

CHIEF



1932 - 1968

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CHIEF COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

**1 JUNE 1968
FORT RILEY, KANSAS**

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CHIEF
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The last living cavalry horse still carried on government rolls. He was foaled in 1932 and purchased by the army in 1940 at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. He was received by Post Q.M. at Fort Riley, April 3, 1941 and transferred immediately to the 10th Cavalry. In Dec. of 1949 he was placed in semi-retirement and fully retired in 1968.

In the event of his death, CHIEF will be buried with full military honors, adjacent to Old Trooper the cavalry monument on main post.

CHIEF

FOALED 1932

*ENTERED THE
MILITARY SERVICE*

1940

RETIRED

1949

UPON HIS DEATH

HE WAS THE LAST CAVALRY

MOUNT ON THE ROLLS

OF THE

UNITED STATES

ARMY

DIED 1968

Sequence of Events

1. The band plays appropriate music from 1020 to 1030 hours.
 "Mountain Battery"
 "Hit the Leather"
 "Vanished Army"
2. Participating troops in position NLT 1020 hours.
3. Arrival of Commanding General and party at 1030 hours. Color Guard Commander brings troops to "ATTENTION" and "PRESENT ARMS." General Officer honors are rendered. Upon completion of the honors by the band, the Color Guard Commander gives the Color Guard "ORDER ARMS" and "PARADE REST."
4. Remarks by the Commanding General and introduction of the guest speaker.
5. Guest speaker's remarks.
6. Upon the conclusion of the guest speaker's remarks, the Color Guard Commander brings the Color Guard to "ATTENTION."
7. The band plays "GARRY OWEN."
8. At the conclusion of the music, the Commanding General and party move from reviewing stand and forms a loose oval around vault. After the Commanding General has departed from the reviewing stand, the Color Guard Commander brings the Color Guard to "PARADE REST."
9. Personnel in attendance will be invited to come to area around the vault to include Sheridan Avenue. Commanding General makes appropriate remarks.
10. Commanding General assists and/or invites guests to remove cover from plaque.
11. This concludes the ceremony. The band plays appropriate music for ten minutes and the Color Guard moves off the parade field under the direction of the Color Guard Commander.
 "Black Horse Troop"
 "Yellow Rose of Texas"
 "Sabre and Spurs"

Historical Highlights

FORT RILEY - Chief was the last remaining government owned Cavalry horse. The bay gelding, foaled in 1932, entered the Army eight years later. He was purchased at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, from L. A. Parker of Scottsbluff, Neb., for \$163. He arrived at Fort Riley April 3, 1941 where he was assigned to the 10th Cavalry and later the 9th Cavalry. In June, 1942, Chief was transferred to the Cavalry School and remained on the post until his retirement in 1949 and death, May 24, 1968.

In December, 1949, and January, 1950, horses 16 years or under were sold, and all horses 17 years or older were placed in semi-retirement along with many other Cavalry mounts. Approximately 222 horses were involved in the transaction with about an equal number of mounts falling into each category. In July of 1953, all semi-retired horses were fully retired and accountability was given to the Fort Riley Veterinary Section.

Old stable hands report that Chief was a horse any trooper would want. He was so gentle that anyone could ride him. He was a good Cavalry horse.

At one time there were thousands of Cavalry mounts--then the number dwindled to one, Chief, and now he is gone, marking the end of the horse Cavalry, the last of his breed is gone -- another era comes to a close.

Notes

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