

"I was on duty at the Agency. All the Police came there for a talk. I was on duty that day. I did not know what they talked about. Lieutenant Bull Head (another name for Afraid of the Bear) gave them all cartridges but me. I asked him for some. He said I would be at the Agency and could get some when I needed them. They rode away from there, then.

"A day or two after they went away, Hawk Man came riding hard at sunrise. He carried a letter from Jack Carrigan who was on the Grand River. Tatanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull) camp of dancers was down that way. Then White Hair (Major McLaughlin, Agent) called me into the office. He shut the door. He wrote two letters. He put them in a covering. He gave that to me. He said: 'Now you have something to do. You give this to Bull Head, sure. You are all to arrest Sitting Bull before morning. You say to Bull Head to arrest him and not let him get away or be rescued.'

"I knew there would be a hard fight. It was dangerous mission for me. So I said: 'I have a wife and some children. If I fall who will look after them?' 'If you fall,' he said, 'the Government will give you a gold medal and take care of your family.' Then we went into the storehouse and he picked out a bolt of white cloth and handed it to me. I also got a lot of cartridges. I tied the white cloth to my saddle. I had a government horse. Then I said, 'What is this white cloth for?' 'That is for the Police,' he said, 'it will be dark then. Tear each man a piece. They can wear it then. You will be able to tell your friends from the enemy that way.'

"Then I started to ride. He told me to go to Oak Creek. There I would see some Police. I did not know what spot to go to. I rode away from Fort Yates then. I knew that it was secret. I did not sing after I left the Agency. I got to Oak Creek. It was very dark. I rode about for a time. I yelled for the Police. No one answered me. Then I started for Grand River. There were many trails. I did not know them all. I rode hard then.

"I came to the Grand River brakes. I went down to the bottom through the soft snow. In the valley I rode along and crossed the river ice with sand on it. I got to the south banks. There was timber there. Then I saw a light. I rode toward it then. I was stopped by a guard of Police as I came near the light. We went into the house when I told them who I was.

"I forgot something to say. When I crossed Four Mile water place, I crossed close by the place of Callous Leg. Then I heard some wagons coming along. That was about ten miles from the Agency. I stood still and waited for the wagons. There were four of them. They belonged to the camp of One Bull. He was the nephew of Sitting Bull and was a hostile dancer. He wanted to know where I was going and what I was doing. I told him 'I am going out here a little ways.' So he did not know much.

"Ateyapikin (The Agent) told me that I would find six policemen at Oak Creek. Sergeant Eagle Man would be in charge of them. So when I missed them, I went to search for Bull Head's place. When I got where the guard was, that was Bull Head's place. I was glad for that. I found a number of Police in that house. The two de Rocky Brain brothers were there too. I gave the Lieutenant Bull Head the message I brought. Antoine and Charlie de Rocky Brain interpreted it to us.

"We knew there was a fight ahead of us then. Before we left the house of Bull Head, he selected six men. He put me in charge of them. He said: 'It shall be your business to take Sitting Bull. Let everything go but get him. Hold him then and do not let him get away. Do not allow

his friends to take him away from you. If you have to die, that is a good place to die.'

"Then we all knew. We got ready and started for Sitting Bull's camp. We crossed the river then. Then when we crossed we sent a courier to find the Police at Oak Creek. Another was sent to Carrigan's place. He had one Police with him. His name was Looking Elk. These messengers started. We thought we had seen them for the last time then. Carrigan found us about four o'clock in the morning. Then we cut up the white cloth and tied it on each policeman. We sent the wife of Bull Head in her wagon with Carrigan and the de Rocky Brain brothers to Fort Yates. They got there all right, the next day. After that we started again. We reached the house of Grey Eagle. Two of his sisters were the wives of Sitting Bull. It was too early yet to attack the camp. We waited there for a time. We placed guards out watching for us. We warmed ourselves in the house. Then Little Eagle prayed for us. While he was praying the candle light went out. We lit it again. He prayed some more. The light went out again. Then I went outside to see what the matter was about that light. It was strange thing to go out two times. I asked the guards if they had heard anything or felt anything wrong. Then they told it: 'There were horses tramping toward us. Coming in our direction.' We stayed still then. We waited. This was about five in the morning. Then we could see shapes of horses. We stayed still some more. A man cried out: 'This is Eagle Man coming with six Policemen.' We were glad about that.

"Then we got all ready again. We started for the hostile camp. Bull Head and Sergeant Shave Head rode side by



Lieutenant Colonel A. B. Welch  
Indian Name is "Mato Watake," meaning Charging Bear