

8 commissioned officers, 1 acting assistant surgeon, 6 enlisted Indian scouts, and 24 citizen teamsters—officers, enlisted men, and scouts, mounted). The column was directed to move by the most direct route to Poplar River Agency, and there take post, temporarily. Before departure from Fort Keogh, I received telegraphic instructions informing me that the object of the expedition was to strengthen the garrison at Camp Poplar River, and directing me not to seek an encounter with the Indians on the route here. I reached this point on the evening of the 24th ultimo, with men and animals in fair condition. There were many cases of frost-bites among officers and enlisted men, but none went on sick report. Nearly all the animals were suffering from epizootic, but have since then entirely recovered.

The march lasted nine days, the distance traveled 192 miles, through deep snow, with the thermometer ranging from 10° to 35° below zero. The route was nearly the same as that traveled by me in September last, while in command of the battalion of the Eleventh Infantry, en route to this camp, a full description of which was forwarded to your office under date of October 14, 1880, by Captain Beach, Eleventh Infantry, my successor in command.

The battalion Fifth Infantry upon arrival here encamped on the high plateau lining Poplar River, and to the west of the cantonment proper.

The camp of the hostile Sioux was plainly visible on the opposite shore of the Missouri River, situated in a heavy growth of cottonwood timber filled with thick underbrush, and in an elbow formed by the river, the angle of which to the southeast of this post. Distance from post to Indian camp about two miles.

It was reported to me that these hostiles numbered about 400 souls, among whom nearly 100 warriors living in the same number of teepees.

On the morning of the 25th day of December last the chief Gall asked for an interview, and therein stated that he was ready to surrender to me individually; that his people, however, were not ready to surrender until spring, and that then they would elect whether or not they would remain at this