

**Volume 5**

**Number 031**

**Buffalo Soldiers - Black Soldiers on the Frontier II**

**Lead: During the Indian wars, the Buffalo Soldiers, units made up of African Americans, served with great distinction.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Of the Native American clans who inhabited the West during the white settlement of the frontier, none were more resistant than the Apache. Unlike northern plains Indians, Sioux, Cheyenne, or Commanche, who fought mostly to keep miners, ranchers and hunters off**

**their reserved territory, the Apache had lived for centuries alongside Spanish and then Mexican villages, sometimes attacking, sometimes trading with their white neighbors. They were consummate mountain guerrilla warriors, able to spring from ambushes with deadly effect and then cleverly elude their pursuers.**

**In 1875 Col. Edward Hatch took his command, the 9th Cavalry regiment, into New Mexico territory where his unit, later joined by the 10th Cavalry, spent years chasing Apache war parties who would periodically conduct raids off the reservation. The 9th and 10th were made up exclusively of African American enlisted men. Their valor and determination, skill**

**and professionalism had confounded critics of Black military service. The Indians called them Buffalo Soldiers, partly due to their color, but mostly out of grudging respect born of the devotion Native Americans had for the wandering bison.**

**Perhaps the craftiest enemy faced by the Buffalo Soldiers was Chief Victorio of the Warm Springs band of the Apache. During the Victorio War, 1879 and 1880, the troopers of the 9th and 10th brought his raiding parties to grief and laid the groundwork for his final defeat and death at the hands of the Mexican Army.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts**

## **Resources**

**Stiles, T. J. "Buffalo Soldiers," *Smithsonian* 29 ( 9, December 1998): 82-94.**

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