

and over the Wyoming boundary, gaining upon the hostiles and causing them to abandon some of their property, but without succeeding in getting a fight. Worn out by the hard marching and pursuit, Brisbin's column returned by the valleys of Powder and Tongue rivers to the cantonment at the mouth of the latter, where it arrived August 30; the Indians, continually pursued and harrassed by the troops, moved southward to Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies, surrendering there during the months of July, August, and September.

In the latter part of July, the Nez Perces Indians, pursued by General Howard with troops from the Department of the Columbia, made their way, via the Lo-Lo trail, toward Montana; Captain Rawn, Seventh Infantry, promptly threw a small force, consisting of his company of thirty men and a few citizen volunteers, into the Lo-Lo Pass, where they intrenched themselves in the canon, determined to dispute the entrance of "Chief Joseph" and his band into Montana.

On July 27, Captain Rawn had a talk with the Nez Perces, who proposed, if unmolested, to march peaceably through the Bitter Root Valley, but Captain Rawn refused to allow them to pass without the warriors surrendering their arms. Another council was arranged for the following day, July 28, Captain Rawn hoping to detain the Nez Perces until General Howard's troops, or expected assistance from Fort Shaw, Mont., under Colonel Gibbon, should arrive.

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/ After the second council, the Nez Perces refused to comply with Captain Rawn's demands, and, by climbing the hills, succeeded in passing around his flank into the Bitter Root Valley. Captain Rawn then abandoned his breastworks, formed a skirmish line across the canon and advanced in the direction the Indians had taken, but they retreated into the Bitter Root; only about a dozen or twenty of the volunteers remaining with Captain Rawn's small company, it was obliged to return