

Sitting Bull

FATE OF LIEUTENANT HARRINGTON

Soldier Who Dashed Through Indian Lines at Custer's Massacre and Was Almost Safe, Took His Own Life.

Special to the Journal

Fort Yates, N. D., Nov. 23.....After the Custer massacre in 1876 the remains of all the officers engaged in the battle were found with the exception of those of Lieutenant Harrington. His fate was always an uncertainty, even to his wife and nearest relatives. The Indians have always been loth to talk to strangers of their own race or to white people concerning the massacre.

The Journal correspondent has just received the particulars of the lieutenant's death from an Indian named Paints-Himself-Brown, who was present. His testimony is corroborated by others.

It appears that Lieutenant Harrington was about the last of the survivors of that terrible massacre. When his comrades were about all killed around him, he made a wild dash on his horse and managed to escape through the line of fighting Indians to the open prairie. A party of about seven pursued him. Their ponies were tired, however, and one of the Indians said:

"Well, he is the only one left alive, let him go and tell the news to the white man."

So they agreed to abandon the chase---all but one, whose name The Journal correspondent is not at liberty to give. This man, whose horse was not so tired, said, "I will follow him a little further." He says he followed but a little way when he saw the lieutenant raise his pistol and fire and drop from his saddle. The lieutenant had shot himself rather than fall into the hands of the Sioux. His bones lay in an old dry lake bed some distance from the scene of the massacre.

It is said, Mrs. Harrington's mind gave way under the terrible strain of the uncertainty of her husband's fate, and that she is now invalided at West Point. There is no doubt that the above is a substantially true account of the death of her husband.