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Fort Yates, North Dakota,  
December 17, 1890.

The Assistant Adjutant General,  
Department of Dakota,  
Saint Paul, Minn.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on Sunday the 14th inst., Agent McLaughlin received a letter from John M. Carignan, school teacher, on Grand River, (copy enclosed marked "A") indicating that Sitting Bull was preparing to leave the reservation, and that Bull Head the Lieutenant of Police, was anxious to attempt his arrest. It was found on inquiry that there were not more than twenty lodges in the immediate vicinity of Sitting Bull's house. In accordance with telegraphic instructions of Dec. 12, 1890, and after consultation with Agent McLaughlin, it was determined to order the arrest of Sitting Bull by the Indian police, about forty of whom had already been assembled in that vicinity as a precautionary measure. The arrest was to be attempted before daylight on Monday the 15th instant, Bullhead in charge, and with strict instructions that Sitting Bull must not escape or be rescued. I then ordered Troops "F" and "G" 8th Cavalry, with one Gatling and one Hotchkiss gun. Captain E. G. Fechet 8th Cavalry commanding, to move out Sunday night in light marching order, to meet the police on their way in with Sitting Bull, to prevent rescue on the road, - the Cavalry not to start before midnight so that an Indian runner could not give the alarm before the police had acted.

At 12:30 p. m. 15th instant, I received word from Capt. Fechet that at 7:30 a. m. he was within three miles of Sitting Bull's camp and was met by a policeman who informed him that the police and Indians were fighting; that Sitting Bull had been arrested and afterwards killed to prevent his escape. That the Cavalry would push on as rapidly as possible to the assistance of the police.