

WARD

Flipper and Young they was forerunners, cleared the path for those to come.

(We see a series of photos of the Buffalo Soldiers at Camp Funston and Fort Leavenworth.)

WARD (Cont.)

As for myself, I was part of the last years of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry. I was stationed at Fort Riley, Camp Funston. Back to Kansas where the story started. I worked with the horses trained one to go to the Olympic games. Yeah, we was the last to ride the horses. The last REAL cavalry. They didn't activate us during War World Two. In 1950, the Tenth was converted into the 510th Tank Battalion.

(The photos end.)

WARD (Cont.)

Some would say us Buffalo Soldiers was a bunch of troublemakers, militants, others would say we was the governments handymen, fools, some say we weren't good fighters, others say we was gallant, brave. All I can say is we tried to do our job. The best we could with what we had. That's all a man can do. Bobby, the story of the Buffalo soldiers is a complicated story. See, in MY opinion most black folks lives in what they calls a "contradiction". Feelin' good about what you do for this country, feeling bad about what this country DO. In some ways a good soldier ain't got no conscience. In that way, I've never been a good soldier. I believes us going through all that made it better for you kids. I BELIEVES that. And yeah, you right, don't many people know about us, what we done. Don't matter. WE know what we done, that's all a monument the Buffalo Soldier is looking for.

(A beat.)

Now, ya'll go play, Ya'll done wore me out. Gone, go play.

LIGHTS OUT.

END OF PLAY.