



*Nebraska History* posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

## Article Title: Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Army Remount Depot, 1919-1945

Full Citation: Miller J Stewart, "Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Army Remount Depot, 1919-1945," *Nebraska History* 70 (1989): 274-282.

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1989FtRobinson.pdf>

Date: 5/21/2013

Article Summary: Fort Robinson, situated on the White River in northwest Nebraska, has a long and distinguished history. It was established in 1874 and played an active role in the subjugation of the Sioux and northern Cheyenne in the 1870s and was the center of control for the Red Cloud and Pine Ridge Indian Agencies. In 1919 the War Department established a permanent remount depot at Ft Robinson. The depot received, processed, and issued horses and mules for the military service; conducted a horse breeding program; trained personnel in animal management and administration; trained remount troops, and trained personnel in horseshoeing and saddlery.

### Cataloging Information:

Names: Edwin N Hardy, Edward C Clavert, Sumner M Williams, William F Morrison Jr, Lauren L Lawson

Place Names: Front Royal, Virginia; Lexington, Kentucky; Sheridan Wyoming; San Angelo, Texas; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Pomona Quartermaster Depot, Pomona, California; Fort Robinson, Nebraska; Crawford, Nebraska; Fort D A Russell, Wyoming; Chadron, Nebraska; Harrison, Nebraska; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort McIntosh, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Tunisia; Sicily; China-Burma-India theater; Fort Carson, Colorado

Keywords: horse drawn units; remounts; US Army Remount Service; Colorado Springs Purchasing and Breeding Headquarters; Quartermaster Corps; US Army Olympic Equestrian Team; Fourth Field Artillery Battalion; military mechanization

Photographs / Images: Fort Robinson Remount Depot; Fort Robinson headquarters and parade ground, 1941; Horses being received at Fort Robinson; Colonel Edwin N Hardy riding Mr Worlich, 1938; Train of pack mules; Soldiers playing polo

# FORT ROBINSON, NEBRASKA,

*By Miller J. Stewart*

Fort Robinson, situated on the White River in northwest Nebraska, has a long and distinguished history. Established in March 1874, the post was named for First Lieutenant Levi H. Robinson, killed by Indians the previous month. Fort Robinson played an active role in the subjugation of the Sioux and northern Cheyenne in the 1870s and was the center for control of the Red Cloud and Pine Ridge Indian agencies.<sup>1</sup> After Wounded Knee and the end of the Indian wars, the post was relatively quiet. The garrison was greatly reduced by the assignment of the Twelfth U.S. Cavalry to the Mexican border area in 1916, which left only twenty-two enlisted men and one officer at the fort.<sup>2</sup>

Remounts for mounted and horse-drawn units in the U.S. Army were at this time in great demand, because thousands had been used during World War I. To deal with this need, the War Department in 1919 created the Remount Board, consisting of regular army officers and prominent civilian horsemen, and appropriated funds for a military remount program beginning with fiscal year 1921.<sup>3</sup> A small horse breeding program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture was taken over by the army and expanded.<sup>4</sup> Permanent remount depots were established at Fort Reno, Oklahoma; Front Royal, Virginia; and Fort Robinson, Nebraska.<sup>5</sup> The largest was at Fort Robinson. These depots, under the supervision of the Quartermaster Corps, were intended to (1) receive, process, and issue horses and mules for

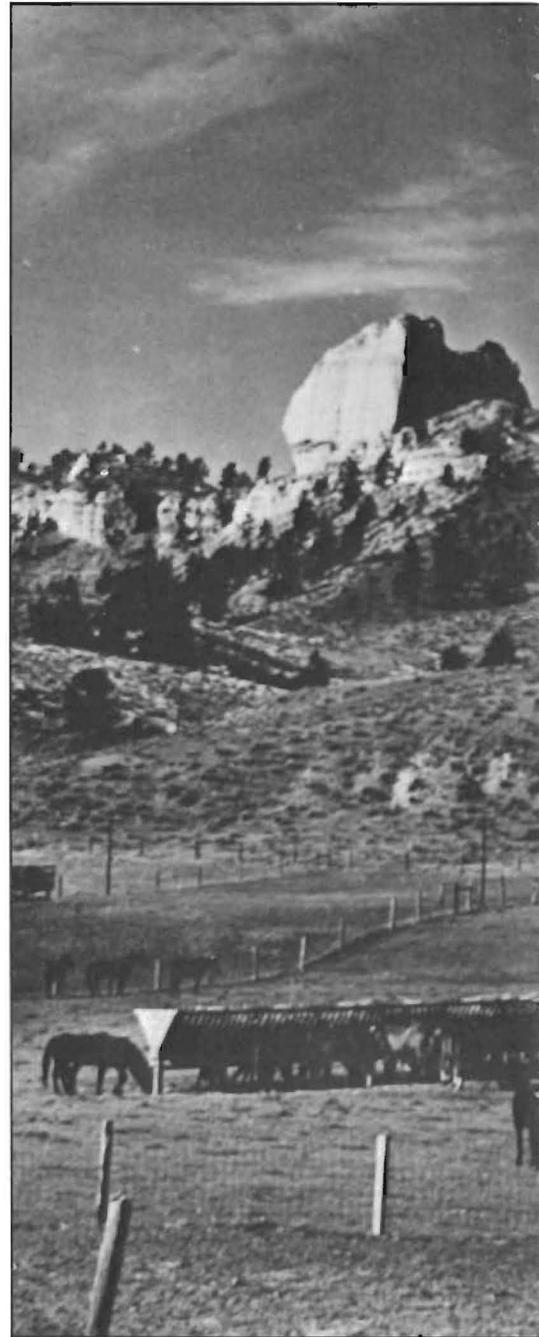
the military service (2) receive, condition, and issue stallions used in connection with the army's horse breeding program (3) train personnel in animal management and administration (4) train remount troops, and (5) train personnel in horseshoeing and saddlery. These tasks could not be well performed outside the remount depots. Military units trained animals specifically for work with the cavalry or field artillery but rarely had men capable of first conditioning them or giving preliminary training.

Fort Robinson was an ideal location for a remount depot, with 23,000 acres of rolling prairie sparsely covered with small pine trees, fertile soil, and a sixteen-square-mile timber and wood reserve. In addition, a Chicago and North Western Railroad siding on the post aided the smooth receipt and issue of animals. "Fort Robinson," declared Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, chief of the U.S. Army Remount Service in 1941, was "the best of the three Remount Depots in the country."<sup>6</sup>

In early 1920 Lieutenant Colonel Edward C. Calvert, Fort Robinson's commanding officer, and his men began to prepare the fort for its new role. The troops removed from the post for duty on the Mexican border had left a reduced garrison inadequate to keep the post in proper condition. Corrals and fences sagged; sheds and stables became dilapidated; bridges and roads disintegrated. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Calvert faced problems caused by public and private roads crisscrossing the military reservation, making it difficult to efficiently use the land for grazing and cultivation. After much wrangling, correspondence, and one court case, this matter was resolved in favor of the government.<sup>7</sup>

---

*Miller J. Stewart, a retired educator and Army officer, is a free-lance historian and author of the book Moving the Wounded.*



# ARMY REMOUNT DEPOT, 1919-1945

*Fort Robinson Remount Depot.  
(NSHS-R659-4502)*





*Fort Robinson headquarters and parade ground, 1941. (NSHS-R659-81)*

However, the personnel problem proved more difficult. The majority of the enlisted men posted for duty in 1919 were one-year soldiers; few had intended to remain in the army and by late summer 1920 had been discharged. From December 1919 to December 1920 the number of enlisted men at Fort Robinson dropped from 136 to 44.<sup>8</sup> Soldier replacements were unobtainable for a time, which made the depot wholly dependent upon a scarce and uncertain civilian labor supply.

The first task for the small number of enlisted men supplemented with civilian laborers from nearby Crawford was stringing thirty-eight miles of fence, rebuilding corrals, some stables, and water troughs. Three bridges were put in good order and some of the main roads repaired. This rebuilding, repair, and new construction went on at a furious pace, then slowed only to pick up again – an ongoing operation supervised by quartermaster and noncommissioned officers. Particularly notable was the fabrication and installation of the Reno type bunk or feeder, a combination hay and grain rack so placed that animals could feed from both

sides. Other facilities constructed included box stalls for stallions and mares; new stables for brood mares and yearlings; storage sheds for machinery; hay and grain buildings; concrete dipping vat; concrete ford across the White River; shelter sheds; and new water systems.<sup>9</sup> Of course, some older structures were demolished to make way for new ones. Five barracks dating from 1887 were razed in 1923.<sup>10</sup> During major new construction begun in 1927, several elaborate horse stables were built.<sup>11</sup>

Civilian laborers, both permanent and temporary, continued to be employed at Fort Robinson throughout the remount depot era. A few long-term employees experienced in handling horses were assured of long tenure. Most of the laborers were engaged in construction, farm chores, and building maintenance. This employment boosted the economy of Crawford and the surrounding vicinity. Ranchers, who sold excess forage and sometimes animals to the remount depot, benefited greatly.

Most of the horses handled at the remount depot were purchased when

about five years of age. When these animals arrived on the post, they were quarantined to make sure they were healthy and then trained by civilians hired for that purpose.<sup>12</sup> Before an issue was made, each riding horse, equipped with flat saddle and snaffle bit, was ridden until it was easily handled. Each draft animal was gentled and accustomed to work with a team. Colts purchased at the depot in the previous year were stabled, conditioned, and gentled for issuance the coming year. Unsuitable animals were condemned and destroyed.<sup>13</sup> The first group of over 200 was issued in 1921 to National Guard and ROTC mounted units. A group of 199 cavalry horses was shipped to a detachment of the Fifteenth U.S. Cavalry at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. These animals received much favorable comment.<sup>14</sup>

The role of Fort Robinson and the other remount depots was of paramount importance, not only in the receipt and issue of horses and mules for the military, but in the army horse breeding program as well. The army's breeding program had come into full operation in 1919 with the creation of

## Fort Robinson

the Remount Board and began at Fort Robinson in early 1920 with the arrival of 125 draft mares from Fort Keogh, Montana.<sup>15</sup> All the mares had been bred to thoroughbred stallions the previous spring and were in excellent condition. Among the stallions received in 1920 were Defense, O'Sullivan, and Roly from Fort Keogh.<sup>16</sup> A total of 118 brood mares were assigned to these three stallions between April 1920 and January 1921. From the 1920s to the outbreak of World War II, such brood mares as Sweet Charity, Fair Witch, Sue Russell, Silent Moment, Shower of Roses, Nebraska Belle, Twinkle Twinkle, and others continued to produce healthy, well-formed foals.

However, not all horse breeding activities were carried on at the remount depots. A long-range plan involving area ranchers and other private horse breeders was put into operation by the Remount Board in 1921.<sup>17</sup> The plan resulted from the difficulty experienced by the Remount Service in procuring horses and mules during World War I, when authorities realized that a serious shortage of suitable animals was developing as a result of the general trend toward motorization on American farms and ranches. To implement this program the nation was divided geographically into remount areas, each with an appropriate headquarters. At the outbreak of World War II there were seven remount areas corresponding roughly to the seven corps areas. With the decline of remount activities, the number was reduced to six in late 1944. The six were located at Front Royal, Virginia; Lexington, Kentucky; Sheridan, Wyoming; San Angelo, Texas; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Pomona Quartermaster Depot, Pomona, California. Their responsibilities consisted largely of procuring animals for military use, of buying stallions for breeding purposes, and of selecting and inspecting civilian breeding centers.<sup>18</sup>

The role of the remount areas was vital in the army horse breeding program, for they were responsible not

only for locating and procuring the best available stallions, but also for placing them in the hands of civilian breeders throughout the country and for supervising the actual conduct of breeding activities. The Colorado Springs Purchasing and Breeding Headquarters handled affairs in conjunction with the Fort Robinson Remount Depot. Colorado Springs also placed stallions in Arizona, Wyoming, California, and other western states.<sup>19</sup>

Before civilian breeders, or local agents as they were sometimes called, received a stallion, they had to satisfactorily complete a questionnaire which ascertained location of the ranch, housing facilities for the stallions, grazing area, type of grass, and the number and breed of mares to be serviced. Stallions were shipped to the recipient at government expense, but the breeder was responsible for all costs incident to

the care and maintenance of the stallions. At least twenty mares were to be bred. The government was not obligated to buy the offspring of the stallions, but normally about seventy-five percent of the horses procured were produced by sires placed with agents under the breeding program.<sup>20</sup> The private breeder was prohibited from using the stallion for commercial purposes or personal gain. However, later regulations permitted the breeder to charge a modest stud fee for each outside mare bred. If the stallion proved unsatisfactory, it could be returned without expense to the government. In case the stallion fell sick, the breeder was to provide the best veterinary care available. If the stallion died, its body was to be decently buried to a sufficient depth that would prevent ravaging by dogs or wild animals, and the grave was to be

*Horses being received at Fort Robinson. (NSHS-R659-4483)*





Colonel Edwin N. Hardy riding Mr. Worlich, 1938 (NSHS-R659-2659)

marked by an inexpensive marker.<sup>21</sup>

In addition to its value to the military remount program, the army horse breeding program did a great deal to improve the breeding stock of agents who participated. Every effort was made by the Fort Robinson Remount Depot to build up the breeding stock of Crawford area ranchers and horse raisers. Government stallions were not only placed with them through the breeding program, but animals were sold to private parties and privately owned mares were bred at the post. The finest examples of the remount depot's breeding stock were exhibited periodically at local fairs in Crawford, Harrison, and Chadron.<sup>22</sup>

In spite of its overall success, some problems with the program developed. Placing and keeping a stallion with a private breeder required a voluminous amount of correspondence and a considerable amount of travel by the

military officer in charge. Remount officers at Fort Robinson complained that all too often breeders returned stallions in poor condition. Those with incurable injuries or diseases had to be destroyed. Remount officers believed that more frequent inspections of stallions on loan to private agents would have reduced or eliminated such problems.<sup>23</sup>

Continuous veterinary care was given animals during their stay at the Fort Robinson Remount Depot. Corrals, stables, and pastures were daily surveyed for sick animals. Thousands of horses and mules were inoculated, treated for traumas, and maintained in good health. In addition, routine inspection of forage, meat and dairy products, and sanitation came under the jurisdiction of the veterinary section.

The veterinary hospital, built in 1908, was the standard brick cavalry

regimental type capable of accommodating forty-four patients, including four in isolation. A central brick-paved drive wide enough for a standard horse ambulance ran the entire length of the hospital, which included a well-equipped, well-lighted operating room. Opposite the operating room and across the drive were the offices, dispensary, and library. The entire building was heated by steam from a basement boiler.<sup>24</sup>

In such a large animal facility as Fort Robinson, a great deal of veterinary attention was required for wounds and other unavoidable traumas such as sprains, dislocations, simple fractures, and hematomas. A considerable number of penetrating and lacerating wounds were caused by barbed wire fences (later replaced by smooth wire fences) and the untrained handling of western horses in the stables.<sup>25</sup>

Strangles, pneumonia, and equine

## Fort Robinson

influenza (shipping fever) were the leading diseases requiring hospitalization. Another source of concern was ringworm. The cause of this infection was unknown, for there had been no history of ringworm at Fort Robinson prior to 1925. Lack of isolation pens aggravated the problem. Fortunately, this disease was eventually brought under control by use of a lime and sulphur dip.<sup>26</sup>

Early in 1921 a strange disorder which baffled Fort Robinson veterinarians showed up among the brood mares. The symptoms included sluggish movement of hind legs, swollen bellies, and high temperatures. Carriers of the disease were detected only by the spread of the disease to animals associated with them.<sup>27</sup> Eventually the director of the Remount Service in Washington, D.C. sent a veterinary specialist, who determined that the mares were suffering from equine infectious anemia (swamp fever) and recommended the destruction of infected animals, segregation of suspected cases, and the quarantine of pasturage. These recommendations were carried out, but the depot did lose eighteen mares and nine colts.<sup>28</sup>

Besides the treatment of diseases and injuries, the veterinary section was responsible for inoculating and testing all incoming animals as well as testing breeding animals. All horses when first received were tested for glanders, the fatal disease that could destroy an entire herd of horses or mules. Inoculations against equine encephalomyelitis, tetanus, and anthrax comprised a large part of the veterinary workload in the remount depots. At Fort Reno and Fort Robinson these accounted for more than 200,000 inoculations during the World War II period.<sup>29</sup> Post-mortem examinations were conducted on all government animals that died of unknown causes or that had to be destroyed.

In 1936 the Veterinary Division of the Surgeon General's Office prepared a well-integrated plan to assist in the collection, submission, and tabulation

of all significant veterinary data on army horse breeding activities. This data was to be collected at each remount depot and submitted annually to the Veterinary Division. Here the data was analyzed and disseminated to veterinarians at each of the remount depots.<sup>30</sup> The plan sought to insure uniform veterinary care and treatment at all remount depots by keeping veterinary officers informed of new developments in the field of horse breeding.<sup>31</sup>

Fort Robinson during the remount depot era provided for the needs of its human as well as its animal residents. Officers realized that

to keep up the morale of the enlisted men departures must be made from the daily grind of cleaning out stables, riding, grooming and feeding during the fall, winter and spring and then [going]

to the hay fields during June, July and August where privates keep up their end of harvesting alongside civilian laborers whose remuneration is frequently double [that] of the soldiers.<sup>32</sup>

Recreation took a number of forms. Dances on and off the post were always popular, and a tennis court was open to all personnel. A post library and reading room were available, and by 1932 moving pictures were being shown three times weekly. Baseball, a popular sport at many western military posts, was less so at Fort Robinson during the 1920s and 1930s because of the time required to tend the animals on the post. However, a softball league was organized in the 1930s with teams consisting of ten players plus five substitutes. Regular games were scheduled, many with teams in Crawford, where the game was more popular.<sup>33</sup>

*Train of pack mules. (NSHS-R659-365)*



A polo team provided recreation and promoted interest in horses and horsemanship. In 1924 the team played three games in Omaha and in 1925 traveled to Fort Meade, South Dakota, to play.<sup>34</sup> Officers also formed at their own expense the Soldier Creek Hunt Club to run down coyotes in lieu of the traditional fox with their pack of Welsh, English, and French stag hounds, many of which were donated to the Fort Robinson boys by the cavalry school at Fort Riley, Kansas, and a Denver, Colorado, hunt club.<sup>35</sup> Officers and enlisted men, together with a scattering of like-minded citizens from Crawford, availed themselves of the opportunity to ride to hounds twice a week. A decade later the 1936 U.S. Army Olympic Equestrian Team trained at the excellent Fort Robinson Remount Depot riding facilities. The teams of 1938 and 1939 also trained at the post.<sup>36</sup>

Farming and gardening at Fort Robinson provided a large amount of forage and vegetables for the men and animals. The year 1922 was an especially good year for the post garden. While the exact acreage is unknown, it must have been quite large to yield twenty-six different varieties of vegetables ranging from beans to watermelons. Poundage yields included 3,739 of carrots; cucumbers, 1,470; lettuce, 150; green onions, 1,021; potatoes, 51,470; radishes, 130; turnips, 1,235; and watermelons, 800. The post's gardeners exhibited their produce as part of the Dawes County display at the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln and were awarded first premium.<sup>37</sup> Dairies maintained on the post furnished enough high grade milk for the garrison, and pigs and chickens were also raised.

The years 1921-26 were boom years for the post farmers, as indicated by the 1926 crop yield: alfalfa, 1,360 tons; prairie hay, 30 tons; oat and rye hay, 37 tons; corn, 40,190 pounds; oats, 150,000 pounds; sorghum, 43,000 pounds; and straw for bedding, 135 tons.<sup>38</sup> All conditions indicated that alfalfa would be

the post's staple crop. The White River Valley had for years shown a yield per acre that equalled that of any area in the state. Forage production was begun on the post by sowing alfalfa on virgin sod, and by 1922 three cuttings yielded 1,200 tons – a low yield because of a grasshopper invasion.<sup>39</sup>

The year 1928 brought many changes to Fort Robinson. Major Sumner M. Williams, Quartermaster Corps, assumed command of the post February 10, 1928. At the same time official word was received that the Fourth Field Artillery Battalion, a pack unit, would be permanently stationed at Fort Robinson. This unit was being sent to Nebraska because of the crowded training facilities of its previous post at Fort McIntosh, Texas.<sup>40</sup> The post commander was directed to recommend a suitable division of the military reservation to accommodate both the artillery battalion and the remount depot. The subsequent division gave to the artillery four brick barracks, three brick stables, three wooden stables, the blacksmith shop, and some sheds as well as 2,500 to 3,000 acres in the northern part of the reservation. The remainder of the property, including the timber and wood reserve, exclusive of the post proper, was reserved for the use of the remount depot. All facilities of the post such as the post exchange, hospital, gymnasium, and headquarters, were to be in common use. Lieutenant Colonel William F. Morrison, Jr., commanding officer of the Fourth Field Artillery Battalion, arrived at Fort Robinson May 1 and the body of his troops on May 21.<sup>41</sup>

Social and official relations between the two units were generally good. The depot received from the artillery as surplus twenty-five riding horses and forty-nine pack mules. The veterinary services of both organizations were pooled, and the senior veterinarian placed in charge of the combined service and veterinary hospital. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Colonel Lauren L. Lawson, who assumed command of the Fourth Field Artillery January 1, 1929,

and was also post commander, recommended that the post be redivided in a manner that would take away from the remount depot the only permanent stables and stable areas assigned to it in the post proper and move other depot installations entirely off the post. However, the War Department disapproved, and the plan was never implemented. The remount depot in 1931 regained its former exclusive use of the military reservation after the Fourth Field Artillery Battalion was posted to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.<sup>42</sup>

In April of 1932 Fort Robinson was designated headquarters of the Nebraska District of the Seventh Corps Area of the newly established Civilian Conservation Corps, administered by the War Department. Major Edwin N. Hardy, post commander, supervised the Nebraska District from the time of its establishment until district headquarters were moved to Fort Crook, Omaha, a year later. Fort Robinson's buildings were repaired and several recreational facilities built by the CCC between 1933 and 1935.<sup>43</sup>

In 1939 Fort Robinson was placed on a full-time war footing. The resulting demand upon the animal and veterinary sections was monumental. Average animal strength jumped from 1,324 in late 1929 to 2,606 in late 1940. The number of incoming animals for the same period jumped from 763 to 7,287; the number issued from 509 to 2,108.<sup>44</sup> The single largest shipment came in 1943 when 1,082 mules were loaded onto 49 stock cars at the railroad siding.<sup>45</sup>

Mules had been handled at Fort Robinson throughout the remount depot era, but World War II greatly increased demand for these sturdy, sure-footed pack animals. Mules were handled in much the same way as the horses but were trained to climb over rough terrain. In the early years of the war, more horses than mules were processed by the Remount Service, but by 1943, when only four horses were purchased (and none thereafter),



*Soldiers playing polo. (NSHS-R659-2675)*

10,200 mules were procured and more than 14,000 in the final two years of the war.<sup>46</sup> Pack mules were used by U.S. forces in Tunisia, Sicily, and especially in the rugged mountain terrain of Italy where motorized vehicles could not negotiate the steep, narrow trails. Animal pack outfits were also used in the China-Burma-India theater. However, despite the sharp increase in procurement of mules in the United States, many of the pack animals used overseas were procured locally because of the difficulty of shipping so many mules and their forage from this country.<sup>47</sup>

During the war accusations that veterinary officers in military units lacked experience with horses and mules reached the ears of the veterinary staff at Fort Robinson. Hence a Veterinary Officer Training and Replacement Pool was established at the fort quartermaster depot in 1943 to give young veterinarians practical instruction in the care and handling of horses and mules prior to their military assignments. By August 23, 1943, a curriculum had been set up, texts selected, and a four-week training

schedule instituted. All officers permanently assigned to the depot were to be instructors. Fort Robinson also received a fair number of quartermaster and veterinary corps reserve officers assigned for varying periods of training.<sup>48</sup>

Between World Wars I and II the role of animals in modern warfare was widely studied and discussed. World War I signaled an end to the traditional role of cavalry as an attack force. Its new role was one of "reconnoitering, scouting, and harassment, with a secondary purpose of attack."<sup>49</sup> In 1930 the Army Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, ordered that each service branch "be mechanized to the fullest extent to achieve its mission."<sup>50</sup> However, the army in 1940 still had two horse cavalry divisions, two horse-drawn artillery regiments, and two mixed horse and motor transport regiments with a total authorized animal strength of 16,000-20,000 horses and 3,500 mules.<sup>51</sup> And at the time of Pearl Harbor, about half the army's cavalry forces were still horse-mounted.<sup>52</sup>

Beginning in 1942 the receipt and

processing of horses and mules returning from the war zone in Europe became as great a task as processing newly received animals. This situation began to develop when many cavalry units were dehorsed, because the troops were needed overseas immediately and no shipping space was available for the animals.<sup>53</sup> The dismounting of one famous regiment, the Fourth U.S. Cavalry, took place at Fort Robinson in April 1942.<sup>54</sup>

Remount Branch statistics for fiscal years 1941-45 indicate the extent to which horses were liquidated in World War II. Approximately 33,000 horses were returned to the depots as compared to less than 31,000 issued (exclusive of about 3,900 loaned to the Coast Guard for beach patrol duty). The army horse breeding program continued to operate on a slightly reduced scale throughout the war. It was more difficult to place stallions with civilian agents, because war conditions and shortage of farm laborers made it impossible in many instances to provide proper care. Nevertheless, 39,999 foals were produced during the war years.<sup>55</sup>

As World War II continued to wind down, so did the enlisted strength at Fort Robinson. The veterinary section compensated by using German prisoners of war from the nearby prisoner of war camp, established March 15, 1943, which had space for over 3,000 inmates. About twenty-eight men per day were needed, several of whom were used as laboratory technicians in the operating room.<sup>56</sup>

By 1947 military mechanization was almost complete, and the War Department determined that horses and mules in its operations were no longer needed. On July 1, 1948, the army horse breeding program was transferred to the Department of Agriculture, along with the remount depots, equipment, and breeding stock. The program was liquidated the following year and all property sold at public auction.<sup>57</sup> Two animal units equipped with mules and a small number of horses were retained at Fort Carson, Colorado, but were deactivated February 15, 1957, and all their animals sold or transferred to other government agencies.<sup>58</sup> An era had ended. Fort Robinson today is a Nebraska state park with original and reconstructed buildings to interpret the post's varied past, including the remount depot era.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Thomas R. Buecker, "The 1887 Expansion of Fort Robinson," *Nebraska History* 68(Summer 1987):83-84.

<sup>2</sup>Anthony J. Hytrek, "The History of Fort Robinson, Nebraska, From 1900 to the Present" (Masters degree thesis, Chadron State College, 1971), 29.

<sup>3</sup>Anna M. Waller, *Army Horses and Mules and National Defense* (Washington, D.C.; Depart-

ment of the Army, Office of the Quartermaster General, 1958), 5.

<sup>4</sup>A. D. Melvin, "Breeding Horses for the U.S. Army," *U.S.D.A. Circular 178*, April 1911.

<sup>5</sup>*War Department*, Special Order No. 129, December 1, 1919. The Pomona, California, Remount Depot was acquired in 1943 when W. K. Kellogg donated his Arabian horse nursery to the government. Everett B. Miller, *The United States Veterinary Service in World War II* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, Surgeon General's Office, 1961), 492. Waller, *Army Horses*, 10.

<sup>6</sup>*Omaha Sunday World-Herald*, January 14, 1941. Colonel Hardy was stationed at Fort Robinson in the early 1930s.

<sup>7</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1920, RG92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Fort Robinson Remount Depot, at National Archives and Records Administration, Central Plains Region, Kansas City, Missouri.

<sup>8</sup>"Post Returns, Fort Robinson, Nebraska (1917-1920)," RG501, Records of the American Expeditionary Forces, RG120, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

<sup>9</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1920.

<sup>10</sup>Buecker, "1887 Expansion," 92.

<sup>11</sup>Roger T. Grange, Jr., "Fort Robinson, Outpost on the Plains," *Nebraska History* 39(Sep-tember 1958), 233.

<sup>12</sup>Hytrek, "Fort Robinson," 34.

<sup>13</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1928.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, 1921.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, 1920, 1925. Colonel Floyd C. Sager, V.C., *History of the Veterinary Service at the Fort Robinson Quartermaster Remount Depot, 1929-1945* (Unpublished manuscript, Nebraska State Historical Society Archives, Lincoln).

<sup>16</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1920.

<sup>17</sup>Waller, *Army Horses*, 5.

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, 8.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup>Stallion Record Files, RG501, Series 2, Box 2, Folders 18-20.

<sup>22</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1921. The September 4, 1925, *Crawford Tribune* noted: "The fine, thorobred horses shown by the managers of the Remount Station at Fort Robinson [at the 1925 Tri-State Fair in Crawford] attracted considerable attention and elicited much favorable comment."

<sup>23</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1925-31.

<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*, 1925.

<sup>25</sup>*Ibid.*, 1926.

<sup>26</sup>*Ibid.*, 1928, 1929.

<sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*, 1921. *Veterinary Service in Wartime* (Chicago, IL: Veterinary Magazine Corps, 1942).

<sup>28</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1921.

<sup>29</sup>Miller, *Veterinary Service*, 495.

<sup>30</sup>Lieutenant Colonel William Jennings, V.C., "Twelve Years of Horse Breeding in the U.S. Army," *Journal American Veterinary Medical Association* (1950), 11-15.

<sup>31</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1925.

<sup>33</sup>*Ibid.*, 1932.

<sup>34</sup>*Ibid.*, 1925.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, 1932. Grange, "Fort Robinson," 230.

<sup>36</sup>Grange, "Fort Robinson," 230. Hytrek, "Fort Robinson," 41-42. The August 19, 1928, *Crawford Tribune* described a riding and jumping exhibition staged by the equestrian team for the benefit of area citizens.

<sup>37</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1922. For a detailed account of the army agriculture program, see Miller J. Stewart, "To Plow, To Sow, To Reap, To Mow: The US Army Agriculture Program," *Nebraska History* 63(Summer 1982), 194-215.

<sup>38</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1926.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, 1920, 1922, 1925.

<sup>40</sup>*Crawford Tribune*, March 2, 1928.

<sup>41</sup>"Remount Depot History," 1928.

<sup>42</sup>*Ibid.*, 1928-31.

<sup>43</sup>Heather M. Wilson, "A Brief History of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Nebraska" (Unpublished, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1985), 2-3. Grange, "Fort Robinson," 233. Hytrek, "Fort Robinson," 39-40.

<sup>44</sup>Miller, *Veterinary Service*, 495.

<sup>45</sup>*Hoof Beats and Barks* (Fort Robinson post newspaper), March 12, 1943. The title refers to the remount depot and to the War Dog Reception and Training Center, activated on October 3, 1942, to train war dogs for sentry, trail, tactical, sledge, pack, and hospital service. The installation was closed in September 1946. Grange, "Fort Robinson," 231.

<sup>46</sup>Waller, *Army Horses*, 24.

<sup>47</sup>*Ibid.*, 27.

<sup>48</sup>Sager, *Veterinary Service*.

<sup>49</sup>Thomas R. Buecker, "The Dismounting of the Fourth Cavalry at Fort Robinson, 1942," *Rural Electric Nebraskan* 43(February 1989):12.

<sup>50</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup>Waller, *Army Horses*, 10.

<sup>52</sup>Buecker, "Fourth Cavalry," 12.

<sup>53</sup>Waller, *Army Horses*, 16.

<sup>54</sup>Buecker, "Fourth Cavalry," 12.

<sup>55</sup>*Ibid.*, 19.

<sup>56</sup>Sager, *Veterinary Service*.

<sup>57</sup>U.S. Stats at Large, 62: Pt. I, 197; C. D. Ramsell, "The Remount Service," *Quartermaster Review*, 25(November-December 1955).

<sup>58</sup>Waller, *Army Horses*, 30.