

have been possible to have communicated with him, even if we had known where he was.

It was after we had marched eight or ten miles the morning of the 25th when General Custer said he did not believe there were any Indians in that country. It was about 10 o'clock that morning. I started off to the left shortly after 12 o'clock.

It was the belief of the officers on the hill, during the night of the 25th, that General Custer had gone to General Terry, and that we were abandoned to our fate.

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Major Reno knew I went off to the left, but not what orders I had. If different parts of a command are expected to cooperate, I should think it very necessary to communicate orders to other officers. When I left, Reno had no command that I knew of. Reno had no reason to think I was near, or following, the same trail. I scarcely knew myself what to do. As I said, I was 'valley hunting.' He had no right to expect any assistance from me whatever.

If there had been any plan of battle, enough of that plan would have been communicated to me so that I would have known what to do under certain circumstances. Not having done that, I do not believe there was any plan. In General Custer's mind there was a belief that there were no Indians, nor any village. I do not know, except that I was sent off to hunt up some Indians. I was to pitch into them and let him know; and if I found them, the distance would have been so great that we would have been wiped out before he could get to us.

It would have taken me an hour and a quarter to bring up the packs after I got the Martin order. I could not have expedited it by going back after them, as a sergeant had already done that. I heard no firing until I arrived at the ford, when I both heard and saw it -- about nine hundred Indians engaged in demolishing about thirteen men on a skirmish line.

The orders I got from Custer did not indicate that he expected me to co-operate in any attack on the village. The first two were things he forgot to tell me as he started off, while the column was in plain sight. The order to send him word if I found anything showed that he did not believe there was any village there.