

in the command, one of the general's, and he covered the distance between Lodge
Trail ridge and the fort with amazing swiftness. He dashed up to / ³⁶⁸ Headquarters
with a message from Ten Eyck, 'The valley on the other side of the ridge' said the
orderly, 'is filled with Indians, who are threatening him, the firing has stopped,
he sees no sign of Captain Fetterman's command. He wants a howitzer sent to him.'
General Carrington replied in writing: 'Forty well armed men with 3,000 rounds,
ambulances, stores, etc., left before your courier came in. You must unite with
Fetterman; fire slowly and keep men in hand. You would have saved two miles
toward the scene of action if you had taken Lodge Trail ridge. I order the wood
train in, which will give fifty men to spare.' No gun could be sent him since all
the horses were already in the field, it would have required men to haul it. No
more men could be spared and not a man with Ten Eyck knew how to cut a fuse or
handle the piece. The guns were especially needed at the fort to protect the
women and children.

"Late in the afternoon Ten Eyck's party returned to the fort with tidings
of appalling disaster. In the wagons with his command were the bodies of forty-
nine of Fetterman's men. The remaining thirty-two were not at that time accounted
for. Ten Eyck very properly had stood on the defensive upon the ridge and refused
to go into the valley in spite of the insults and sneers of the Indians, who numbered
upwards of 2,000 warriors, and they finally withdrew.

"After waiting a sufficient time he marched carefully and cautiously toward
the Pine valley and to the bare lower ridge over which the road ran. Here he
came across evidences of a fierce battle. On the end of the ridge further from
the fort in a space about six feet square, enclosed by some huge rocks, making
a sort of rude shelter, he found the bodies of the forty-nine men, which he had
brought back. After their ammunition was spent they had been killed, stripped, shot
full of arrows, hacked to pieces, scalped and mutilated in a horrible manner. There
were no evidences at that place of a very severe struggle. But few cartridge
shells lay on the ground. Of these men, only four, besides the two officers, had

taken by hands to refill - ?