

REMINGTON

In the summer of 1888, I traveled with a unit of Buffalo soldiers, Tenth Cavalry on Patrol in Arizona. I am often asked about their bravery, they ask, "Will they fight?" This is easily answered. They have fought many, many times and have NEVER had a soft detail. The old sergeant here....

(Lights up on a BLACK SERGEANT.)

REMINGTON (Cont.)

As calm of feature as a bronze statute. Once he deliberately charged and quieted an enemy rifle pit. This fellow....

(Lights up on another SOLDIER.)

REMINGTON (Cont.)

Once took charge of a lot of stampeding cavalry-horses when Apache bullets were flying loose and no one knew from what point to expect them next. These men are not the "black brutes" nor the "buffoons" of white mythology. They are charming men with whom to serve. Their physiques must be admired, great chests, broad shoulders, upstanding men. Some have doubts about the negro, seeing them, I had no doubts.

(Lights out, MEN and REMINGTON.)  
(Lights up, WARD.)

WARD

Remington's words are important not because he's a white man but because he was there. He documented the truth! Well, things was changing. The Buffalo soldiers were assigned to protect Indian lands for a change, down in Oklahoma during the landrush, them "Boomers" and "Sooners" was settling anything that was vacant. Then things really changed, we got us some black officers. Of course, they had a time gettin' negroes through West Point. Ya see, white cadets at West Point attacked the black cadets. Them negroes had a tough time concentrating on studies. The first cadet James W. Smith was ousted after striking back one of his tormentors. Another man, Cadet Johnson C. Whittaker, after two years of academic success was found tied to his bed, his ears slashed and hair cut. He was court-martialed for inflicting the wounds on himself. That make a whole lotta sense don't it. Finally, one got through, the first negro to graduate from West Point, Henry O. Flipper.

(Lights out, WARD lights up FLIPPER.)