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## INTRODUCTION

This second edition of *Working Americans Volume V: Americans At War*, updates the topic to 2015. Its first edition, in 2003, was the fifth volume in the *Working Americans* series. Like the other titles in the series: *The Working Class*; *The Middle Class*; *The Upper Class*; *Their Children*; *Women at Work*; *Social Movements*; *Immigrants*; *Revolutionary to Civil Wars*; *Sports & Recreation*; *Inventors & Entrepreneurs*; *History Through Music*; and *Educators*, *At War* observes the lives of Americans, decade by decade. This new edition extends its period of examination to 2015, and includes the most recent conflicts America is facing, including those in Afghanistan and Iraq. *Americans At War* considers how war affects Americans of all economic levels—steamship magnate to inner-city teenager—and at all levels of participation—West Point graduate to a telephone engineer. By studying both those who have fought at the front lines and those at home who support (or oppose) war efforts, we examine the pulse of the nation, its reaction, and its ability to adapt to the ever-changing face of the world under the shadow of strife.

### Praise for earlier volumes—

*“This volume serves as an outstanding overview...highly recommended for school libraries [and] it should also be found in public libraries of every size.”*

*“The intent of this work is to profile individuals involved in music at all levels...and the publisher in large achieves that lofty goal.”*

—American Reference Books Annual

*“[the author] adds to the genre of social history known as ‘history from the bottom up,’ which examines the lives of ordinary people... Recommended for all colleges and university library collections.”*

—Choice

*“This volume engages and informs, contributing significantly and meaningfully to the historiography of the working class in America...”*

—Library Journal

*“These interesting, unique compilations of economic and social facts, figures, and graphs will support multiple research needs. They will engage and enlighten patrons in high school, public, and academic library collections.”*

—Booklist

Whether it be a declared conflict, an impromptu protest, a single military action, a relief effort, or a preparation for future skirmish, *Americans At War* delves into the many forms of political and social unrest. You will read about officers, civilians, enlisted personnel, and political figures, all of who play important roles in the changes effected by war and its permutations on the evolution of America.

As a “point in time” book, this volume is designed to illustrate reality during times of war. It offers first-hand accounts of men and women fighting in deplorable conditions and stories of others witnessing horrendous, violent acts.

We were concerned that graphic descriptions of warfare and social comments, not considered politically correct by today’s standards, might be offensive to our audience. This notion was dispelled when previous purchasers of the series, primarily high school and public librarians, told us to not change a thing. The point of primary source material, they said, is to show others how it was...that it is crucial to show others how it was...and that the *Working Americans* series does just that.

The clippings, photographs, illustrations, and public postings reproduced in these pages are all accurate to their specific time period, and they help to demonstrate how social change impacts the ways of war, and how the ways of war enact social change, prejudices and injustices. Indeed, the realities of war often rely on predisposition and social history as the basis for conflict. Since the *Working Americans* series is based in hard facts and historical actualities, the primary documents that pertain often reflect historically valuable social outlooks.

*Americans at War* profiles Americans of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, and locations. Materials such as economic data, gubernatorial statistics, historiography, family archives, and publications contribute to the formation of well-researched details utilized in each chapter. The primary documents and historical matter range from excerpted song lyrics and political speeches to mementos of the era—pictorial propaganda, sociopolitical cartoons, book covers, and bottle caps.

In *Working Americans 1880-2015: Americans At War*, each of the 13 chapters begins with an overview of important events pertinent to the decade examined. Each chapter contains personal Profiles—a total of 38—plus Economic Profiles, Historical Snapshots and News Features. These common elements, as well as specialized data like Selected Prices and Average Pay, punctuate each chapter and act as statistical comparisons between decades, as well as between Americans of different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Most of the 38 Profiles are composites of real events and situations with invented names; a few, specifically the final four, use the individual’s real names. The Profiles examine Life at Home, Life at Work and Life in the Community. Home ranges from California to Florida; ethnic origins, from Polish to African-American. Life at Work examines such workplaces as the cockpit of an army jet and the rooms of a French field hospital.

In nearly 700 pages, *Americans At War* offers a broad range of details intended to shed light on the actual people living through actual conflict. They include volunteer soldiers, eager to effect their patriotism in the trenches of battle; antiwar advocates decrying the disasters of discord; and those who were moved to action by the deaths of family members at the hands of war. The underlying and integral thread that links every person profiled is their first-hand experiences of what it means to be an American at war.



## 1891 PROFILE

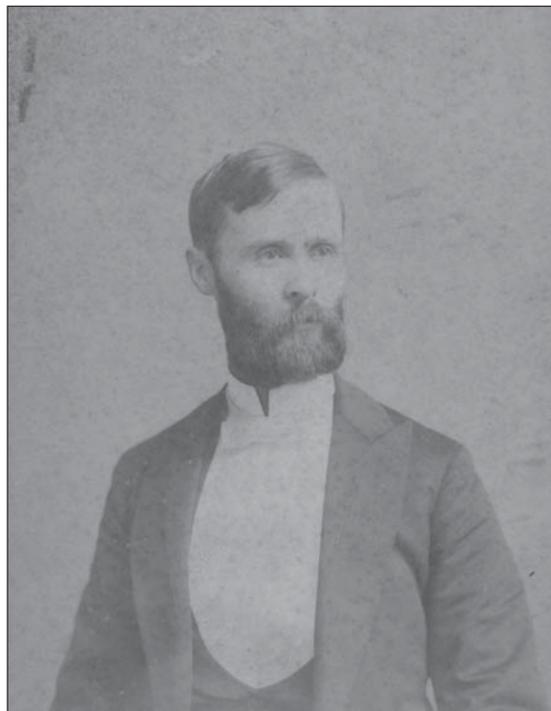
### THE INDIAN WARS

#### Second Lieutenant

As the Indian Wars come to an end, Ohio native Second Lieutenant Eddie Rausch has been assigned the unrewarding task of patrolling the windswept lands of North Dakota, while reliving memories of the Battle of Pine Ridge and praying for a warmer assignment soon.

#### Life at Home

- Second Lt. Edwin “Eddie” Rausch grew up in a small community in northeast Ohio, equidistant from Cleveland and Lake Erie.
- His childhood was filled with tales of military adventures frequently and robustly recounted by his great-uncles from their Civil War exploits.
- Rausch men, he was told repeatedly, were born to fight, ever since Johann Rausch was conscripted to serve his German princeling and found himself rented out to fight for the British against the American colonists.
- After the Revolutionary War, Johann stayed in America, settled in the middle of the vast new nation, and produced a long line of soldiers, farmers and merchants.
- Eddie Rausch was destined to be a soldier, his uncles averred.
- The third son in a family of seven, Eddie proved to be an average student, but a superb horseman who loved the outdoors.
- His father, a prosperous farmer and shopkeeper, used his political connections with their congressman to wrangle Eddie an appointment to West Point.



*Eddie Rausch participated in the Battle of Pine Ridge.*

- After a lifetime of dime-store war novels and family battle stories, Eddie envisioned himself in the midst of historic cavalry assaults.
- Instead, his first major clash was with the Corps' stringent engineering curriculum, with Eddie ending up on the losing side.
- At graduation, postings were determined by a student's class rank; Eddie Rausch, horse-lover and man of the outdoors, was not in the top half of the class of 1889, and as a result, was the last officer chosen for the cavalry.
- His assignment was the unpopular role of leading the 9th Cavalry Regiment, one of two all-black cavalry units in the army, now stationed in the West.
- Although Second Lt. Rausch was happy to be out of school and back in the saddle, he was equally uncertain about his assignment.
- No blacks lived in his section of Ohio, and he had seen few in his entire life; it was widely believed in the military that blacks made good soldiers if, and only if, led by a strong and resourceful white officer.
- When he arrived at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Eddie was immediately impressed with the quality of his troops, finding the Negroes to be excellent soldiers.
- While many in K-Troop were planning to make a career of the military and acted accordingly, many of the white men at Fort Robinson who considered soldiering a temporary position were lazy and undisciplined.
- Months later, emergency orders arrived for K-Troop to move out immediately to Fort Buford in the Dakota Territory. Eddie was elated—a chance to engage the enemy at last!



*The Indian Wars of the American West were drawing to a close in 1891.*

- While some officers studied the Indians, their customs, background, weapons and tools, Eddie used his ample quiet time to study the military mission of each Western fort, including Fort Buford.
- Not only was it well-known as the place where Chief Sitting Bull surrendered, but it also played a significant role in keeping the Indians in check so settlers and railroads could continue westward.
- A call for additional troops could only mean one thing—an Indian uprising.

### Life at Work

- The urgent telegram arrived on November 19, 1890, at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.
- “Move out as soon as possible with the troop of cavalry at your post; bring all the wagon transportation you can spare, pack-mules and saddles; extra ammunition and rations will be provided when you reach the railroad.—By order of the Department Commander.”
- The soldiers of Second Lt. Eddie Rausch’s K-Troop, nicknamed “Buffalo soldiers” by the Indians because of the perceived similarity of their hair, were needed—it was time to move out.
- At the railroad station, word came that the Sioux Indians of the Dakota Territory were on the warpath and had murdered settlers.
- The rumors meshed with stories Eddie had heard about a new Indian religious movement.
- Zealots of the Ghost Shirt movement believed that soon the buffalo would return and all white men would be swallowed by the land; they also had come to believe that the special shirts they wore into battle would make them impervious to bullets.



Chief Sitting Bull surrendered at Fort Buford, North Dakota.

### “Steps in Building a Frontier Fort,” comments of a soldier of the 11th Infantry, Fort Custer, Montana, *American Army Life*, 1877:

I drove a mule to grind the clay to make the bricks with which the fort was built, and soldiers dug the clay, moulded the bricks and set them in the kilns, and tended the fires that burned the bricks . . . I helped to burn the lime . . . carried a hod for the plasterer . . . worked at the sawmills getting out timber from the logs brought to Fort Custer by log trains. The drivers of those log trains were soldiers. The logs were cut into timber by soldiers. The doors and the shutters were made by soldiers, and so on all down the line.

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**“The Evolution of the Colored Soldier,” by W. Thornton Parker, M.D., Late A. A. Surgeon, U.S. Army, *North American Review*, February 1898:**

When colored troops were enrolled, soon after the close of the War of the Rebellion, the Southern states were in a chaotic condition. Troops occupied the strategic centres, and “carpet bag” politicians and adventurers swarmed into the conquered territory, their thirst for money making them willing to risk safety in order to arrive early upon the field to reap the harvest that cruel war had placed within their reach. The Negroes, freed from slavery and intoxicated with the license which they knew not how to use reasonably, were ready for almost anything except wage labor.

The war being at an end, the profession of arms, with the showy uniform and military pomp, offered them a tempting experience. To recruit a colored regiment was, therefore, not a very difficult undertaking, especially when ignorance and savagery were no bar to acceptance by the recruiting officers. Hundreds of freed Negroes flocked to the recruiting stations and were quickly transformed into recruits for the U.S. colored regiments. The fiat had gone forth that the freed men were no longer to be merely enrolled as soldiers to do duty as teamsters for the

quartermaster’s department, but that they were to appear as soldiers, drill and do guard duty, with equal rights with the white veterans of the late war. In compliance with this idea, an expedition assembled and marched westward from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in the early spring of 1867, over the Santa Fe Trail, through the “Great Deserts,” which were then occupied by the active and warlike Indians. Their advent astonished everyone. The frontiersmen looked upon them as a military caricature, the fruit of some political deal, unexplained and unreasonable. The officers detailed to serve with them were half ashamed to have it known. The white soldiers who came in contact with these recent slaves, now wearing their uniform of the regular army, felt insulted and injured. Their redskin adversaries heaped derision upon the Negroes by taunts and jests, loudly called them “Buffalo soldiers,” and declared them “heap bad medicine” because they could not and would not scalp them. Such was the very unpromising advent of colored troops to do service as soldiers on equal terms with regular troops. . . .

- Perceptive to the ways of the world, Eddie also understood that the Ghost Shirt religion had sprung forth out of desperation.
- For months, he had been hearing stories that the once-proud Sioux, the former overlords of the Northern Plains, were starving on the reservations of North and South Dakota.
- It was well-known that many Indian agents had been stealing the majority of food supplies sent to the reservations and selling it to white travelers.
- As a result, many Indians were willing to listen intently to stories told by a Paiute Indian named Wovoka, who claimed that the ghosts would return in the spring, bringing with them the buffalo and all other game the white man had slaughtered.
- Although agents in the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Cheyenne River, and Standing Rock reservations attempted to ignore the Ghost Dancers, thousands of Indians were now in a state of religious frenzy.
- When a new, inexperienced Indian agent at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota grew terrified of the Ghost Dancers and their threats, he desperately wired for assistance.
- Troops from the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th cavalry regiments, along with supporting infantry, were sent in support.



The “Buffalo Soldiers” of company K-Troop were called out to quell the Ghost Shirt uprising.

- The show of force was needed to calm the situation, the agent said; others saw the troop movement as the perfect opportunity to arrest aging Chief Sitting Bull, whom many blamed for the Indian tension.
- Matters only became worse when the arrest of Sitting Bull was so badly botched, the famous warrior chief was killed.
- In response, troops from the 7th Cavalry, accompanied by an artillery unit with two Hotchkiss machine guns, were called out to control a potential Indian uprising.
- When they arrived at Wounded Knee and attempted to disarm a band of Miniconjou Sioux under the leadership of Chief Big Foot, a bloodbath ensued.
- More than 200 Indian men, women and children, including Big Foot, were killed, and 26 soldiers died—many caught in the crossfire of their own men.
- The Battle of Wounded Knee, better known as a massacre, prompted both hostile and friendly Sioux factions to unite for battle near Pine Ridge—requiring the men of Eddie Rausch’s K-Troop.
- More than 4,000 angry Indians had gathered.
- Eddie learned his troops were needed only after a 50-mile scouting trip through the Badlands.
- The men immediately struck camp and set out through the snowy night, arriving at Pine Ridge at 5:30 in the morning, having traveled 100 miles in a single day.
- No sooner had they dismounted when word came that the unit’s supply wagons were under attack four miles away.
- The soldiers remounted, rode rapidly to the scene and dispersed the Sioux with one concentrated charge; one Buffalo soldier was lost.
- Shortly after returning to camp, word came that the exhausted K-Troop and most of the 9th Cavalry were needed once more.
- To give the men a few hours’ sleep before setting out again, the 7th Cavalry was sent instead.
- While K-Troop slept, the 7th Cavalry was lured into a trap; after chasing a band of Indians caught burning a small building, they found themselves cornered in a canyon.
- The 7th Cavalry realized it was surrounded; the Indians controlled the bluffs and could fire down on the white men with impunity.
- Out of options, the 7th Cavalry took cover and hoped that reinforcements would arrive soon.



*Fort Buford was well-known as the worst assignment in the West.*

- Upon learning of their plight, the 9th Cavalry, including the Buffalo soldiers of K-Troop, was awakened and directed to the canyon, thundering into the area at 1:30 in the afternoon.
- While the Ghost Dance cult had preached that white men would be swallowed up, nothing had been said about black men.
- Uncertainty spread throughout the Sioux, with many awestruck by the sight of K-Troop.
- Quickly, the deadly Hotchkiss machine gun was set up and used to sweep the top of the canyon, after which the troops dismounted and were told to attack.
- With six officers leading 170 men, Eddie and his units ferociously charged the right canyon wall.
- A few shots were fired by the Indians, but the sight of the massed soldiers in full charge quickly scattered the Sioux.
- When the battle was won without the 9th Cavalry losing a man, the soldiers' fear before the charge was replaced with joy, pride and relief.
- The trapped soldiers of the 7th rushed from their hiding places and shamelessly hugged their rescuers.



*While pursuing the Sioux, the 7th Cavalry became trapped in a canyon.*

### “The Ghost Dance,” *Chronicle of Indian Wars:*

In 1889, the [Ghost Dance] movement was suddenly revived when another Northern Paiute, Wovoka (1856-1932), was stricken with fever during a total eclipse of the sun. He recovered and reported that, during his illness, he had been transported to the afterworld, where he had seen legions of dead Indians happily at work and play, and where the Supreme Being had told him to return to his people, to tell them to love one another, to work, and to live in peace with whites. The Supreme Being promised that, if they followed these injunctions faithfully, they would be reunited with the dead, death would cease to exist, and the white race would vanish. . . .

Although Wovoka’s message was explicitly specific, Teton Sioux leaders of the Pine Ridge Reservation suppressed the injunction to live peacefully and used the Ghost Dance deliberately to foment an uprising. At Pine Ridge and elsewhere, special “ghost shirts” were fashioned of white muslin and

decorated with the sun, moon, stars and eagles or sage hens.

The shirts, it was declared, offered protection against many dangers, especially bullets.



- Rausch was proud—very proud indeed; his first battle, and both he and his men had done well.
- That sense of pride grew when Commanding General Miles, Department of Missouri, held a parade to review all the troops involved in the Battle of Pine Ridge.
- It was thrilling for Eddie to join his soldiers, who were covered in thick coats and hats of beaver fur, riding in triumph across the snowy field for review.
- Just as his men rode by the reviewing stand, Eddie and the black troops of K-Troop, 9th Cavalry, received the ultimate compliment—General Miles raised his gloved hand in a show of respect.
- Thus was the triumph of battle.
- Having played a role in squashing the revolt gives Eddie something to think about during the long, lonely patrols that now dominate his life.



*Fort Buford was expanded numerous times to meet the needs of the Indian Wars.*



*A mule can carry up to 300 pounds of supplies.*

- Almost immediately after K-Troop's return to Fort Robinson, Major Henry began lobbying for the regiment to be transferred to Fort Myer, Virginia, for ceremonial duty—considered one of the most prestigious postings in the army.
- In April, the Secretary of War ordered Major Henry to take command at Fort Myer, and to take one troop of the 9th with him.
- Henry chose K-Troop, ordering them to prepare to embark for the nation's capital.
- Rausch could not believe his luck.
- After a hard, exhilarating winter, this duty was exactly what he needed.
- Unfortunately, as he prepared to leave with his troops, he was informed that while the black troops of K-Troop were leaving, the white officers were not.
- Second Lt. Rausch learned he was to be replaced by a cousin of the army's commanding general, who had been on recruiting duty in New York for the past two years.
- Even worse, he was to be permanently transferred to the infantry at Fort Buford—he was going back to the Dakotas.
- The change from cavalry to infantry also meant a reduction in pay from \$1,500 a year to \$1,400.
- So much for being a hero.

- Six months later, after endless patrols on the Great Plains watching for Indians and drinking cups of bad coffee, Eddie's greatest fear is not hostile Indians, but boredom.

### **Life in the Community: Fort Buford, North Dakota**

- Unwilling to cope with Indian depredations along the Bozeman Trail, the army had begun in 1866 to establish a chain of forts along the Missouri River, a major route to the newly discovered Montana gold fields.
- Fort Buford was created near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, in hostile Indian territory.
- Its principal role was to protect land and river routes used by immigrants settling the West in the 1860s and 1870s.
- Shortly after construction, Fort Buford became known for having the most intolerable weather of any post in the U.S. Army.
- Its location on the plains near the Canadian border guaranteed that its summers were hot and dry, and its winters long and brutally cold; for many, a posting to Fort Buford was comparable to being sent to Siberia.
- The fort was named for Major General John Buford, a hero of the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.
- Construction of the fort in the Dakota Territory was started in June 1866 under the command of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William G. Rankin.
- By November, the finished fort consisted of a 30-foot-square stockade, enclosing log and adobe buildings constructed to house a single company garrison.
- The building of the fort and survey activities by the Northern Pacific Railway in 1871 invited attacks by the Sioux and their leader, Chief Sitting Bull, who believed that the expeditions violated the Treaty of 1868.

- By 1875, the post had been expanded numerous times to meet the growing demands of Indian retaliation, and housed six companies; new facilities often were constructed of locally made clay bricks and wood.
- That same year, the Secretary of the Interior asked the Secretary of War to force the Indians onto their respective reservations.
- This prompted the Sioux Wars of 1876-1879, in which the defeat of Gen. George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn occurred, as well as Sitting Bull's flight to Canada.
- Sitting Bull's trek into Canada was an attempt to maintain his independence, but a lack of natural game for hunting, and the desire of his people to be with their relatives, led him to return to the Dakota Territory.
- Thirty-five families—187 people in all—traveled with Sitting Bull in July 1881 to Fort Buford, where the Sioux chief surrendered his Winchester .44 caliber carbine to Major D. H. Brotherton, Fort Buford's commander.
- For most of the past decade, the role of the army at Fort Buford has been to protect survey and construction crews of the Great Northern Railway, prevent Indians from crossing the international boundary from Canada, and police the area against outlaws.
- Fort Buford has also been called upon to protect, from attack by the more powerful Sioux, the weaker tribes of the area: the Assiniboine, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikira.
- Currently, it is manned by the four companies of the 25th Infantry, one of two black infantry regiments.
- Physically, the post is a collection of wooden buildings loosely grouped around a parade ground.
- With a capacity for six companies, these buildings include a large, 20-room house for the commanding officer, smaller cottages for the other married officers, barracks for the enlisted men, dining hall, kitchen, stables, hospital, magazine, storehouses and laundress quarters.
- Recently, money for maintenance has been in short supply and the buildings, although neat, look shabby.
- During the warmer months, one company of soldiers handles border duty, while a second keeps the peace between the Indian reservations and the mining camps across the Montana border—a constant and increasingly difficult problem.
- The Indians describe the long lines of infantrymen marching across the Dakota winter prairie as “walk-a-heaps” because the men's bodies, horses and long fur coats combine into one large mass.
- The long lines often include mules, the workhorses of the West.
- Packing a mule requires considerable experience, but is worth the effort; a mule, said to be the only animal Noah didn't take on the ark, can carry up to 300 pounds of supplies over rough country 30 miles a day.
- In addition to being hardier than horses, mules need less food.



## HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

### 1890–1891

- Two-thirds of the nation's 62.9 million people still lived in rural areas, while 32.7 percent were immigrants or the children of at least one immigrant parent
- Ceresota flour was introduced by the Northwest Consolidated Milling Company
- *Literary Digest* began publication
- The population of Los Angeles reached 50,000, up 40,000 in 10 years
- The 1890 census showed that 53.5 percent of the farms in the United States comprised fewer than 100 acres
- As the demand for domestic servants grew in urban areas, women dramatically outnumbered the men emigrating from Ireland to the United States
- The Tampa Bay Hotel was completed at a cost of \$3 million
- The first commercial dry cell battery was invented
- Only three percent of Americans, aged 18 to 21, attended college
- The nation's first full-service advertising agency was established in Florida
- "American Express Travelers Cheques" was copyrighted
- Thousands of Kansas farmers were bankrupted by the tight money conditions
- Restrictive "Jim Crow" laws were being enacted throughout the South
- The first electric oven for commercial sale was introduced in St. Paul, Minnesota
- America claimed 4,000 millionaires

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Electro-Luminescent Sport Watch.....	\$88.94
Bamboo placemat coaster chopstick set .....	\$28.19
Dental floss, pack of six .....	\$19.81
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