

them before they could be supplied in the spring by the boats on the river. Unlike the spring of 1863 the ice did not go out of the river until late in the season. This delayed starting because the troops could not go in advance of supplies which would be needed upon their arrival at the designated points. The forces available for the expedition of 1863, except Company I of the Seventh Cavalry, (known as the Sioux City Cavalry) maintained headquarters at Sioux City, Iowa, and its members were distributed on the Iowa frontier, where they remained during the summer of that year. The addition to the 1863 forces was part of the Sixth and Thirteenth Minnesota Cavalry. These troops marched from their rendezvous in Minnesota to a point near Ft. Pierre, S. D., where all the other troops of the expedition were to assemble. The Second Nebraska Cavalry were also in the vicinity of the Sully troops. They received their supplies and started from near Ft. Levensworth and Ft. Omaha and went up Mission River on the west side, but cooperating with Sully's command.

Early in June a regular army veterinary came to inspect the animals intended for the expedition, by ambulance drawn by four mules and with an escort. I accompanied him as assistant as far as Ft. Randall. The animals were found to be in excellent condition.

Soon after the commands started north from their respective winter quarters with orders to assemble at or near Ft. Pierre. When all expected had arrived they proceeded to move north into the Indian country in a body within hailing distance, the Indians falling back as they approached until they reached