

THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE

Washington, D. C.

February 21, 1933.

Professor W. S. Campbell,  
University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Professor:

Replying to your letter of February 15, 1933, I have to inform you that it is impossible to locate any record of a fight near Pumpkin Buttes in 1865. The returns of Fort Reno, a few only of which are on file in the War Department, fail to disclose any record of such an engagement.

Relative to the official report of the Wagonbox fight near Fort Phil Kearney on August 2, 1867, your attention is called to the report of the Assistant Adjutant General, H. G. Litchfield, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, Department of the Platte. This report is contained in the Report of the Secretary of War for the year 1867 (pp. 486-7), and is as follows:

On 2nd instant, August, 1867, Brevet Major James Powell, Captain, 27th Infantry, with twenty-five men of his company and five citizens, employed in getting wood, five miles from Fort Philip Kearney, found themselves cut off from the fort by a heavy force of Indians, estimated by cool heads to be about two thousand. They took position in a small corral, constructed of wagon beds and ox-yokes, and in this hastily extemporized work these thirty men most gallantly and determinedly defended themselves for three and one-half hours against overwhelming odds.

In their first assault the Indians were mounted. Driven back they dismounted, stripped themselves, and returned to the assault, only to be again repulsed with great loss. Major Powell's party