

artillery, commanded by Lieut. Col. R. I. Dodge, Twenty-third Infantry, consisted of Companies A, B, D, F, I, and K, Ninth Infantry, D and G, Fourteenth Infantry, C. G. and I, Twenty-third Infantry, and C. F. H, and K, Fourth Artillery. A cantonment was established near old Fort Reno, Wyo., and the cavalry was sent out, under Colonel Mackenzie, to find and strike a large village which had been reported.

At noon on November 24, 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
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refuge in a net-work 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 and seventy-three lodges, with their contents, was entirely destroyed, and about five hundred ponies were captured. The bodies of twenty-five dead Indians fell into the hands of the troops, but it was believed a much heavier loss was inflicted. The casualties to the troops were five men killed and twenty-five wounded, besides nineteen horses killed. In a very gallant charge upon the Indians, Lieut. John A. McKinney, Fourth Cavalry, was killed.

The severity of the weather was intense, and being so encumbered by his wounded, Mackenzie rejoined the main column of the expedition which had been following him, all returning to the cantonment near Fort Reno. The thermometer was so far below zero that further active field operations, in such weather, were considered impracticable, and