

5
The whites liked to lie about their red foes in those times just as some of the whites liked to lie about other whites in the last war. Or in all wars, of course, and all colors and races of men. b5

Sitting Bull was the only one influence that could gather the northern plains Indians on the Bighorn, but it was not his place to exercise the military command, much the same as King George gathered the various tribes in the British Empire, but it was not his place to lead them in battle. There was no one military leader among the Indians on the Bighorn. It was much like the Ally side before Foch. Gall, Two-Moons, Crazy Horse, were much like Haig, Pershing, and Joffres. In concert, but each free with his own men. Incidentally, if Crazy Horse had been in full command the whole Seventh would have been wiped out without doubt, to a man. Only a few days before, he had whipped Crook and with less men and poorer arms than the whites. In fact, he did it twice, the first time some weeks before on the Powder River, also with inferior numbers. Just better tactics. Crazy Horse was a small dark man--darker than most Indians--silent, restless, with something that resembled Napoleon in him.

Incidentally, while I think of it, "Roman Nose", the Southern Cheyenne who staged the greatest battle ever fought in Colorado, and made one of the finest cavalry charges in history--New at Waterloo was not greater-- was no a chief at all, merely a great man in his tribe. Incidentally, also, the Cheyennes came onto the upper Platte in Colorado in 1826, and the building of Bent's Fort on the Arkansas caused the division later to be called the Northern and the Southern Cheyennes--in the middle to the late 30's. "Two@Moons" was a Northern Cheyenne, who gave the final, and fatal, flanking thrust to the Custer companies. He rode in that battle totally unarmed, to set an example for his men. Indian officers often did this, like white officers.

X But the brain behind that whole last stand of the Indian was the brain of Sitting Bull.