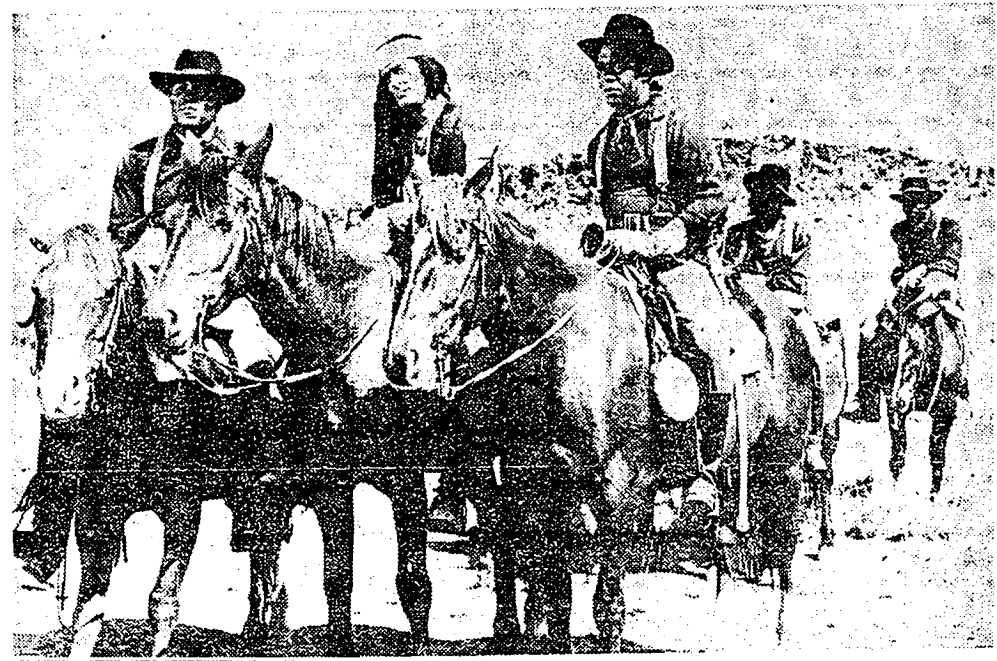


Historical glory is dim in 'Soul Soldier'



Rafer Johnson (left) and Robert DoQui of the U. S. Tenth Cavalry are joined on patrol by Indian chief Robert Dix in "Soul

Soldier," adventure drama currently at the Oriental Theatre.

By EARL CALLOWAY

"Soul Soldier," the much advertised adventure drama currently premiering at the Oriental Theatre highlighting the bravery of the 10th Cavalry in Texas during the years immediately following the Civil War, does not even scratch the surface of the heroism of those brave black soldiers.

According to released information, the film is supposed to be the first to depict the real, honest story of the all-black U. S. Tenth Cavalry during its early post-Civil War days.

One expected to see this truth revealed on screen, but the episode seen were mere prefabrications of the truth. It appeared from the script and scenes that much of their activities were centered in fights among themselves over their women, chasing Indian women and children with a slight example of a small battle with Indians.

That the Indians named them the Buffalo Soldiers, was a gesture of extreme respect, because the buffalo was sacred to the native Redman.

It would have a wonderful tribute to the bravery of black soldiers and a credit to the Fanfare Corporation if they had featured the 10th Cavalry "Like it really was". Instead the producer and director endeavored to make the movie commercially accepted. In doing so they destroyed the authenticity and dramatic excitement of a great epic in American history.

There were other black soldiers who had fought since the Civil War. But after the organization of the Tenth Cavalry at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. in 1866 with Colonel Benjamin Grierson

as its commander, the men became a legend in western history.

The Tenth patrolled Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. They fought the Sioux, Apaches, and Comanches, helped to capture Geronimo and Billy the Kid. Their most difficult job was to keep peace between settlers and cattlemen. According to General John J. Pershing who served with them, "they added glory to the military history of America."

The movie did not even mention the fact that at the first battle in Cuba, Las Guasimas, the Tenth Cavalry distinguished itself by coming to the rescue of Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders. Neither did we see any of the action during the famous Battle of San Juan Hill.

Before 1871 Troops H and I rescued Major George Forsyth during the fall of 1868 when he was surrounded by 600 to 700 Indians at Sandy Creek on the Republican River.

The 21st of August, 1867 forty of the men fought against more than 500 Indians and held them until the 18th Kansas Volunteers came to their rescue. They only lost one soldier.

In 1874 the 10th helped quiet the sporadic disturbances on the Kansas

3. Robert Mack
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frontier. When the Kiowa and Comanche broke away from their reservations in Oklahoma and started raiding the Texas Panhandle and along the Red River, they were victorious.

Early in April of 1875 Troop M of the 10th was sent to patrol the banks of the Canadian River near Fort Reno, Okla.

CAST

- Private Armstrong RAFER JOHNSON
- Sergeant Hatch LINCOLN KILPATRICK
- Trooper Eli Brown ROBERT DOQUI
- First Sergeant Robertson ISAAC FIELDS
- Private Adams OTIS TAYLOR
- Colonel Grierson CESAR ROMERO
- Julie JANEÉ MICHELLE
- Isabel ISABEL SANFORD
- Mrs. Grierson BARBARA HALE
- Walking Horse ROBERT DIX
- Kayitah BOBBY CLARK
- Captain Carpenter STEVE DREXEL
- The Suttler BYRD HOLLAND
- Private Washington BILL COLLINS
- The Signifier JOHN FOX
- Lieutenant Bigelow RUSS NANNARRELLO, JR.
- Troopers of the 10th Cavalry BERNARD BROWN, CLARENCE COMAS, DONALD DIGGS, JEFF EVERETT, CAL FIELDS, PERRY FLUKER, NOAH HOBSON, EARL HUMPHREY, DeVAUGHN LaBON, ROD LAW, JOHN NETTLES, JIM PACE, ERIC RICHMOND, JOHN RAMSEY, CHARLES WELLS, PAUL WHEATON, DAVE WHITE