The U.S. Cavalry Part 4
Cavalry Machine Gun Squadrons
Lyle Mitteis ... 124th Horse Cavalry from World War II
From the Library: Hiram Tuttle and the 1936 Olympics

Captain Menandro Parazo
26th Cavalry
Laid to rest at Arlington

Chance Encounter: Sherman and Forrest
Specials at the Sutler's Store
The United States Cavalry Association
Organized February 20, 1976

The aim and purpose of the Association shall be to preserve the history, traditions, uniform, and equipment of the United States Cavalry units, including mounted support units, and to sponsor the U.S. Cavalry Museum and U.S. Cavalry Memorial Research library for education's purposes and to preserve literature used by the United States Cavalry throughout its history.

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Old Fort Davis would be a thriving community when the troops were in town, setting up a tent city within a city.

September 13, 1921, the 1st Cavalry Division was formed from four old Cavalry regiments, three from Fort Bliss, Tex.—the 5th, 7th, and 8th. The other was the 1st stationed at Marfa. The 1st never joined up with the other three regiments and did not go to the South Pacific but was later replaced by the 9th. The 1st Cavalry Division retained its horses until March, 1942. It was then that the Chief of Cavalry, along with the other chiefs of combat branches, was abolished.

This was the end of the “old Horse Cavalry.” It was a sad day for many an old trooper. Parting with their horses was like saying goodbye to old friends. To many Cavalamen, the order to abolish the Cavalry verified the apprehensions that they had had 10 years earlier. Some knew in the early ‘30s that the days of the old Horse Cavalry were numbered but they hated to admit it. Being military men, they could see that future wars would be fought with different weapons.

The Chief of Cavalry put up a good defense to retain the Cavalry. Regiments were modernized until they hardly resembled the Horse Cavalry. Equipment included big trailers in which the horses could be loaded. These were attached to trucks and taken to distant places quickly with the troopers instantly ready to go into action. These were all equipped, also, with radios, as well as modern weapons. The Cavalry trained to work with airplanes and other tactical units but they were fighting a losing battle and most knew it.

When they turned in their horses, the troopers were trained for the most modern methods of warfare. The proof of their abilities as modern fighters came to the fore in the South Pacific in the early part of World War II, then later in Korea, and that is reportedly where they
Trucks and rolling kitchens, such as these at an 8th Cavalry bivouac, replaced the slower field ranges and escort wagons.

still are, as this is written.

All the troopers are proud that they, too, once belonged to one of those fighting troops of those famous regiments. More glory has been added to those old outfits which were already famous, such as the 5th, 7th, 8th, and the 9th Cavalry.

Just 19 years have passed since the horses were disbanded but throughout the country the memory of them is still vivid. Many persons of middle age living in the southwest can recall the days when a regiment of Cavalry passed through or camped in their town while making those overland marches. There are many old retired troopers living in cities where there was once a large Cavalry post. Also there are still some of the old Cavalry horses around. Two years ago, during the 1st Cavalry Division Reunion at El Paso, one of the honored guests was Big Red, an old Cavalry mount.

Not long ago there was a story in the newspapers that must have brought a chuckle to old troopers. It read, “The American Mushroom Institute was asking Congress to put up $10,000 for scientific research to develop synthetic horse manure.” They had a name for this product—compost—and wanted to make it equal to horse manure as it made mushrooms grow the best. If someone had told a soldier of the Cavalry, when he was doing stable or picket line duty, that he was handling a valuable product, the answer would have been, “Are you nuts?”

The Cavalry horse and the trooper hold a prominent place in the history and legends of the southwest. Much of their glory originated in the

Short rests and bivouacs enabled the Cavalry to make long marches, such as this rest period for the 7th Cavalry Machine Gun Troop.
Troopers often dismounted and walked awhile, leading their horses, on long marches.

area of Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas. It was December, 1846, when Col. A.W. Doniphan led his Cavalry troops into El Paso, ending an 1,100-mile march from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They were seven months making that long, hard trip. From that date until 1942, when the Horse Cavalry was abandoned, Fort Bliss continued to make Cavalry history.

The men and the horses have not been forgotten at El Paso and Fort Bliss. Many of the streets and public places have been named after them. Garry Owen Drive in El Paso is named after one of the famous horses of the 7th Cavalry which was not only a splendid Cavalry charger but held several championships as a jumper. Also at Fort Bliss some of the horses are buried at a well-kept cemetery; each horse has an epitaph on its tombstone which tells its name, the date it was foaled, and the date of death. Among the graves are Garry Owen, Our Pal, Lady, Miss McClure, and Buddy.

Old Fort Davis near Marfa was an important Cavalry post in the ‘80s for protection of the west-bound stagecoach route and guarding of the settlers in west Texas from the Apaches. Some of the soldiers who served there settled near the old post after they were discharged. Many have just recently passed away. The buildings are now ruins but there is some talk that the National Park Service plans to restore all the old posts as national monuments.

Troop H of the 8th Cavalry takes it easy during maneuvers on the U.S. side of the border.
Cavalry Machine Gun Squadron

On August 13, 1916 the New York Times ran an article in which Captain Albert Philips of the Tenth U.S. Cavalry recommended that the United States learn from the example set by the Germans and harness the power of the machine gun. “No weapon, has come to the front of the in the world war more than the machine gun. At the beginning of the war the Germans had 50,000 machine guns. And Germany had a machine gun corps—separate batteries and regiments.”1 Philips was no stranger to the machine gun, since in 1916 he commanded the 10th Cavalry machine gun troop and later would design the Philips pack saddle. Philips had also been a part of an experiment in 1916 that saw the use of motorized cavalry equipped with machine guns.

The machine gun’s usefulness was becoming more and more apparent. Some saw the weapon as a deterrent to cavalry use, while others argued that the machine gun and other technological advances could help the cavalry to become the most important asset on the battlefield. In the 1922 edition of the RASP Colonel Hamilton S. Hawkins wrote that “cavalry has the power of rapid movement; its improved weapons, machine guns, machine rifles, etc., give it great independence of action. Supporting fire, by improved modern weapons, holds in check the enemy fire, and the mounted attack is now possible even in those situations in which, before such improvements, it was impossible. Improvements in weapons in our own hands have, therefore, enormously increased the usefulness of Cavalry.”2 Colonel Hawkins arguments proved that this would not be the case and one of the reasons for eventually disbanding the cavalry would be because of the machine gun. Until that time though the cavalry did its best to adapt to the new style of warfare by organizing machine gun squadrons.

The inclusion of the machine gun as part of the cavalry meant that they would have to find a way to participate in the cavalry’s actions. The machine gun would act as support for a charge. The intended effect was to be “the moral and physical effect of charging cavalry is enhanced by the demoralizing and annihilating effect of supporting machine-gun fire.”3

By 1921 the United States Cavalry had settled on the organization and use of the machine gun. Machine gun squadrons were broken down into troops, platoons and squads. The machine gun squadrons only carried eighteen machine guns amongst all of the men; these guns, though, were the intended weapon of the squadron. The squadron also carried rifles in order to protect the pack animals and hold positions until the machine gun was set up and ready to fire. The duties of each man were laid out and every action taken by the men in the squadron had to have a purpose that helped to employ the machine gun effectively.

The platoon was the smallest unit of the squadron that was commanded by an officer. A platoon was made up of a platoon headquarters and two squads totaling about twenty-seven men. Each of the two squads had one machine gun so that both squads could operate their guns...
as a pair. The regulations from 1925 described the platoon as “an integral part of the machine-gun troop, it may be detached in support of, or assigned to, small bodies of cavalry (to include the rifle squadron). For this reason the platoon is organized and fully equipped to operate tactically as an independent unit. It must be prepared to act in any capacity which may be demanded of it, consistent with the characteristics of its weapons.” Because the platoon is the smallest tactical unit of the machine gun squadron, “the training of the platoon must therefore be complete and thorough. It must be capable of executing any type of fire demanded by the situation. There must be coordination between the fire of its two guns, and the supply of ammunition and other necessities to the guns. It must be capable of lending, by the fire of its two guns, the greatest possible assistance to the troops which it is immediately supporting.”

Three platoons and a headquarters made up the cavalry machine gun troop. The troop consisted of buglers, cooks, horseshers, mechanics, messengers, an orderly and a saddler. Among the troopers there were wagons that would be designated combat wagons, a baggage wagon and one wagon for the troop’s rations.

“The squadron is a tactical and administrative unit. The organization of machine-gun troops into squadrons insures uniformity of training in the three troops of each squadron. The machine-gun squadron is an integral part of the cavalry brigade, but it operates as a fire unit only under exceptional circumstances, as, for instance, in the event of massed or barrage fire.”

One of the primary machine guns used by the United States Cavalry during the mid-1920s was the Model 1917 Browning .30 machine gun. The gun was cooled by a water jacket around the barrel and mounted on a model 1917 tripod. The ammunition for the gun was model 1906 .30 rounds with a rate of fire for the gun between four hundred and five hundred twenty-five shots per minute. In all, the gun itself weighed almost thirty-seven pounds with the water jacket.

Over the years the Cavalry Journal published numerous articles on the most up to date machine guns and tactics. From around 1910 to the 1940s many articles were written on the subject of the machine gun and its place within the cavalry. Many of these articles came in the 1930s. Changes to the instruction of the use of machine guns were published as well. Light machine guns were added to the cavalry’s arsenal and their use and employment was also written about.

Early use of the machine gun in the cavalry saw the guns packed on aparejo style pack saddles and machine gun carts. “The term “Machine Gun Carts” is a general term used for three different carts for machine gun companies; namely, gun carts, ammunition carts, and spare gun carts. All of these are one mule carts, having the same general construction. They differ, however, in the assembly of ammunition racks, gun carrying cases, tripod supports and a few minor details.” The cart that carried the guns was designed to accommodate the Browning, Vickers, Colt and Lewis machine guns. The gun being carried would decide the amount of ammunition stored on the cart since the water-cooled Browning and Vickers needed spare water boxes.

The aparejo pack saddle required skilled hands to load, but the cavalry wanted a simpler method of packing equipment. 1924 saw the adoption of the Phillips pack saddle that was developed by Albert Phillips. “The efficiency of loading the Phillips pack saddle was commended by its users but what made it indispensible to the cavalry units who initially took it into combat maneuvers was its ability to release its combat load instantly. This was exemplified by the demonstration that automatic rifle and machine gun pack animals could be halted and the guns unpacked and fired in less than TEN SECONDS.”
Speed of unpacking was of concern since the machine gun could not fight back until set up. In order to speed up the process the led animals were moved as close to the machine gun’s position as possible permitting there was the necessary cover to protect the animals. The animals were held nearby in case they needed to change position or withdraw quickly. The ammunition carts also needed to be close by in order to resupply the gun positions since the cavalry machine guns could operate ahead of the normal supply lines.9

The machine gun had several advantages over the rifle with the most obvious being the rate of fire. The tripod the gun rested on also helped to increase the accuracy of the weapon in both direct and indirect fire. The machine gun also offered greater control since only one man was firing compared to that of several riflemen.

The training of a cavalry machine gunner stressed two tenets, mobility and firepower. Mobility meant that the machine gun needed to be able to move into and, if necessary, change positions quickly. This was achieved by moving the pack animals as close to the machine gun’s deployment area as possible. The firepower of the machine gun meant that those operating the gun needed to know the proper use of the gun, as well as firing positions in order to make the gun as effective as it could be.

For a cavalry machine gunner, targets were prioritized to the strengths of the gun. “Favorable machine-gun targets are deep, that is, those on which the maximum material results may be obtained. Unfavorable targets are shallow linear targets...”10 “Fire should always be directed against personnel or areas to be denied them. The machine gun has no destructive power and is ineffective against material.” 11 One of the best targets for a machine gun was the opposing force’s led animals. The machine gun fire targeted on the animals was meant to cause confusion and, hopefully, a stampede.

Machine gunners also needed to recognize targets by how effective the machine gun could be employed against them. By the mid 1920s the cavalry had to worry not only about the traditional infantry, cavalry and artillery, they also had to worry about opposing machine guns, tanks and airplanes. To fight these new advancements in technology a machine gunner needed to know how to counter them. An opposing machine gun meant that the crew needed to be the prime target. When tanks were encountered, there was little that a machine gun could do except fire on the port holes of a tank as well as any accompanying personnel. The machine guns were also expected to provide a covering fire against airplanes that was intended to force the aircraft away and prevent them from targeting any friendly soldiers.

In the end the addition of the machine gun would not help to prevent the demise of the cavalry. “With all trends toward mechanization, and the growing lack of faith in the mounted service of officers in other branches, the cavalry bureau became defensive. They fought the elimination of the horse by steadily increasing the fire power of mounted men, thus lowering the usefulness of the mounted attack, which became virtually impossible with the amount of impediments that it became necessary to carry. Without the mounted attack, cavalry was not much more than mounted infantry.”12

Notes

5 Ibid.
10 Ibid, 18.
11 Ibid, 18.
Lyle Mitteis ... 124th Horse Cavalry from World War II

by Bernadine Hughes

Reprinted from the Fence Post, July 9, 2011

Although Lyle Mitteis lost 70% of his hearing while in combat during World War II and is legally blind, he has vivid memories of the time he served in the military during World War II.

“Years ago I was told, ‘You don’t want to tell all those old war stories,’ so I never said anything,” he said. “I just kept everything to myself.”

Ninety-year-old Mitteis who lives in Clearwater, Neb., with his wife of 57 years, was drafted into the army in February 1942 when he was 21.

“We had our choice of what branch of service we wanted,” he recalled. “Someone said, ‘I want to see if I can get into the Horse Cavalry.’ I didn’t even know they had a Horse Cavalry,” he said with a laugh. “That sounded good to me, as you wouldn’t have to walk.”

Mitteis said he took nine weeks of basic training at Fort Robinson, Ark., was sent to Brownsville, Texas, and after initial training at Fort Bliss was stationed with the 124th Cavalry at Fort Brown.

“When we went to pick up our clothes the first thing they did was hand us our spurs. ‘You wear these spurs every time you have on a shoe, no matter where you go,’ we were told. You weren’t dressed up unless you had on your spurs.”

They patrolled the border from Fort Brown beyond Fort Bliss. There were 11,000 horses and 11,000 men.

At that time Mexico wasn’t too friendly with the United States.

In June 1942 President Roosevelt met with the President of Mexico. The United States was afraid Japan was going to use Mexico for a jumping spot because Mexico and Japan were friends. President Roosevelt must have won the Mexican President over, because after their meeting he got on a train at Laredo past Corpus Christi and headed back to Washington D.C.

“There was a soldier stationed every 100 feet on that railroad track from Laredo to Corpus Christi, and we had orders to shoot if we saw any movement,” Mitteis said.

“One of the soldiers who saw the train coming shouted, ‘Roosevelt’s coming! Roosevelt’s coming!’ The train went by me, and I stepped off of the track,” Mitteis said. “In the last car I saw the President smoking a cigarette. The train was only going 25 miles an hour. I stepped back on the track and saluted President Roosevelt. He saluted me back and gave me a big smile. The only thing was, the Platoon Sergeant saw me do it. ‘You’re supposed to be guarding in the brush! He shouted!’ But it was worth it. I felt so proud. I had been saluted by the President!”

That summer the soldiers started to dismount their horses and went on foot.

In June 1942, the First Cavalry division of the regiment was sent to Europe and its sister regiment, the 112th division was sent to the South Pacific.

“After the 112th Cavalry was sent overseas we patrolled the border of Mexico two more years,” Mitteis said. “We rode the horses about 25 miles a day, from Brownsville to Fort Ringgold at Rio Grande City, Texas, a distance of 100 miles.”

In April 1944, Mitteis and the others were taken to Fort Riley, Kan., and their horses taken away.

“They were beautiful horses,” Mitteis recalled. “Their shoes were taken off; the Lieutenant wrote down their serial numbers and turned them loose. We just stood there watching as they ran down the valley ... it was a sad day; we had become attached to our horses.”

Five thousand of the soldiers traveled by train from Fort Riley to Los Angeles, were put on a boat in the Pacific Ocean and didn’t know where they were going. After 34 days they pulled into port. The people looked like natives ... they were short, not many clothes, and one of the guys said, ‘This is India ...!'
They were in Bombay, India, were loaded on a train and sent east across India to Calcutta. They couldn't come up through Calcutta between Asia and India because the Japanese had the Burma coastline, so they circled clear around India.

“When we got to India our boots and spurs were taken from us; we weren't using horses any more and were put on foot,” Mitteis remembered. “We had been called 'horse lovers,' now we were infantrymen."

“We trained in India awhile, then 2,500 of us were put on a river boat on the Brahmaputra river which came out of the Himalaya Mountains, down through Calcutta and dumps into the ocean,” he said. “We traveled northwest in the river boat almost two weeks. The boys were talking about how good the water was, it was real cold. Someone said, ‘They must have a big tank.' We discovered later there wasn't any tank. The water was piped in from the river. One day after a week or so, somebody yelled, ‘man overboard; body in the river. Tell the Captain to stop.’ The Captain told us 'the Brahmaputra river is a holy river. Every country has its own culture.' “We noticed all the little docks 12 feet long, six feet wide ... they would bring their dead to the docks, dump the body in the river, as it drifts down the river it eventually floats ashore. The vultures come, clean the flesh off of the body; the bones are picked up and cremated. We were drinking that water; somehow we weren't thirsty anymore.

“We were packed in like sardines on that river boat,” he said. “One of the guys said, ‘when we get on that train to Ledo we can sit down in the coaches, have a nice bathroom and much better facilities.' There was a train all right, but the trains in India are narrow gates ... tracks are together, and the 'nice coaches' we were supposed to get in were like one of our empty freight cars; but the good thing was, the train used a lot of water. When the engineers stopped to get water we would jump off of the train with our canteens, fill them with hot water, pour in dehydrated coffee and have a good cup of coffee.”

The soldiers rode that train about 60 miles to Ledo in northern India near the Himalaya mountains.

Mitteis said several years later a missionary priest came to Ewing, Neb. The priest said he was from Ledo, India. He was talking about the people in Ledo and how poor they were. I said, ‘I know. I've been there.' His response was, ‘me and my mother want to thank you.'

“What for?” I asked. ‘We had a culture in India,' the priest replied, ‘where the oldest member of the family never marries, but takes care of their parents until they die. I was two years old, the oldest in my family, and the Japanese were trying to break that culture. They would take the oldest child out of the family, say they would take the child and educate him. We found out later they would kill him. The Japanese soldiers had been to my mother's house twice, and the third time were going to pick me up. You guys came in, and the Japanese went back to the south.'"

The troops didn't stop at Ledo, but were put on airplane and flew south to Myitkyina where they trained three or four weeks. One day about 2,000 mules arrived.

“We found out we were going to walk south through Burma leading these mules,” Mitteis said. “We walked 25 miles that day, and it was so hot. Walking through the jungles there were no roads, just a path from village to village. We knew we couldn't go certain routes as the Japanese were there, so we had to go a long way around to get to Burma.”

An airdrop field was located nearby and cargo planes dropped supplies. Bruce Fletcher and Don McBride from Orchard, Neb., (called kickers and pushers) piloted planes to air-drop supplies. The Japanese didn't have much air power. Years later McBride told Mitteis they went down through the valley to drop supplies. Mitteis said, “Why didn't you guys go east?” McBride said, ‘There was a big range of mountains; we couldn't rise high enough to get over them. We flew over the Japanese; they would shoot at us with their small rifles. We had steel helmets and sat on them. When we flew home our planes would be full of bullet holes.”

The soldiers arrived in India in June 1944, and in September started in combat leading the mules. They walked over 400 miles.

Mitteis was in command of eight soldiers; a gunner, assistant gunner and six ammunition carriers. One night they were trying to get dug in; up a side hill in a shallow place so the Japanese couldn't come in and kill the mules or turn them loose. During the night they came. Mitteis had an automatic flash gun that shot 45
caliber bullets. The mules were right behind them. The Lieutenant said, ‘There isn't anything we can do tonight. We'll wait until morning’... ‘When the sun came up the Japanese quit fighting.

“We could walk around on that hill and they wouldn't shoot at us, so we didn't shoot at them,” he said. “The only time we shot at them was when we got orders to go ahead. We got to be pretty friendly with them. I waved at them a couple times and they waved back. There were three or four mules dead, and nothing up on the side hill.

“The Japanese liked to come at 3 o'clock in the morning. I always took that shift. One night I was standing guard and they dropped a shell right in front of me, knocked my helmet off, cut my arm. I couldn't hear very well after that,” Mitteis said. “The next morning the Lieutenant looked me over. Two other guys were wounded and went to the aid station. They couldn't do anything for my hearing and I stayed in combat. My arm healed up real well, and it didn't even leave a scar.”

One night a soldier, James Ramsey, was in his foxhole sleeping. The Japanese dropped a mortar shell in the foxhole injuring his leg. Mitteis said to the Lieutenant, “We've got to get Ramsey out of here.”

The Lieutenant said, “We have to wait until they quit shooting at us.”

“We waited awhile, and I said, ‘We've got to get him out of here!’ I picked him up. He was heavier than I was. I've never been able to figure that out. I carried him, blood all over. That same night our Captain deserted us. The next morning he told headquarters that we had all surrendered ... but the Japanese could hear us, and were still shooting and fighting. We walked around to the gun position ... I must have been an awful looking sight! The Captain chewed me out for having dirty clothes. I wanted to say, ‘40 guys up there ... we've all volunteered for your fighting squad,’ but I didn't say it. The guys told me it's a good thing I didn't. I could have been court marshaled ... but the Captain got 30 years at Fort Leavenworth for deserting his troop.”

Mitteis said they were in India about four months, in Burma from September 1944 until June 1945.

He said Memorial Day 1945, was the saddest day in his army life ... 32 soldiers were buried on a hillside in Burma; no coffins, wrapped in parachutes. The graves were dug, bamboo poles laid over the graves; four guys lifted up the bodies, pulled the bamboo poles away, and dropped the bodies in the graves. Dog tags were removed and wired to their collarbones. The Japanese were out of Burma by then.

“They flew us into China where we trained Chinese soldiers,” he said. “This was about the time the communists were ready to take over China.”

**Mars Task Force**

Mitteis was part of the Mars Task Force, which was credited with forcing the Japanese withdrawal from northern Burma, allowing for full use of the Burma Road to China. In 1944 the unit was selected for service in the China-Surma-India Theater to provide reinforcements. Leaving its horses at Fort Riley, the 124th was reinforced in Burma by the 613th Field Artillery battalion to form the 124th Regimental Combat Team (Special) part of the Mars Task Force.

Their mission was to clear Northern Burma of Japanese forces and open the Burma Road for truck traffic to China. Leading a mule supply train, they moved more than 100 miles over the most hazardous terrain in Burma, mountainous jungles, steep trails, swift streams and rivers, on hot days and cold nights in rain and mud. This was all done while being cut off completely from friendly forces and having to depend entirely upon air supply. The unit fought the Japanese in Burma and China from 1944 until the end of the war.

“We headed back to the states in September 1945, flew to New Jersey, then to Fort Riley, Kan., by train, where I was discharged and arrived home in January 1946,” Mitteis said.

Staff Sergeant Mitteis received three combat stars, combat medal, and Mars Task Force emblem.

The 124th Cavalry Regiment was the last Horse Combat Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army during the activation of forces for World War II, the last cavalry unit in the nation to give up their horses, and the last regiment to be housed at Fort Brown, Texas.
From the Library:  
Hiram Tuttle and the 1936 Olympics  
by  
James Smith

The 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin would be the second Olympics that Hiram Tuttle had competed in and an opportunity for him to build off of his success at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Tuttle did well at his first games when he won the bronze medal in individual dressage and helped to earn another bronze in the team dressage event. At this time dressage was thought of as a predominately European event. Tuttle was an older athlete (in his late 40s at the time of the 1936 Olympics) but still regarded as one of the most proficient dressage competitors in the United States.

With the 1936 Olympics being held in Berlin it meant that the world would get a glimpse of Hitler’s Germany on the national stage. The photographs and papers Tuttle brought back gives a unique glimpse of pre-war Germany. Many of the items show signs of the Nazi party. One of the souvenir photo albums that Tuttle brought back with him shows several pictures of Hitler as well.

The first two photos on this page are from the identification card of Hiram Tuttle. This card showed that he was one of the competitors at the games. The card features relatively little personal information when compared to today’s standards. This card only shows Tuttle’s place and date of birth, current address and finally a box check-marked “aktiver teilnehmer” which is translated to "active participant" showing that Tuttle was a competitor. Tuttle’s wife, Gladys, is shown on the inside of the booklet but her name is not even registered on the card. She was simply listed as Mrs. Hiram E. Tuttle. The same personal information is written under her picture.
The certificate shown below is Tuttle's award for placing first in the equestrian competition tryouts. There were preliminary and final try-outs held at Fort Riley for the equestrian events and by winning these try-outs Tuttle won the right to represent the United States in the Equestrian Event. These certificates are signed by the president of the American Olympic Committee Avery Brundage and the Secretary Frederick W. Rubien. After the try-outs, a formal letter of acceptance would be sent to the competitors congratulating them on their accomplishments. Tuttle received three of these certificates for the 1932, 1936 and 1940 Olympic Games, but due to the war, the 1940 Olympics in Helsinki were cancelled so the 1936 Olympics were the last Olympics in which he competed.

The U.S. Cavalry Association has two photo albums that are from Tuttle's visit to the 1936 Olympics. One of the albums appears to be a mass-produced souvenir of the games, because it features a number in the lower left part of the photo. Germany and the German athletes are predominately featured in this album. Many of the different Olympic events are depicted in these photos, along with the opening ceremonies and a few candid shots of the competitors. The other album seems to be more personal for Tuttle, since he is featured in several of the photographs. The focus of this album seems to be the equestrian events and gatherings of the riders.

The picture above is from the souvenir album and shows images from the track and field events. In this album Jesse Owens is featured in several shots, such as the left image. The image on the right is of
German athlete, Karl Hein, the winner of the hammer toss. These photos are an example of Germany showing another country’s team along with their own. The same photo album also begins by showing the opening ceremonies of the games at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. The picture below is of the American Olympic Equestrian team entering the arena. In this photo Hiram Tuttle is on the left.

Continued on page 17
Captain Menandro Parazo, member of the 26th Cavalry, is laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery

by
Jeffrey E. Jordan

On Monday, December 19, 2011, Captain Menandro Parazo, a member of the 26th Cavalry, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a sunny but cool day, far different from those December days, 70 years ago and half a world away, when he served with distinction in America’s last mounted cavalry, part of the Philippine Scouts.

Captain Parazo was born in the Philippines in 1918 and enlisted in the 26th Cavalry in 1941. As described in Peter F. Stevens’ recent book, The Twilight Riders, he served valiantly with that heroic unit, participating in the 26th’s distinguished stand against the Japanese forces. He was captured, surviving the brutal Bataan Death March, escaped from Japanese captivity twice and ultimately rejoined U.S. forces to participate in the liberation of the Philippines. He was awarded the Bronze Star on three occasions and also awarded numerous other commendations. After the war, he married and moved to the United States, settling in Texas. He completed his military career after more than 30 years of service, retiring with the rank of Captain. He had the pleasure of seeing his family grow and prosper, dying peacefully at age 94, surrounded by children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In recognition of his distinguished military services, his commendations and his rank, he was accorded the honor of burial with full military honors at America’s most distinguished military cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery. In recognition of his service in the 26th Cavalry and membership in the Philippine Scout Historical Society, his
family requested that the Society seek to arrange the presence at the ceremony of a reenactor in appropriate 1941 uniform, portraying a member of the 26th Cavalry. The family was delighted to find that not one, but three reenactors requested the honor of participating in the ceremony, Victor Verano of the Philippine Scout Historical Society and Philip Gibbons and Jeffrey Jordan of the U.S. Cavalry Association.

On Monday, December 19, 2011, with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren attending, a Catholic funeral mass was held for Captain Parazo and his wife, Teofila, at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Captain Parazo’s flag draped casket was transported on an artillery caisson drawn by six black horses to the grave site. The caisson was accompanied by a platoon of infantry in dress uniform, a military marching band, three reenactors portraying members of the 26th Cavalry in 1941 field uniforms and a bus, transporting the family. At the grave site, the band played and the Chaplain performed the burial ceremony. An officer presented the family with the U.S. flag that had draped the Captain’s casket in recognition of his service to the United States. A ceremonial firing party fired three volleys, a bugler movingly played Taps and a bagpiper played Amazing Grace, Donny Boy and Going Home, marching off into the distance as he played the final piece. The family decorated the casket with roses and the members of the armed services and the reenactors rendered honors at the grave side with a salute.

The family members thanked those present for attending, saving special thanks for the reenactors. The Captain’s eldest son noted the presence of the reenactors, saying on seeing them, that “my dad is smiling today.” As the family adjourned, the reenactors took the opportunity to walk back to the Old Post Chapel, noting along the way the graves of cavalrymen throughout the cemetery, memorializing the service of horse soldiers to this country from the Civil War to the present day.

Victor, Philip and I were honored to be present at this ceremony, to portray the 26th Cavalry and to mark the passing of one of the few remaining U.S. soldiers who had defended this country from the back of a horse. We are saddened by Captain Parazo’s passing but are cheered by the thought of his reunion with his comrades and his horse on Fiddlers Green.
Chance Encounter: Sherman and Forrest
by
Trooper Phil Bolté

Still early in the Civil War, the greatest battle to date took place near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, on April 6 and 7, 1862. The battle was ultimately named after a small country church in the area, enshrining it as the Battle of Shiloh. General Albert Sydney Johnston, commanding 43,000 Confederates around Corinth, Mississippi, surprised Major General Ulysses S. Grant’s Army of the Tennessee of 30,000 near Pittsburg Landing, driving the unprepared troops from their initial positions. As Grant deployed his troops into a new defensive position, he was reinforced that night by Major General Don Carlos Buell’s Army of the Ohio. The next day, Grant, now with a force of 55,000, attacked and regained most of the ground he had lost. General P.G.T. Beauregard, who had replaced General Johnston, killed on the first day, decided it was time for the Confederates to withdraw from the battlefield.

Both sides were exhausted and Grant did not follow up the Confederate withdrawal for two days. Then he directed 5th division commander Major General William T. Sherman to conduct a reconnaissance to determine if the Confederates had pulled back completely. The terrain and the tactics of the two days of heavy combat had brought little action for mounted units, which included the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry commanded by Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest. When the Confederates withdrew toward Corinth, Forrest was attached to the Confederate rear guard of Major General John C. Breckenridge’s corps, and ordered to cover the withdrawal with cavalry.

With Sherman commanding the advancing Federal force and Forrest as Confederate cavalry rear guard commander, the two who would become much better known as the war progressed, were destined to meet in what would be the only time in the war they faced each other on the battlefield.

On the morning of April 8, Sherman advanced his command of cavalry and infantry along the Corinth Road. A number of abandoned Confederate camps flying hospital flags lined the road. At all of them, Sherman found wounded and dead. At the fork in the road, Sherman ordered Colonel T.L. Dickey, commanding the 4th Illinois Cavalry, to advance on both roads. When Dickey asked for reinforcements, Sherman ordered Brigadier General John W. Wood, who had been ordered by General Buell to make a reconnaissance similar to Sherman’s, to advance his brigade along the left-hand road while Sherman advanced the 3rd Brigade of his

Clash of future Titans: Sherman and Forrest, April 8, 1862
5th Division along the right-hand road. About a half mile from the fork in the road, Sherman could see a clear field and then about 200 yards of fallen timber from an abandoned tree-cutting operation, near which he could see Confederate cavalry along a ridge. Beyond that was an extensive Confederate hospital camp. After a reconnaissance, Sherman ordered two companies of the 77th Ohio to advance as skirmishers and the remainder of the infantry regiment to form into line about 100 yards behind the line of skirmishers. Expecting the infantry to quickly clear the camp, he ordered Colonel Dickey with his troopers behind the infantry regiment to prepare for a charge.

The cavalry Sherman saw was part of Forrest’s regiment, personally commanded by him. Passive defense was not in Forrest’s nature and he only waited for additional cavalry to attack the approaching enemy. Quickly gathering a force of about 350, now reinforced by about 220 Texas Rangers (8th Texas Volunteer Cavalry) commanded by Major Thomas Harrison, replacing the wounded Colonel John A. Wharton; a company of Colonel Wirt Adams’ Mississippi cavalry; and a company of Kentucky cavalry under Captain John Hunt Morgan (another officer to be much better known later), Forrest saw his opportunity when the advancing Union troops became somewhat disorganized as they crossed a small stream. He ordered the charge sounded and, as Sherman later reported, “The enemy’s cavalry came down boldly to the charge, breaking through the line of skirmishers, when the regiment of infantry, without cause, broke, threw away their muskets, and fled.” Forrest’s men were upon them, firing a volley from shotguns at twenty paces and then closing on them with pistols and sabers. As the infantry broke, the Union cavalry, reported Sherman, “began to discharge their carbines and fell into disorder.” In a moment, Forrest and his men were among them, and for a few minutes drove them, in wild disorder, through a stretch of miry ground and across the belt of fallen timber, right against the infantry brigade Sherman had drawn up as a rallying line.

Sherman himself was almost a victim of Forrest’s charge. His aide-de-camp was knocked down, horse and rider, but Sherman and his staff “ingloriously fled” (Sherman’s words) through the mud, closely followed by Forrest and his troopers. Fortunately for Sherman, the Southern pistols were by this time already emptied.

As the Confederate cavalry approached the deployed infantry brigade, most of the troopers, realizing the odds had turned when confronted by the infantry formation, gathered up their seventy or so prisoners and withdrew. Forrest suddenly found himself alone and surrounded by blue and turned his horse as cries rang out, “Kill him!” Shoot him!” “Knock him off his horse!” One brave soldier placed the muzzle of his weapon against Forrest’s side and fired. Although wounded, too, Forrest’s horse bore him back from the fray as Forrest cleared a path with swinging saber. To protect himself from the rain of lead, he seized a hapless bluecoat, swung him up behind himself, and dropped him when out of range.
Sherman was convinced that it was, in fact, a rear guard he had encountered and that the enemy was gone, his own reconnaissance mission accomplished. Furthermore, as he reported to Grant, “The check sustained by us at the fallen timbers delayed our advance so that night came upon us … and our troops being fagged out by three days’ hard fighting, exposure, and privation, I ordered them back to camp.” Both Sherman and Forrest could look back on the action as “mission accomplished.” Forrest’s wound, though, was serious. He turned over his command and went to the nearest hospital for surgical aid, and finally reached Corinth that night. With a wound that would have killed a lesser man, Forrest was back to duty in a few weeks although a subsequent operation was required to remove the projectile close to his spine.

Although their paths never crossed directly again during the war, Forrest became a major thorn in Sherman’s side. Frustrated repeated attempts by Sherman to defeat Forrest finally brought him to issue this order: “Follow Forrest to the death if it costs 10,000 lives and breaks the Treasury. There will never be peace in Tennessee till Forrest is dead.” Nevertheless, both officers survived the war.

Hiram Tuttle and the 1936 Olympics (Continued from page 12)

Below is a photo of Hiram Tuttle riding Olympic. Tuttle acquired Olympic in an unusual way. The story goes that Tuttle did some work training horses for E.Q. McVitty, but Tuttle would not accept any pay for his work. McVitty decided to find another way to repay him. One day Tuttle received a message that said a horse had been delivered and that he needed to pay a one dollar fee to get the horse. Tuttle paid the fee and then rode Olympic in both the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Games. Tuttle, however, disappointingly did not place at the 1936 games. His teammate Earl Thomson, riding Jenny Camp, did win the silver in the individual mixed event.

Overall, the 1936 Olympics were a step down for Hiram Tuttle since he failed to place on the podium. This did not seem to deter Tuttle, though, since he did try out for and win a place on the 1940 American Olympic Equestrian team. Because of the cancellation of the 1940 Olympics, the 1936 games were the last time Tuttle would compete in the Olympics. Tuttle still kept and trained horses at Fort Riley until he could not work with them anymore, however, he still went to see them as often as he could until his death in 1956.
President's Notes

The 2012 National Cavalry Competition and Bivouac will be held September 19-22 at Fort Riley, Kansas. The schedule and information on the event will be forthcoming.

The U.S. Cavalry Memorial Library will be adding inventories of the library's holdings to the website as they become available. These inventories will be in the form of finding aids for the document collections and lists of manuals, booklets, theses and unpublished material. I encourage you to check the website periodically at www.uscavalry.org/services/cavalry-library

Also, if you are a member that is moving or has moved, be sure to update your address with the U.S. Cavalry Association. You may call 785-784-5797, email to cavalry@flinthills.com or send a letter with your updated address to P.O. Box 2325, Fort Riley, KS 66442. We also encourage you to send in articles for consideration in the Cavalry Journal.
Cut out the page and send to the U.S. Cavalry Association

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