December 16 90

Hon. T.J.Morgan,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In acc ordance with my telegram of yesterday informing you of a fight with the Indians of this reservation, I now have the honor ## to make the following detailed ###### statement. My action in the matter had been governed by Department instructions.

The troops left Fort Yates at 12 PM on the night of Sunday the 14th inst for Grand River, with Louis Primeau as Guide - etc

At Day Break on Monday morning the 15th the Police went to Sitting Bull's camp direct to his house and surrounded the house; a detail was sent into the house where Sitting Bull was sleeping on the floor, etc They aroused him and amounced their purpose, at the same time raising him to a sitting position, and he at first seemed inclined to offer no resistance and they allowed him to dress, during which time he changed his mind and they took him forcibly from the house. By this time the Police were surrounded by Sitting Bulls followers, members of the Ghost Dance, and the first shot was fired by "Catch the Bear" one of the hostiles, and the Lieutenant of Police, Henry Tatankapah (Bull Head) who was in command of the detatchment of 42 men was struck; the fighting then became general, in fact it was a hand to hand fight. Sitting Bull was killed, shot through the body and head in the early part of the fight by Bull Head and Marcellus Chankpidutah (Red Tomahawk) who each shot at him. Four Policemen were killed outright and three wounded, one of the latter dying at the Agency Hospital this morning after his removal there.

(Note by Welch- This was Shave(d) Head)
Bull Head, the Lieutenant of Police, is dangerously wounded but
may recover. (Note by Welch - He died on the *** th//8")
The hostile Indians lost 8 killed and several wounded and were driven
from the field by the police; they fled up Grand River, leaving their
wives and families & all their property and dead behind them. Two
troops of the U.S.Cavalry (100 men) arrived on the ground immediately
after the fight which had occupied less than half an hour and took
possession of the camp, its inhabitants, property and dead. The
military did not pursue the the fleeing hostiles and the latter will
no doubt fall into the hands of some one of the commands moving at
the different points west or south of the reservation.

The Police returned about 3 P.M. today accompanied by the Cavalry detatchment having in charge the remains of the four dead policemen, and Sitting Bull also two prisoners, Henry Growler Sitting Bulls nephew 21 years old, and "Middle" son of Little Assinaboine, 21 years old.

* * * * * Besides the Indian police there were four volunteers, viz: "Gray Eagle", "Spotted Thunder" "Otter Robe" and "Young Eagle" who participated in the fight rendering good service and deserving like recognition. Gray Eagle * * is one of the Jodges of the Court of Indian Offenses and his two sisters are Sitting Bulls wives.

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