

CHARLES FRANCIS BATES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
MILBURN BLOCK
BRONXVILLE, N. Y.

whatever pistols they had or guns.

Major Reno according to the testimony of his orderly says that he lost his carbine on the way from the bottom to the hill and Reno's orderly testified that he lost his carbine in the flight to the top and states under oath in the Court of Inquiry ^{or said} testimony that he reported the loss to Major Reno and that Major Reno says; I lost my carbine. Major Reno denied that he had said this in his statement under oath. In some cases officers carried a rifle. General Custer always did. It is impossible to say how much ammunition Reno fired at the Indians in his short stand in the bottom. Accounts ^{are} different. I presume on the average, each man fired forty or fifty rounds, this would leave them with fifty rounds on their persons or in their saddle bags. Three or four of the more experienced men who testified as to the amount of ammunition fired by Reno's men in the bottom stated that they only fired much less than forty rounds. I presume some excitable men fired considerably more than others, but I think it would average forty or fifty rounds. You can thus assume that there were fifteen hundred rounds lost in the bottom of carbine ammunition.

It is an entire fabrication that the Indians captured any of Reno's packs, that is the pack mules at any time. None of the pack mules were captured at any time. Mathey brought them all up. It is one of the mysteries and indicates to my mind that the Indians to a great extent lost their heads. They could easily have captured the mules because they were all strung out for about two miles. It would have been a big haul for them if they had made this capture and they had the men to do it. There were twenty four thousand rounds of carbine ammunition on the mules, a rich prize, but they overlooked their opportunity. Hoping that this will help you out, I am,
Very sincerely,

Charles Francis Bates,
Col. U.S.A. Retired

no strategy CnB