

white and Mexican ranchers. Being unaccompanied, the lieutenant was discreet and did not attempt to capture Geronimo's band singlehanded. In fact, he was very glad to get away with his own hide intact, and bit of information. He learned that Geronimo's outfit was making its headquarters at the United States Government agency at Ojo Caliente, New Mexico; that these murderers and robbers actually returned to this government agency after making sorties into Arizona; that good, kind Uncle Sam was issuing occasional blankets and rations to them as a reward for their effective work in diminishing the white population of Arizona.

Having discovered Geronimo's lair, one would expect Lieutenant Henley to telegraph the news to General Hatch, in command of the Department of New Mexico, and that General Hatch would dispatch troops immediately to Ojo Caliente to apprehend or destroy this red desperado and his followers. But Lieutenant Henley was attached to the Department of Arizona, so he reported instead to General Kautz, in command of that department. Kautz, instead of telegraphing to Hatch at Santa Fe, New Mexico, sent the news to the War Department at Washington. The War Department conferred on the matter, and referred it to the Interior Department. The Secretary of the Interior referred it to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Twenty-four days after Lieutenant Henley discovered Geronimo's hideout, the Indian Commissioner sent the following telegram:

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 20, 1877

AGENT CIUM, SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA

IF PRACTICABLE, TAKE YOUR INDIAN POLICE AND
ARREST RENEGADE INDIANS AT OJO CALIENTE, NEW MEXICO. SEIZE STOLEN HORSES
IN THEIR POSSESSION; RESTORE PROPERTY TO RIGHFUL OWNERS. REMOVE