

I may say I was with Major Reno all the time the night of the 25th. I saw him every fifteen to thirty minutes, till 3 a.m. I laid down in his bed. He was as sober as he is now. He is entirely sober now and was then. There was no time, during the 25th or 26th when there was any indication of drunkenness on the part of Major Reno. He could not have been staggering and stammering without my knowing it.

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I know nothing about any altercation with a packer except by heresay. I know they robbed the packs, and robbed me, and I also know there was not enough whiskey in the whole command to make him drunk. I had occasion to go to the pack-train many times during the 25th and 26th, to drive out skulking soldiers. There was much complaint about stealing in the pack-train.

I might have joined Reno in the timber, but would not have attempted it without first getting the pack-train, but my losses would have been much greater. What we did was the best that could be done. If I had to do it again I would go over the same trail. I could not improve it.

The timber position first taken by Reno was an A-1 defensive position, and could have been held five or six hours, depending on the size of the attacking force. Against nine hundred it was defensible, but the nine hundred would have been reinforced by another nine hundred, and the next morning we would all have been killed.

Eight or nine hundred Indians was only a small part of what they had. It could not have made a particle of difference so far as Custer was concerned. The seven companies would have been as completely corraled there as on the hill. General Custer would have had to look out for himself, the same as we did.

There was not a foot of unoccupied ground in that country. There were Indians everywhere, from twelve feet to twelve hundred yards away.

I think Custer went to the right of the second divide, and not to the river at all. On the morning of General Terry's arrival, I asked permission to take my company and go over the battlefield of General Custer. I did so, and followed down the gorge; but I am now satisfied that he did not go down that way. The nearest body to the middle ford was six or eight hundred yards from it.