

CHAFFEE, Adna Romanza
(1842-1914)

Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
(Chief of Staff)

As Captain, 6th Cavalry, Chaffee commanded Fort McDowell, Arizona Territory, near Phoenix, in the early 1880s. He was in command of the troops in the last Indian Battle in Arizona - the Battle of the Big Dry Wash (Chevelon's Fork), near present-day Winslow, Arizona, 17 July 1882. He commanded Fort Huachuca, Arizona Territory, October 1883 to 20 June 1884. Later, as a Major General, he was Military Governor of the Philippine Islands in 1901 and 1902; Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff, United States Army, 1902-1904.

(A Captain - he was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel for his action at Big Dry Wash, Arizona).

(Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, was named for his son - Brigadier General Adna Romanza Chaffee - father of American Armor)

(See also: Britton Davis, "The Truth About Geronimo," Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1929).

Captain Chaffee was relieved from further duty with General Crook's expedition and proceeded with his troop to his old station at Fort McDowell, Arizona, having marched nearly a thousand miles during his absence in the field. After a few months of rest in garrison Captain Chaffee was ordered to proceed with his troop and take station at Fort Huachuca, a post in southern Arizona near the Mexican border.

On the crest of a hill at Arlington Cemetery a monument has been erected by his comrades to that sincere, unassuming, and accomplished soldier, General Crook, upon the front of which appears in bronze a group consisting of the General, Captain Chaffee, and the officers, guides, and chiefs who accompanied the expedition into the Sierra Madres in pursuit of the Chiricahuis.

After nine years of most arduous and dangerous frontier service, Captain Chaffee was informed that the War Department had under consideration a change of station for the Sixth Cavalry. Visions of civilization and reunited families were of short duration, however, for when the long-expected order arrived it provided for an exchange of stations between the Fourth Cavalry in New Mexico and the Sixth in Arizona. The Sixth had been privileged to look eastward at the Dos Cabezas, and now crossed the line into New Mexico and looked westward upon the same landmark, being destined to operate against the same Indians a little farther to the east on the New Mexico-Chihuahua border.

Captain Chaffee left Fort Huachuca on June 5, 1884, and marched to his new station, Fort Craig, New Mexico, arriving there on June 24. x x x