

in charge of all the Indians at both Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies, deposing Red Cloud, the conduct of whose followers had given evidence of anything but proper intentions. These Indians were the same who had killed a large part of the garrison of Fort Phil Kearney, in 1866, and who had, in 1874, threatened to massacre the people at Red Cloud Agency, because they attempted to hoist the United States flag over it.

The troops composing what had been known as the Big Horn Expedition, under General Crook, having been distributed to their stations for the winter, another column, known as the Powder River Expedition, was organized and left Fort Fetterman November 15th, 1876. It consisted of Troop "K", 2nd Cavalry, "H", and "K", 3rd Cavalry, "B", "D", "E", "F", and "M", 4th Cavalry and "H", and "L", 5th Cavalry, the cavalry being all commanded by Colonel R. S. Mackenzie, 4th Cavalry. The infantry and artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R. I. Dodge, 23rd Infantry, consisted of Companies "A", "B", "D", "F", "I", and "K", 9th Infantry, "D", and "G", 14th Infantry, "C", "G", and "I", 23rd Infantry and "C", "F", "H", and "K", 4th Artillery. A cantonment was established near old Fort Reno, Wyoming, and the cavalry was sent out, under Colonel Mackenzie, to find and strike a large village which had been reported.

At noon on November 24th, while marching toward the Sioux Pass of the Big Horn Mountains, Mackenzie's Indian scouts reported the camp of the enemy about twenty miles distant, near the north fork of Powder River. The command halted till sunset, intending, by a night march, to surprise the Indians at daybreak, and soon after that hour on the 25th, almost a complete surprise was effected. The only practicable approach to the village was at the lower end and the Indians took refuge in a network of very deep ravines beyond the upper end of the camp, leaving on foot and taking nothing but their arms with them. A brisk fight for about an hour ensued, after which skirmishing was kept up until night. The village, consisting of one hundred