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Frontier Post Becomes Big Army Center

High above the mesquite thickets of the San Pedro valley, the tempo of life in what was once a small frontier army post is being quickened.

There will be more men, more company streets as new lines of barracks spring up. There will be more activity at Fort Huachuca than at any time since World War days.

The fort, situated in the foothills of the Huachuca mountains, will increase in size and importance as the nation's defense program widens.

Almost \$3,000,000 will be expended by the government at the historic post and its present personnel of 1,300 will be swelled to approximately 6,000 within the next few months after the new building program is completed.

Projects Under Way

The widespread construction program includes all present military projects, Work Projects Administration and federal housing projects combined. Some of the projects already are well under way and others will be launched this month.

The quartermaster corps has begun construction of a tent city—involving more than \$150,000, and which will be used to house some of the selective service trainees.

Included in the fort's expansion program are a new cantonment, a 300-bed hospital, a large road improvement project already under way, the tent city and accompanying mess halls, the construction of a natural gas line from the main trunk at Curtiss, noncommissioned officers quarters, an enlarged well and reservoirs to increase the present supply and the fire-proofing of the warehouse.

To Erect 180 Buildings

One hundred and eighty buildings will be erected under the program—80 barracks, 27 mess halls, 27 company warehouses, 27 recreational buildings, five officers' quarters, two officers' mess halls, two infirmary buildings, a guardhouse and four additional warehouses. The buildings will be two-story frame structures.

Funds have also been provided for construction of family units, chiefly for housing families of enlisted men. Thirty units will be built, officials said they were notified.

The fort, originally built to help check the marauding Apaches in the turbulent Southwestern era that followed the Civil War years, still is one of the army's real outposts. It has its own social and commercial life, and its big barracks, its officers quarters, its parade grounds, and huge, shady trees give it a distinction no other Arizona community possesses.

Ideal For Maneuvers

Ideal for military maneuvers are the rolling hills and grasslands that spread outward from the post. The last eight years have found a colored regiment—the 25th Infantry—stationed there and under the command of white officers. Col. Lee D. Davis is the commanding officer.

Good roads link the fort with Bisbee, Sonoita, Nogales, Ariz., and other Southern Arizona towns, and one-day or week-end trips to the Huachuca area are popular with Arizonians.

Two summer resorts—Garden and Ramsey canyons—are near by. A spur track connects the fort with the Southern Pacific Railroad's main line, 17 miles away.

Training Camp Site

The Arizona National Guard and Civilian Military Training Corps have made Fort Huachuca the site of training camps many times and hundreds of Arizonians are veterans of encampments there.

Before the 25th Infantry was moved to Fort Huachuca, the 10th Cavalry, another colored regiment, was stationed there until 1932.

Its proximity to the Mexican border makes the post a strategic one as far as the U. S. Army is concerned and mechanized units could roar swiftly into action on a few hours' notice along any section of the international boundary from Yuma to El Paso.

Although the already peaceful relations between Mexico and the United States are being further strengthened, the location is a vital one—for the defense of both countries.

When soldiers' and civilians' minds are not on things military, they can look across the sweeping hills at magnificent vistas. After sundown, the lights of Tombstone, Benson and other small towns twinkle through the darkness, and in the daytime the spires of the Dragoons, which have seen soldiery pass for centuries, reflect the rays of the sun.

Miller peak, one of the chief eminences of the Southwest, rising more than 10,000 feet above sea level, is near the fort in the Huachuca mountains.

Infantrymen Form Active Community

Arizona's only army post is Fort Huachuca, where the 25th Infantry is stationed.

The fort is in the foothills of the Huachuca mountains, 42 miles northwest of Bisbee, at an altitude of 5,060 feet. It has a population of 2,400, made up almost entirely of army men and their families.

Ideal Terrain

Fort Huachuca is one of the army's real outposts. It has its own social and commercial life, and its big barracks, its officers quarters, its parade ground and the huge trees planted years ago give it an atmosphere no other Arizona community possesses.

The surrounding hills and rolling grasslands make ideal terrain for military maneuvers.

The 25th Infantry is a colored regiment commanded by white officers. Col. Lee D. Davis is post commandant.

The fort is connected with Bisbee, Sonoita, Nogales, Ariz., and other Southern Arizona communities by good roads, and one-day or week-end trips to that area are popular with many Southern Arizonians.

Spur Track Serves Fort

Garden and Ramsey canyons, summer resorts, are near by. The Southern Pacific railroad line runs only 17 miles away, and a spur track connects Fort Huachuca with the main line.

The Arizona National Guard camped for many summers at Fort Huachuca's rifle range, 3 1/2 miles from the post proper. Consequently hundreds of Arizonians who are veterans of guard camp days have spent one or more training periods there. The Citizens Military Training Corps camps also have been held there for 30 days each summer for many years, attracting several hundred additional Southwesterners.

Infantry Moves In

The 25th Infantry formerly was stationed at Camp Little, Nogales, Ariz., and Camp Jones, Douglas. However, about eight years ago the 10th Cavalry, a colored regiment, was broken up, and when it left the historic post the infantrymen moved in.

Fort Huachuca has its own water supply, an ample one with a large reservoir on a mountainside overhanging the community.

Situated near the Mexican border, the outpost is a strategic one as far as the American army is concerned. With modern mechanized warfare the style, the infantry is equipped to go into action on a few hours' notice along any portion of the international boundary from Yuma to El Paso.

With Mexico and the United States at peace for many years, and with a continuing peace apparent, the probability of fighting seems remote.

View Is Magnificent

The view from the fort is magnificent. At night the lights of Tombstone, Benson and other small communities twinkle in the distance; and in the daytime the rugged ramparts of historic hills catch the sun across the San Pedro valley.

Miller peak, one of the chief eminences of the Southwest—it rises more than 10,000 feet above sea level—is near the fort in the Huachuca mountains.

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