

WAC UNIT  
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA

23 June 1947

SUBJECT: Fort Huachuca, Arizona

TO : Whom ever it may concern

Being Stationed here in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, on temporary duty for the purpose of closing this Fort, and seeing just what is happening to such a very fine place - I wonder if the Negro Population of America realize the extent of the facts concerning This Particular Army Post.?

In the first place it represents the Only All Negro Fort to have been in operation during the past war and others previously. It was at one time the Home Fort for the famed all Negro Tenth Cavalry - Later Home for the Twenty-Fifth Infantry, serving as replacement to the Twenty-Fourth Infantry, now serving in the Occupation of Japan. It was also the training home for the Ninety-Third and, Ninety-Second Divisions. We are proud of Ft. Huachuca, Arizona for the fact that, the first Women, from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, to be sent on the field, for Service, All Negroes, were sent here. Therefore, Huachuca can be proclaimed as the home of the Negro Women of the "WAC". There were many, many different outfits to train here - Tankers, Tank Destroyers, Engineers, Medical Detachments, Artillery, and Others, All Negroes.

Huachuca is a very complete Fort; - Established in 1877 - And from the History of the Place, it seems a very strategic point - It was instrumental in the settlement of the Mexican Uprising in or around 1916, and again in 1929 and 1930.

It is also, when under full operation, practically self sustaining. It has two ice plants, dairy products, hogs, sheep, garden, electric power plant, and water works. The Special Service Division and Equipment was second to none. There are very fine fields for Athletics - Football Stadium, Ball Fields, Swimming Pools, two for Enlisted Men, one for Officers, a Field House, for indoor Sports, which is about the largest in the Country. The Service Mens' Clubs, two, are most complete and spacious. There are two Officers Clubs, second to none others I've seen. One Lake Side has its Lake - The other Mountain View has the view of the beautiful Huachuca, Mts. There was also the SCU 1922 Non-Coms' Clubs, proclaimed by its members, and all Transit Troops to be the most beautiful one of its kind in the Country.

Huachuca is one of the most ideal training Forts in the Country - for the reason that it has such climate that there are very few training days lost due to weather conditions. Its Terrain affords all sorts and kinds of training necessary - Perhaps not for the Aleutian Islands, but for most others.

It is really a sad occasion for me and, many others, to be here on such an assignment. Comments of various and numerous kinds have been made about the Fort, prompting me to write this letter. Officers and Enlisted Men alike who are here for the purpose of closing the Place, feel the same. The welcoming friendly and, much lived-in atmosphere that has made Huachuca what it is. They wonder why such a Place is to be junked, (For this is as it seems to me.) I

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wish that it were possible for me to send pictures with this letter to substantiate the facts here-in.

Perhaps in the paragraphs to follow, I will miss-represent the efforts which have been made and will be made for things concerned - but it seems to me that these things are true, for I have seen nothing in our papers, or heard anything from the NAACP, except the Tucson, Arizona Branch, to the contrary.

There are numerous men and women who were here and are in positions to help or hinder and, slander, as the case may be, places and people alike, who have done nothing - Perhaps because of the fact that they do not know. Then there are others who have gone to the extent to write about only the bad elements in and around Huachuca. They seem to have forgotten that wherever there are a number of people congregated that there will be good and bad elements and, people alike. It is too bad though, that some people can only see the bad things in life. One writer said, " There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it doesn't behoove any of us to talk about the rest of us." Places like people are just alike-for as you know people make the place. The Negro Soldier has made Huachuca.

It is said that there is nothing to save Huachuca at this date - Perhaps not, but to destroy this Place and keep others, which can't even hold a candle to Huachuca, is not only a waste of money but also, a slander to the Soldering done here by our Negro Men and Women in the Service. (This is my opinion only).

I believe that our Press and National Organizations can do something if they are persisting and persistent. To have Huachuca, Arizona, as a Shrine or Honorary Fort to the Negro Soldier would do more for a large number of Service Men and Women than to have a Bronze Statue on Madison Square, or any other large City Square.

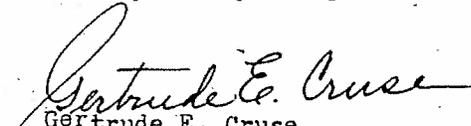
The late President Roosevelt once said, " Any man who is willing to give his life for a Country is entitled to a square deal from that Country, No man should ask for more and no man should receive less."

You would have to see the place to realize and understand what I have been trying to say and, to tell you in this letter. The Old Post consists of permanent buildings, cement with all modern equipment. The Streets are in good condition - all - in - all Huachuca is a small City, most complete, except for the people living here.

I wish that it were possible for someone to come here to see what the Negro Soldier has done for himself, and the Negroes as a whole - (Any man who does something for himself does that for his Country also.) To see too what makes Huachuca what it is and what I have said that it is.

Representative for the Soldiers, Men and Women, Serving and those who have served in Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Thank you very much,

  
Gertrude E. Cruse  
S/Sgt A-501299  
WAC AUS