

226 The friendly * Indians came back and the Sioux went on the hills. The soldiers kept driving the hostiles back until they got them on the big flat beyond the first line of hills. Col. Guy V. Henry, with his battalion, was stationed on the left, and he was ordered up the river. Mills' battalion was down below on the right, and the other battalions were in the centre of the fight. The Crow and Snake Indians got scattered out, but would keep in behind the troops out of harm's reach as much as possible. I was close to the position held by General Crook, and he was in about the centre of the field. The General ordered a battalion to charge the Indians and drive them back.

In the charge that followed, one poor fellow's horse ran away with him, and the animal went right for the Indians, just as the order had been given to retreat. The horse kept straight ahead after the command had driven the Indians away and turned back, and ran up to within forty or fifty yards of the hostiles before they turned. Of course, they began shooting at the horseman, and as his horse began to turn, both of his hands were shot off at the wrists. When he passed me both of his hands were gangling. The Indians had turned the horse by firing at it. I rode up on the hill, and the poor fellow was calling for some one to check his horse. I rode very rapidly and tried to get in ahead of the frightened animal, and then I could see his hands dangling from his wrists.

227 I tried to head off the horse, but the animal got in ahead of me, started down the divide and went right through the troops, never stopping for anything. The * Indians were on that side of the flat fighting, and he went through the line of troops towards them, and I went after him. I got up as close as I could to him. My horse was a fast one, but I could not reach the runaway animal's bridle, and, whip as much as I would, I was unable to grasp it. If he had been a man of any nerve or had not lost his head, he might have helped turn the horse by grasping the reins with his wrists. I hit the horse over the head as hard as I could in an effort to turn it, but the animal was stubborn and frightened and was not very easily turned. I told the wounded man to throw himself off when I hit the horse the second time. He gave me one look that I will never forget. I got up as close as I could to the horse and hit it on the side of the head. The blow turned the horse some, but not clear around, and the wounded man threw himself off. The horse went right in among the Indians and was lost to view. The wounded man picked himself up and ran down over the hill out of sight. The Indians were shooting at us all of this time.

228 When I got back to the command the Indians were going down below us, and the General had sent all of his aids out with orders to the different commanders. It was right after this runaway horse incident occurred that the Indians got Col. Henry's battalion in a tight place, and seriously wounded that gallant officer. The Indians were pressing down pretty close. Henry's battalion received an order to retreat, but I do not know who gave the order. I suppose while standing there Col. Henry was shot. As quick as they commenced to * retreat the Indians rushed down. Yute John made a dash to the place where the colonel fell, got off his horse and turned it loose just as the Indians got to Col. Henry. Single-handed he stood them off until the soldiers commenced shooting and drove the Indians away.

In the meantime, Yute John, as quick as the Indians were driven away, put Col. Henry on his back and carried him over to where Henry's battalion was. If it had not been for this Indian (Yute John) Col. Henry would have been killed and scalped where he fell. The battalion that was on the other side of Henry had retired at the same time that Henry's battalion retreated.

I saw an Indian run right in among the soldiers as they were retreating. I don't know whether it was done purposely, but I saw a soldier hold up a gun as though he were giving it to the Indian; but I think the gun was held up to protect his head from a blow aimed at it by the Sioux. There were several