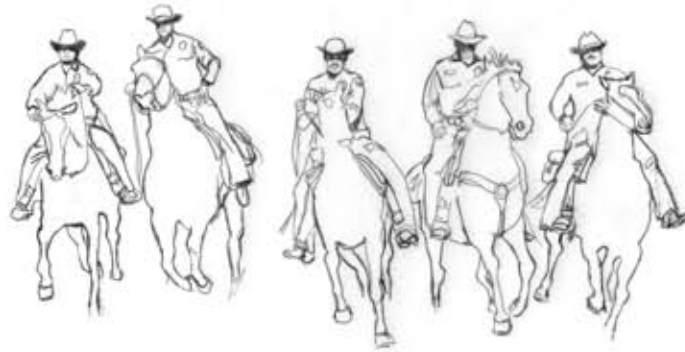


Each of the three surveillance horses deployed in Caballos de Vigilancia has a unique sound element, audible as one approaches the interior cavity. These aural contents reflect the very disparate, contiguous economies of Marfa: border patrolling, ranching, Mexican labor and the Judd dynasty.



Before paved roads scored the western American landscape - before cars, trains, tanks, jets and satellites - horses were our primary means of transport, labor, policing and combat. Ours was a horse powered westward expansionism.

With the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the border began its long history of discord. U.S. citizens staged mercenary raids into Mexico. Mexicans raided new settlers. Equal opportunity Apaches indiscriminately raided Mexicans, Indians and Americans. And while they weren't all busy raiding one another, the border provided license to smuggle.

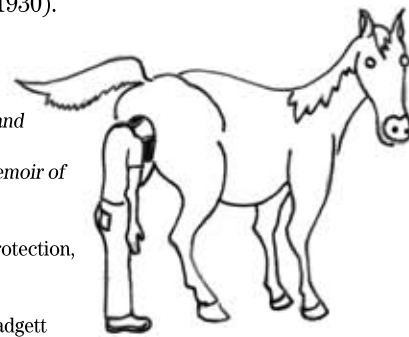
Surveilling and patrolling the border first became an economic mainstay for Marfa in 1911 when cavalry from Camp Albert* were sent to harass Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. During World War I some of the Marfa brigades were reassigned overseas. Battlefield deception on the front included dead-horse decoys as secret chambers where soldiers viewed enemy actions. In 1924 the U.S. Border Patrol was organized under the Immigration Act and the Sector Headquarters was established in Marfa, where it remains to this day (apart from a brief stint in Alpine). Cavalry patrols inevitably declined as industrialized forms of warfare gained favor. In the 1930s, airborne surveillance provided more efficient means to scan for border breaches. Bi-planes gave way to helicopters. The Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) was established in the mid 80s, and in 1991 Marfa was added as a TARS site. This balloon-borne radar network's primary mission is to provide radar reconnaissance in support of other federal agencies involved in the nation's drug interdiction program. An aerostat is a large fabric envelope filled with helium. It can rise up to 15,000 feet while tethered by a single cable. The smallest aerostat is about twice the size of the Goodyear Blimp.

All the pretty horses eventually found themselves out of work. Military fleets became armored, and then airborne. Pony Express riders left the news to the telegraph. Eight mule teamsters traded in their wagons for eighteen wheelers. Ranch hands and border patrol agents began using ATVs for rounding up cattle and illegal aliens. Obsolescence (of the horse as a tool, of manifest destiny, of measures to prevent migration, of the romantic western myth) is reflected in the figure of the horse carcass. Hollow, prone, a lost sentence, the end of empire?

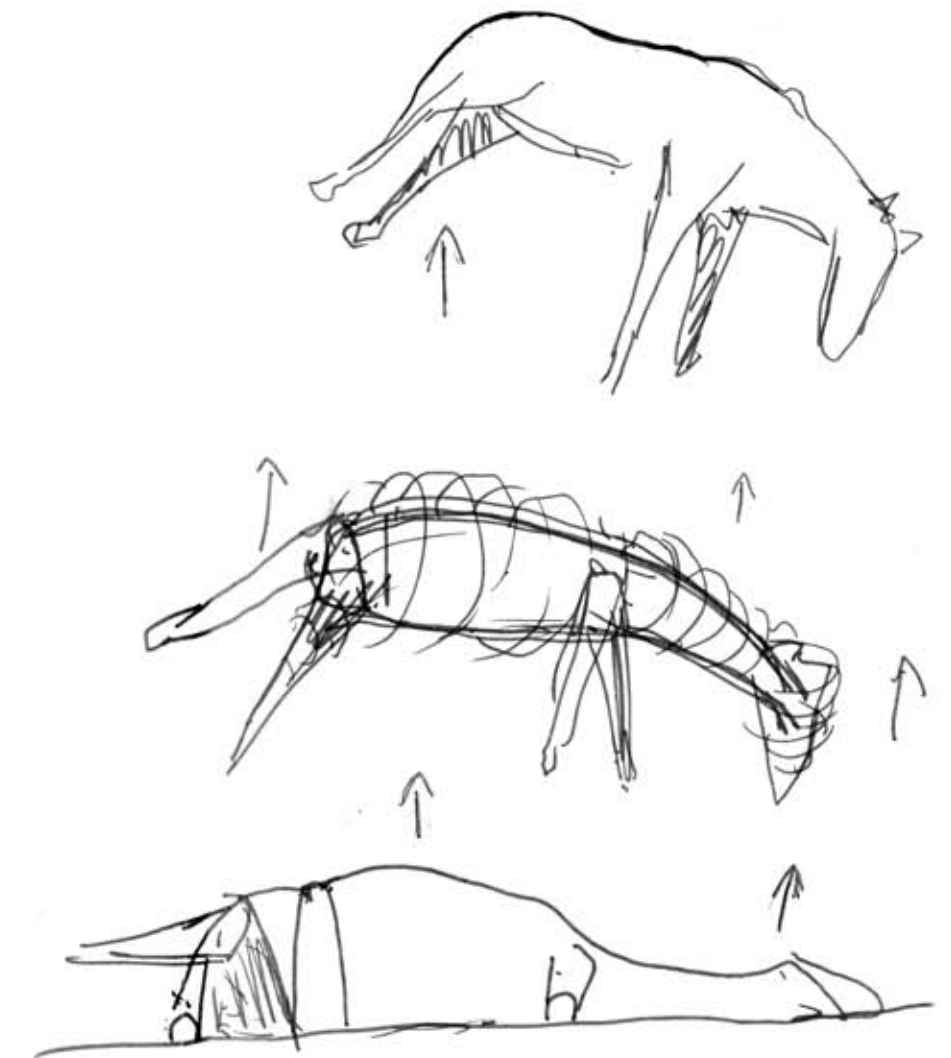
*Marfa's military base, active from 1911 to 1946, was renamed three times: Camp Albert (1911), Camp Marfa (1914) and Fort D.A. Russell (1930).

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- PRINTING** Eric Graf **CIRCUITRY** Rob Ray
- CABELLOS DE VIGILANCIA** Deborah Stratman & Steven Badgett



CABALLOS DE VIGILANCIA



FAKE DEAD HORSE LISTENING OUTPOSTS

CALL FOR 'FAKERS' TO FOOL GERMANS

American Camouflage Corps
Wants More Artists and
Skilled Mechanics.

A CHANCE FOR ADVENTURE

Ingenious Men Make Dummy Can-
non, Papier-Mache Horses, and
Other Means of Deceiving Enemy.



Camouflaged listen-
ing post in the shape of a papier mache
carcass of a horse. Even when viewed
a short distance away this clever camou-
flage is most effective, especially on
battlefields where carcasses are scattered
about. The usual practice is to model
such a carcass after that of a horse
which has been killed at a point near the
enemy trenches, and on a suitable night
the real carcass is replaced by the
camouflaged carcass so as not to arouse
the suspicions of the enemy. The
observer hiding in this listening post
during the day, is relieved at night.



Border Patrolmen watch for smugglers on the
Rio Grande near Presidio, TX



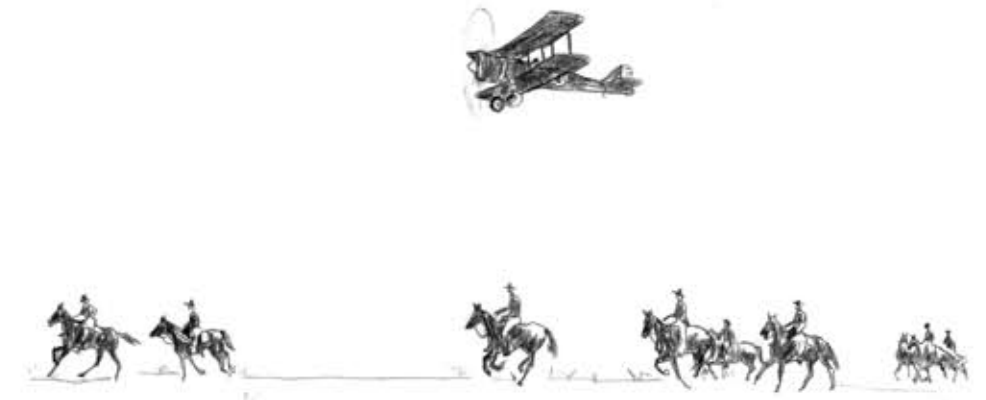
Liquor smugglers emerge from the Rio Grande near Presidio



A smuggler crosses the Rio Grande with two
five-gallon jugs of sotol tied to his burro



Smugglers caught by the tipped-off Border Patrol



A DEHAVILAND PREPARES TO DROP A
MESSAGE TO CALLING TROOPERS
BORDER AIR PATROL (1919)

