

escape, being shot through his coat and gloves while engaged in the attempt.

This was the first scout met by the command. My orders were also explicit as to the arrest of Sitting Bull but contemplated no pursuit of his band. Therefore did not feel authorized to follow the Indians up the valley, especially as I felt satisfied from the report of Lieutenant Crowder that it would only result in unnecessarily frightening peaceful Indians away from their homes and that the withdrawal of the troops, together with the messages I communicated to the Indians to the effect that the capture of Sitting Bull only was desired, would tend to reassure those who were loyally disposed towards their Agent.

Accordingly I gave orders for the command to withdraw to Oak Creek, of which the Commanding Officer of Fort Yates was informed by courier, with the request that he communicate his further orders to me at that point. Previous to leaving word was sent up and down the valley to the friendly Indians of this movement, in order that they might avail themselves of the protection of the troops in their withdrawal to the Agency, which they did in considerable numbers. All the dead Indian Police together with their wounded and the body of Sitting Bull were brought in by me.

Upon reaching Oak Creek at 6:00 p. m., I was met by a courier who informed me that the Commanding Officer of Fort Yates with two companies of Infantry and ten days supplies, would reach Oak Creek some time in the night. Upon their arrival at 12:00 o'clock, I turned over the command.

I cannot too strongly commend the splendid courage and ability which characterized the conduct of the Indian Police, commanded by Bull Head and Shave Head throughout this encounter.

The attempt to arrest Sitting Bull was so managed as to place the responsibility for the fight that ensued upon Sitting Bull's band which began the firing.