

litters. The 29th was spent in making a full supply of them, and in the evening of that day the column started again, the wounded being placed on the steamer "Far east," at the mouth of the Little Bit Horn, at two o'clock in the morning of June 20th, reaching the depot on the Yellowstone the same afternoon. The steamer then proceeded with them to Fort A. Lincoln, the main command reaching the Yellowstone and camping on the bank of the river on the 2nd of July.

Attempts were immediately made by General Terry to communicate with General Crook, who was somewhere in that part of the country, in order that concert of action might be established between the two expeditions. Two attempts failed, but a third succeeded; three private soldiers of the 7th Infantry, James Bell, William Evans and Benjamin H. Stewart, carried a dispatch through to General Crook and two of them returned with his reply.

As soon as the news of this disaster was received at Division Headquarters, additional troops were at once put in motion for General Terry's command, as had already been done for that of General Crook, but these re-inforcements had to be collected from various stations on the frontier, some of them very remote from railroads and much time was consumed before reaching their destination.

During this period, the bands which had broken off from the main body of hostiles, and the young warriors from the agencies, continued their old well-known methods of warfare, stealing horses on the frontier and killing small parties of citizens, while the constant communications of the hostiles with Indians at the agencies, made it evident that supplies of food and ammunition were still being drawn from those places.

To prevent this, it had been deemed necessary that the military should control the agencies, and on May 29th the Interior Department had been requested to so cooperate with the military as to enable the latter to carry out the policy of arresting, disarming and dismounting such of the hostiles as made their appearance at these agencies. On July 18th this request was