and that would make them real mad.”*⁴¹

When Buffalo Soldiers stayed on base as opposed to going to San Diego, there was no shortage of entertainment at Camp Lockett. Cpl. Dennis states that entertainment was provided for the troops at Camp Lockett or they would simply watch a movie on base from time to time. Joe Louis was stationed at Camp Lockett for several months a

³⁷ Interview: Fred Jones, 1999; Black Historical Society of San Diego Notes Collection

³⁸ Defending the Border: The Cavalry at Camp Lockett

³⁹ Interview: Fred Jones, 1999; Black Historical Society of San Diego Notes Collection

⁴⁰ Oral History: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers); Black Historical Society of San Diego, Video.

⁴¹ Ibid

part of the “service corp.” *“When he was there, he was like an honorary Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldier because he was always in our uniform while there to bring up troop morale along with the other entertainers.”*⁴²

There were also a few places in the Campo area where Buffalo Soldiers ventured from time to time including Cameron Corners and the Mexican town of Tecate. *“We used to hang out in this little place called Cameron Corners and some other little place with one or two beer joints. And sometimes a few of us would even sneak across the border into Tecate. I say sneak because we weren’t officially allowed in Mexico since we were guarding the border. But boy did we have fun there and the Mexicans loved when the Buffalo Soldiers came to town because we spent lots of money there.”*⁴³

While on duty however, Cpl. Dennis’ main job was to patrol the border. He rode horseback up and down the border, guarding reservoirs and the train depot. Like other Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Lockett, his orders were, *“if you catch somebody trying to cross the border, stop them, detain them, then call for an officer to evaluate the situation. At that time, a Buffalo Soldier’s stop orders had to be obeyed. We all had a 45 revolver and if you attempted to run from us after we had caught you sneaking cross the border, we could shoot, and many of us wouldn’t hesitate because were very on edge about spies.”*⁴⁴

Immediately following Pearl Harbor, rumors were rampant in the area that that Japanese and even German troops would try to invade from the Tecate/Campo border areas. As a result, Buffalo Soldiers were under strict orders not to attempt to determine if someone caught encroaching American territory was German, Japanese or Mexican. Rather, they had to stop everyone and allow an officer to determine the nationality or race.

During WWII there was a low supply of beef in the U.S. and meat in general was rationed along with sugar, butter, etc. During the 1940s for example, the state of New Jersey legalized the sale of horsemeat.⁴⁵ At war’s end, the state again prohibited such sale. In addition there are accounts of U.S. military personnel in Europe during WWII consuming horsemeat for survival. Moreover, there are stories and weblog postings of aging WWII soldiers claiming to have been served horsemeat in the course of their military service.

Likewise, numerous Buffalo Solders over the years as well as a few “colored” troops in general all claim to have been served horsemeat while in the service of Uncle Sam. For example, two out of five surviving former Buffalo Soldiers interviewed about the subject for this study were adamant that horsemeat was served at Camp Lockett. Of the remaining three, two could neither confirm nor deny it. While the fifth trooper adamantly denied ever hearing about such a taboo consumption, Cpl. Dennis disagrees. *“I know for sure we were served horse meat at Camp Lockett at least once a month because the base cook said so, and it had a different taste than beef.”* As will be documented later in this reporter, at least one other surviving former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers confirms horsemeat was indeed served. In any event, this revelation is a surprising insight into the diet of the Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers which poses a question of inequality with respect to “colored” troops as meat was rationed in the “separate but equal” military of the 1940s.

As for Cpl. Dennis’ last days at Camp Lockett, he states the troops did not receive advance notice of the regiment being deactivated. *“I woke up one morning and was told to ship out to Europe and as far as I knew, my horse would*

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Wikipedia, Horse Meat

Page 22 of 32

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Camp Lockett

*Recorded by Patrick McDonough & Lynne Newell Christenson, County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation *Date 2009 Continuation Update

follow me. I never saw that horse again. The next thing I knew I was in a mechanized unit in Italy.” Apparently as the white troop casualties continued to mount in Europe, many former cavalymen were offered an opportunity to fight along side these fellow white troops. However, in order to do so, a reduction of rank was sometimes required in order that no black troop would out rank a fellow white troop in a particular unit on the battlefield. According to Cpl. Dennis, he declined an opportunity to fight in a integrated unit because he did not wish to be reduced to the rank of private. There is no more poignant picture of the segregated military of the 1940s.

The 28TH CAVALRY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES:⁴⁹

1. Eugene H. Lewis (Buffalo Soldier):

Born October 21, 1917 in Springfield, Ohio, he arrived at Camp Lockett in January 1943. As of May 2006 he's alive and well at the age of 89. A corporal in the weapons platoon, he volunteered for the Army after working for a steel mill seven nights a week. One day Cpl. Lewis became fed up with the long hours without time off so he decided to take a few days off, unauthorized. When he returned to work, his supervisor issued a firm warning; "do that again and I'll see to it that you get in the Army." Cpl. Lewis responded, "oh yea? I'll get in there on my own before I let you get me there." And with that, his job at the steel mill came to an abrupt end and he marched down to the nearest Army recruiting station. Before long, he was headed to Camp Lockett. The fact that the Army was segregated, to this day, weighs heavy on his mind. *"There's one thing you got to remember, we were in the segregated Army and the place when we were stationed in San Diego [Camp Lockett] was for the black soldiers, and when we went to San Diego, we weren't allowed to go to the USO's because they were for whites only. In fact, a lot of us had heard that there was a USO in Los Angeles that allowed black soldiers, but when we arrived there they wouldn't let us black soldiers in the Los Angeles USO either, so we turned around and headed back to San Diego. We eventually had our own version of the USO which was somewhere on Imperial Avenue just outside of downtown where the black folks lived."*⁵⁰

Cpl. Lewis recalls the arrival of the service horses and the reaction of many of the young Buffalo Soldiers who didn't know the first thing about riding a horse. *"I'll never forget it. It was Easter 1943 when I got my horse. We had all received passes to go to San Diego that day but the passes were cancelled because the shipment of horses arrived. And this is how it went. In the 28th, they'd hand you four horses on a leash and tell you walk them to the stable. And some of these fellows had never seen a horse before. They were 19 and 20 year old city kids and now they have fours horses to walk about a mile and a half to the stable. It was hilarious because some of them would walk the horses backward and forward. But they soon got the hang of it. Once you arrived at the stable, you were told to pick out your horse. We all named our horses. My horse's name was Moonbeam. He was a great horse. We were so used to each other that he knew what moves to make before I led him to it. In fact, my horse was so used to gunfire that Moonbeam was used for pistol training because you could fire a revolver right over his head and he wouldn't flinch. We all had to learn to shoot while riding horse back and we all became experts at it."*⁵¹

According to Cpl Lewis, downtown San Diego and the Logan Heights were favorite handouts for Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers. He too confirmed the weekend ramblings between cavalymen, sailors and marines. This interaction sometimes proved volatile because sailors and marines regularly referred to Buffalo Soldier uniforms as "Boy Scout uniforms," and those were fighting words. Cpl. Lewis and other cavalymen were often guests at private residences after meeting young ladies who decided to introduce them to mom and dad. Numerous marriages subsequently resulted. But Cpl. Lewis had a special way of interacting with African Americans in San Diego. *"What I did to meet people and I made a habit of it, was to find a Baptist Church and meet the pastor and tell him that I*

⁴⁹ All Buffalos Soldiers and Officers featured in biographical sketches are alive and well unless noted as deceased. All officers featured are white.

⁵⁰ Oral History: Mr. Eugene H. Louis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldier, 28th Cavalry): Black Historical Society of San Diego Video.

⁵¹ Ibid.

was a junior certified speaker, of which I was at that time. That was my way in, and I'd meet lots of young ladies and make friends in general in San Diego that way."⁵²

On base at Camp Lockett, Cpl. Lewis enjoyed his service as a Buffalo Soldier and he described in detail some of the duties and responsibilities. *"We were stationed along the border from San Ysidro to El Centro. There were no fences or anything like that. Just an imaginary line that we made sure no one crossed. And the Buffalo Soldiers had better not catch anyone crossing illegally. Our main purpose was to protect the border but we were especially looking for Japanese and German invaders otherwise known as spies and if we caught them, our orders were to detain them. Other activates included training and riding patrols up there in the hills. Learning the various ways the cavalry did things. It was different than being on foot. I used to always tell people that I had I had eight men in my squad but only five were actual fighters because three of them always stayed behind to hold the horses. Someone had to hold and take the horses about a half mile behind while you're fighting or maneuvering."*⁵³

Cpl. Lewis asserted that all of the base amenities came from the 10th Cavalry and that the 28th did not have its own commissary nor PX (Exchange). So if you were in the 28th Cavalry you'd have to walk a few blocks over to the 10th Cavalry amenities when they could buy ice cream, books or what have you. Cpl. Lewis also confirmed that the pools at one time was off limits to the Buffalo Soldiers. He also concurred with Cpl. Dennis' revelation that black cavalrymen would enter the Mexican town of Tecate from time to time. *"We couldn't get passes to Tecate and we weren't suppose to be over there, especially in uniforms but many of us being young and hardheaded went anyway. Now I'm not going to tell you what the Buffalo Soldiers were doing over there in Tecate. That's a hot potato."*⁵⁴

Though there was rationing of sugar and other essentials especially fresh beef, there was always plenty of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on hand. Other items on the bill of faire included meatloaf, chicken, chopped beef and gravy on grilled "thick white bread," and plenty of government commodities or canned items such as "beef with natural juice," spam, and an endless supply of government cheese. Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers were well fed indeed.

However, like Cpl. Dennis, Cpl. Lewis also states that horse was served at Camp Lockett from time to time. *"We were served horse meat for sure. When ever a horse broke its leg, it was on the table the next day and I'm not kidding you. Remember, meat was rationed. I knew the cook and he'd always tip us off by making fun of it whenever it was prepared by him. He'd say things like, YOU GOT IT TONIGHT! And then he's start making galloping sounds real fast like, boop the boop, the boop the boop, while laughing. We'd then way, oh, we're having horse again. But it was very hard in those days. There was a shortage of coffee, beef, pork, and sugar. The horses was a source of fresh meat. That's why bologna was so popular at Camp Lockett because that was about the only fresh cut meat available all the time."*⁵⁵

Cpl. Lewis did not receive advance notice either that the 28th Cavalry was being deactivated. He too woke up one morning and was told to prepare to ship out. And ship out he did. His next stop was Italy and northern Africa.

2. Uell Flagg (Buffalo Soldier):

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

Born November 28, 1924 in Cincinnati, Ohio. As of May 2006 he's alive and well at the age of 81. On March 18, 1943, Pvt. Flagg left Ft. Thomas, Kentucky on a train bound for Camp Lockett. On the train with Pvt. Flagg was fellow 28th Cavalryman Fredrick Jones, also from Cincinnati. Upon arrival, they like other soldiers at the camp immediately started and subsequently completed 13 weeks of "infantry basis training." The 28th Cavalry horses arrived on Easter Sunday 1943. Prior to this, Pvt. Flagg and his fellow cavalymen were learning to ride on the 10th Cavalry horses with only a bridle and blanket. At the age of 18, Pvt. Flagg was in charge of handling a 50 caliber machine gun.

Before long, Pvt. Flagg was riding horseback as if he'd been a horseman all his life. *"Once we learned how to ride we were assigned all along the border. It was very interesting because I was just 18 years old and that was exciting to me. And most of us, we were all just city boys. I was born here in Cincinnati. I had been down south to visit my grandparents but I was not a country boy. One thing that people in general might not know is that all the horses at Camp Lockett had a serial number branded on their necks. My horse number was 8R98 and I'll never forget it. I'll never forget my commanding officer at Camp Lockett either because he was a real good man. His name was Capt. Clifford E. Lippincott and he was a West Pointer. But he didn't socialize with us or even talk to us outside of Camp Lockett. The base amenities were pretty good we had the PX or Post Exchange.⁵⁶ Each regiment had its own mess hall with separate cooks and the food was pretty good. They served us hot cakes and eggs for breakfast and beef and potatoes for dinner and I remember Capt. Lippincott coming in to the mess hall from time to time to check on what they were serving us."⁵⁷*

Pvt. Flagg's interaction with African Americans in San Diego was minimal but he too hung out downtown and other areas. He also confirmed that Camp Lockett ran military trucks to downtown San Diego on the weekends. *"They had military trucks that would bring us to San Diego and take us back the next day. But also the Southern Pacific came right through the camp around one o'clock from Chicago everyday and if we weren't on duty and had a pass, we could also catch that train which was headed to San Diego. I remember that well because soldiers returning home on leave would catch the Southern Pacific to Chicago and on to where ever they were going. I caught the same train to Cincinnati. I was fortunate enough to get into San Diego twice. Rooms were hard to find for blacks there so a lot of us would go to all night movies in downtown and that would be our room for the night. I used to hang out at the Creole Palace. I met a real nice girl down there. She was a church-going lady and she invited me to her house and cooked me a real nice dinner. They were real nice there in San Diego."⁵⁸*

One of Pvt. Flagg's most memorable moments at Camp Lockett was the performance of Pearl Bailey and Ethel Waters at Merritt Bowl. Incidentally, Camp Lockett had a service choir which performed at Sunday morning church services. Merritt Bowl also featured movies at sun-down, boxing exhibitions and vaudeville shows.

According to Flagg, he learned to ride his horse in close formation across the roughest terrain at Camp Lockett. He spent 11 months at Camp Lockett before his unit was deactivated. *"We started preparing for movement... we turned in our equipment and cavalry clothing. We were ready to fight for our county, our flag. I was a young man excited about going to distant lands across the Atlantic."⁵⁹* Pvt. Flagg was sent to Leghorn, Italy. *"The ship arrived in North*

⁵⁶ Refers to department store like shop on U.S. Military bases.

⁵⁷ Oral History: Uell Flagg (Buffalo Soldier, 28th Cavalry); Black Historical Society of San Diego, Audio.

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Buffalo Soldiers of the Heartland Chapter; Black Historical Society of San Diego Reference Collection

Africa on March 12th [1943]. A riot between black and white soldiers occurred in Oraun, Algiers.”⁶⁰ He returned to the states in 1945 and was honorably discharged later that year.

3. Williard Wallace Kilbourne (Officer)

Born in 1910, New York. Died 1999, San Diego. As a teenager, Maj. Kilbourne joined the horse cavalry reserves and was called to active duty in early 1941. He was assigned to Camp Lockett in January 1943.⁶¹ After the Buffalo Soldiers were disbanded later that year, he sought to be a paratrooper but at the age of 33, Uncle Sam considered him too old. Instead he ended up in the infantry and saw a considerable amount of combat in Europe. Incidentally, many officers at Camp Lockett were preparing for deployment in the Pacific. As soldiers waited at the Campo station for the train to arrive from the east that would have taken them to the appropriate location for a Pacific deployment of which they dreaded. The train instead arrived from the west, which would now position them for Europe. The crowd immediately cheered because the Camp Lockett cavalymen had hoped against the odds for a European deployment as opposed to being shipped to Japan.⁶²

Probably, the most difficult part of Maj. Kilbourne’s life was the passing of his wife in 1952 and leaving behind four young children to be cared for. As he reflected on life, Maj. Kilbourne often stated the 1943 “was the best years of his life because he was able to ride around in the hills of beautiful San Diego, playing war without anyone shooting real bullets at him.”⁶³ According to Fred Kilbourne, his father, Major Kilbourne, was quite fond of the Buffalo Soldiers. “*He had a great respect for the troops regardless of the fact that it was a segregated Army back then. The officers were all white and there were the enlisted men who were all black. But they were a team as I remember him recalling. They were training to go to war but was deactivated before being called upon to do so. The troops were training for a purpose and one of the reasons they were stationed at Camp Lockett was to defend the country against what was an expected to be a Japanese invasion through Mexico via Baja California. My father and the Buffalo Soldiers were part of the troops positioned there to defend against this treat.*”⁶⁴

Like the Buffalo Soldiers who continued to meet over the years through reunions and other meetings all over the county, white officers like Maj. Kilbourne who commanded them, quietly spent their last years holding reunions and other get-togethers too; mostly through the formation of U.S. Horse Cavalry Association chapters. In a bit of irony, the soldiers and officers held separate get-togethers over the years with minimal contact between white officers and enlisted black cavalymen at these reunions, reminiscent of the segregated Army of the 1940s. Separate, but equal.

In the years since Camp Lockett, a few officers came to resent their deployment there and to a lesser extent, with the Buffalo Soldiers. As such, they would sometimes refer to their deployment as being in “Limbo.” Maj. Kilbourne was still defending Camp Lockett against this train of thought as late as 1994. For example, in a letter addressed to Col. Brewster Perry and Col. Sidney Loveless, Kilbourne drafted elaborate notes on the subject. Assuring that, “*Camp Lockett was a highly-desirable post, located in a scenic mountain and desert area. The worlds best weather [and] safe. All buildings were newly constructed like the papers shacks and pot-belly stoves we whites got at Fort Riley in 1941. Food was best ever experienced in the Army. Horses especially selected by Col. Burnett, a famous*

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Oral History: Fred Kilbourne (son of Maj. Kilbourne); Black Historical Society of San Diego, Audio

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Ibid

horse cavalryman. Officers especially selected, all with the Army's highest efficiency reports of Superior. If this be Limbo, it's hard to conceive heaven."⁶⁵

These hand written notes authored by Maj. Kilbourne in 1994 is a significant find and offer major insight into a wide range of activities and people at stationed at Camp Lockett during its heyday. Other noteworthy areas of Maj. Kilbourne's notes includes the revelation that "white officers were not required to serve in black units; at least the 28th Cavalry was voluntary;" as well as the following:

"Training: 28th received excellent and through training, planned and supervised by the S-3 section; augmented by addition of the executive officers from the 1st and 2nd Squadrons... [t]he 28th passed all training inspections including West Coast Army HQ. Quite a feat considering that recruits arrived without even basic training."⁶⁶

"Operations: 28th Cav[alry] went into brush fire fighting in Sept. 1943 as a tactical unit, ending the fire with loss of only one man. U.S. Marine[s] came in separately and lost about 20... out of about 80 men."⁶⁷

"28th Cavalry Combat: All of the officers and NCO's familiar would have liked to [have taken] the 28th into action to see how it would perform under such good leadership and after the full year of devoted and capable training they received."⁶⁸

"Officers Call at 1100 Hours: Total disappearance of regiment (dismounted) when a trooper hollered SNAKE. This was done twice." Note: Maj. Kilbourne confirms what numerous surviving cavalymen humorously stated, that is, if someone yelled, snake! Buffalo Soldiers would run in every direction. "Black Officers did serve in some units... including the 92nd Division. [While in Europe], a young French woman asked one of our lieutenants what comprised the 2nd Cav. Div. His answer, white officers with black privates. Her comment, my! How gaudy."⁶⁹

"Final Review: April 1944 of 28th Cav. by Col. B. [Burnett]... at Lion Mt. We all felt quite sad. I talked and shook hand with all 30 members of the S-2, S-3 section."⁷⁰ Noteworthy too is the fact that Maj. Kilbourne made Colonel by the time he retired.

4. Sidney Lewis Loveless (Officer)

Born August 19, 1914. Died August 26, 2000. Capt. Loveless original orders was for him to go to Camp Riley. However he immediately received new orders for Camp Lockett. He and his wife Janet arrived at Camp Lockett in April of 1942. They soon rented a farm house in Descanso where he'd return daily unless on duty. As of June 2006, Mrs. Janet Loveless (wife of Capt. Loveless) is alive and well at 84 years of age.⁷¹ According to Mrs. Loveless, her husband maintained that the Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Lockett were training for overseas deployment as a horse cavalry and that the white officers there thought they'd be deployed, but of course, this never happened. "*The guys were training all the time they were there and they didn't have much time off except the weekends. They were training them [Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers] to ride horses in Italy, at least*

⁶⁵ Kilbourne Collection: Black Historical Society of San Diego, Achieves.

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ Oral history was taken on Mrs. Loveless and her memories of her husband's life and times at Camp Lockett.

that was my impression... which was interesting became most of these black servicemen had never seem a horse so they required a lot of training.”⁷²

Interestingly, though the Buffalo Soldiers were regularly treated for all of their ailments by the medical detachment at Camp Lockett, white officers, their wives and children, were treated at Camp Lockett only in case of extreme emergency. That is, if they were too sick to make it to the contracted medical facility in El Centro. This is where many of the children of white officers were born as opposed to the closer and more convenient San Diego. *“Actually when my daughter Joan was born we had to go to El Centro but we had to first go to Camp Lockett and pick up the doctor to ride with us there. Here I am in labor in the black seat of a car on the way to El Cento and the doctor’s consistently saying, we’re not going to make it, we’re not going to make it. Of course that really helped my confidence. But I did make it there on time.”⁷³*

The medical detachment at Camp Lockett was not desirable; in fact, many were under the impression that the surgeons were not experienced. Mrs. Loveless had to have an emergency appendectomy performed at Camp Lockett and the crew there was not prepared to treat a white female at the all black male facility. *“I had a perforated appendix so there was no way I could make it to El Centro. As a result, I ended up at Camp Lockett and assigned two military doctors who had not operated in years so they both were trying to figure out how to do a spinal tap before they could start operating on me. Well, they finally did, after much talking. So I was put in a room at the camp which did not have a door; they had to put up a makeshift screen. But many of the Buffalo Soldiers were so tall they could just see right over it and they’d get embarrassed and frightened and thought they were seeing things with a white woman laying there in a black segregated hospital.”⁷⁴*

Capt. Loveless was the number 3 officer at Camp Lockett. As such, was very acquainted with Col. Burnett. They kept in touch over the years writing letters back and forth and seeing each other at U.S. Horse Cavalry Association meetings. In fact, Mrs. Loveless was also very acquainted with Mrs. Almeda Burnett.⁷⁵ So much so that when Camp Lockett was deactivate and Col. Burnett and Capt. Loveless were transferred overseas, Mrs. Burnett stayed at the Descanco home of the Loveless’s, and later resided at the Loveless’s home in Texas prior to Col. Burnett’s return from Europe in 1944. Though Mrs. Loveless was acquainted with Mrs. Burnett, and there were occasional get-togethers on base at the officers cub, she maintains there was very little socializing between the wives of other officers, mostly because they all lived so far apart from each other.

5. Joseph Louis Barrow AKA Joe Louis (Honorary Buffalo Soldier):

Born May 13, 1914 in Lexington, Alabama. Died April 12, 1981. The son of an Alabama sharecropper, Sgt. Barrow literally fought his way to the top of professional boxing and into the hearts of millions of Americans. He served in the Army during WWII hosting boxing exhibits at U.S. military bases around the world and boosting the moral of soldiers everywhere. Also known as the “Brown Bomber,” Sgt. Barrow⁷⁶ was a Technical Sergeant in the Army. The rank of Technical Sergeant was replaced during WWII with the rank of First Sergeant.⁷⁷

⁷² Oral History: Mrs. Janet Loveless; Black Historical Society of San Diego, Audio

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Wife of Col. Edwin M. Burnett

⁷⁶ Herein referred to as Joe Louis from this point on.

⁷⁷ US Military Rank and Insignia Chart – Enlisted: Black Historical Society of San Diego, Archives

Notes by Maj. Kilbourne confirms what many surviving Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers say today, that is, Joe Louis didn't simply casually pass through Camp Lockett on a boxing exhibition. But that he was in fact stationed at Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers for upwards of five to six months or more. For example, unlike an entertainer or sports figure passing through, Joe Louis always wore one of several Buffalo Soldiers uniforms while at Camp Lockett complete with Buffalo Soldier insignias. [Editor's Note: No photographs of Joe Louis with cavalry uniform insignia could be found to verify this assertion. It may be more appropriate to say that the Buffalo Soldiers held him in such high regard that they considered him one of their own, although he may not have been officially assigned to the 28th Cavalry.] Moreover, in his 1994 notes, Maj. Kilbourne, a 28th Cavalry officer, refers to Joe Louis as "a good soldier [a] trooper for whom we named Barrow Bowl."⁷⁸ That Joe Louis was a Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldier is increasingly obvious. Apparently, he left such an impression on the base that Merritt Bowl (the amphitheatre) was referred to as "Barrow Bowl," in his honor.⁷⁹ [Editor's note: "Barrow Bowl" may have been applied to the demonstration boxing ring on the flank of Shrine Hill, close to the 28th Cavalry residential area.]

Former cavalrymen recall, "he was stationed there for quite a while and even wore a Buffalo Soldiers uniform. We considered him an honorary Buffalo Soldier at minimum."⁸⁰ Moreover, Frederick Jones recalls that Joe Louis was stationed at Camp Lockett for months. "I saw him a lot. I don't remember exactly how long he was with us there but it was months."⁸¹ What's more, there are numerous accounts of Joe Louis hanging out at the Douglas Hotel and Creole Palace in downtown San Diego on a regular basis during the 1940s. This was a very popular handout for Buffalo Soldiers.

CAMPO'S WELL KEPT POPULATION SECRET

Though initial research into the population of Camp Lockett suggest there was approximately 3,000 cavalrymen almost equally divided between the 10th and 28th Cavalries, many surviving former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers insist this population was double that estimate. "Absolutely, there were 3,000 men in the 10th Cavalry Regiment. I know because I was there and remember that number."⁸² "Of course there were more than 1,500 in the 28th Regiment. There was about 3,000 men in the 28th alone."⁸³ In any event, the population in the town of Campo was majority black between 1942 and 1944. And based on the number of Buffalo Soldiers stationed there, even if no more than a total of 3,000, Campo was a black town at one point to say the least, though many pretended not to notice.

⁷⁸ Kilbourne Collection: Notes on "In Limbo at Lockett;" Black Historical Society of San Diego, Achieves

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ Oral History: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers): Black Historical Society of San Diego, Video.

⁸¹ Interview: Fred Jones, 1999; Black Historical Society of San Diego Notes Collection

⁸² Oral History: Mr. Bruce E. Dennis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldiers): Black Historical Society of San Diego, Video.

⁸³ Oral History: Mr. Eugene H. Louis (former Camp Lockett Buffalo Soldier, 28th Cavalry): Black Historical Society of San Diego Video.

D7. References (Continued):

References

Fort Mose Historical Society,

2006 Electronic document, <http://www.fortmose.org/history/timeline.html>, accessed 8 November 2006.

Garner, John S.

1993 *World War II Temporary Military Buildings*. USACERL Technical Report CRC-93/01. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

Green, Herman

1991 Personal Interview. Transcript on file Mountain Empire Historical Society, Campo, California

Hollis, Ellis

1991 Personal Interview. Transcript on file Mountain Empire Historical Society, Campo, California.

Schaefer, Jerry,

2008 Camp Locket National Register Nomination. MS On file County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation, History Center, San Diego.

Van Wormer, Stephen

2008 History of Camp Lockett. MS On file County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation, History Center, San Diego.

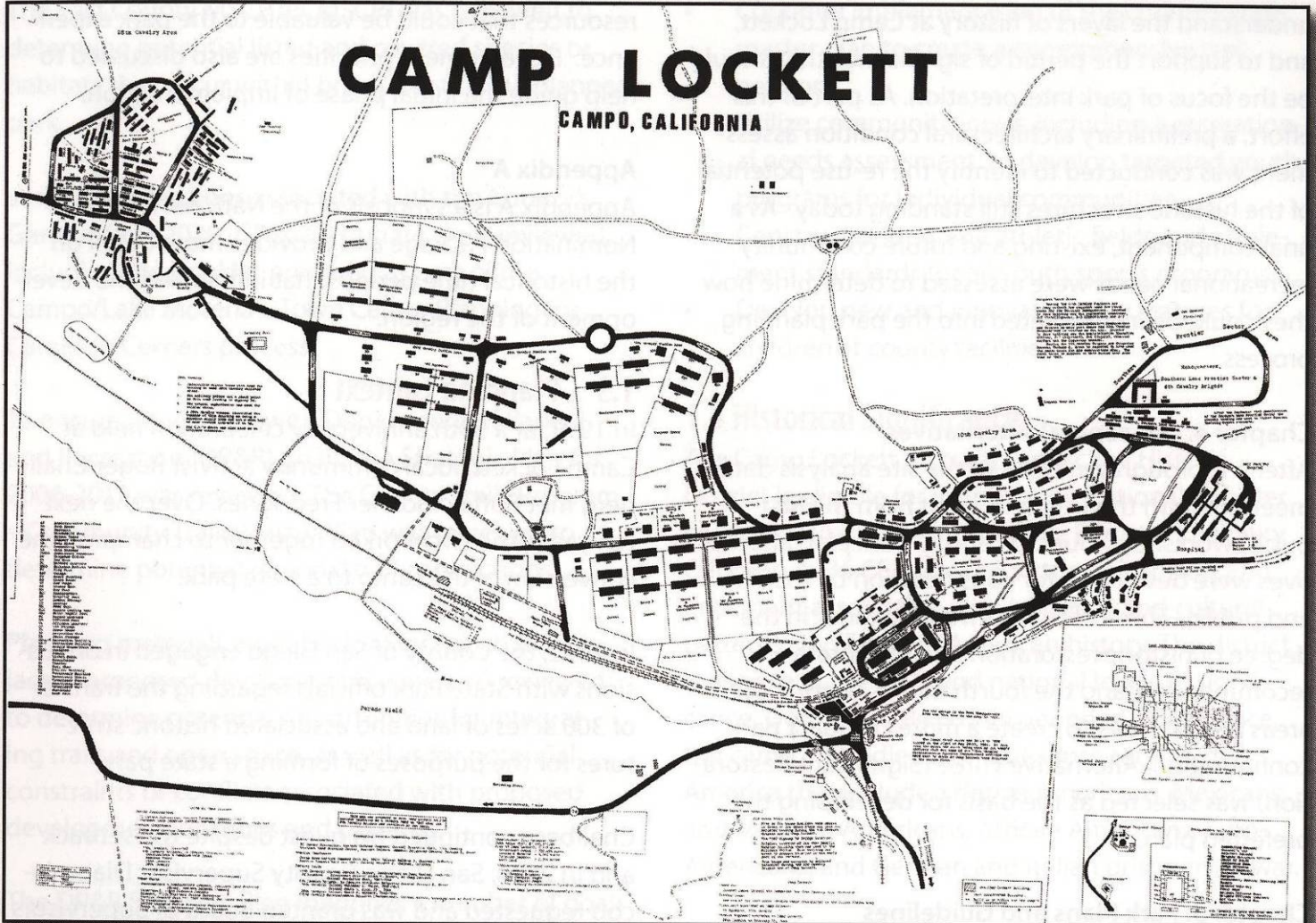
Vezina, Meredith

1989 One Hundred Years in Campo Country. Thesis, San Diego State University, San Diego, California.

1994 In Limbo at Lockett. *The Retired Officer Magazine*, 50 (2):28-34

Wasch, Diane Shaw and Arlene R. Kriv

1992 *World War II and the U.S. Army Mobilization Program, A History of 700 and 800 Series Cantonment Construction*. U.S. Department of Defense, Legacy Recourses Management Program; Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, Washington, D.C.



Map of Camp Lockett (circa 1943)



**The San Diego Historical Society Photograph Collection,
<http://www.sandiegohistory.org>**