

continued

informed that the Indians had engaged the Cavalry company but a few days before and had been in such force as to compell them to withdraw I did not deem it prudent to divide my command and refused to give the orders, asked for, more especially as I had been informed that the party consisted of from two to three hundred Indians. About 10 o'clock A.M. I was handed a message from the Post Adjutant of Fort Dodge in which I was informed that Capt. Rendlebroke, 4th Cavalry with 2 companies of that regiment were in the section of country that I was then in and he had been directed to effect a junction with the troops under my command. About 11:30 o'clock A.M. a guide approached my column and reported to me that Capt. Rendlebroke with his command joined me at 12:30 P.M. and I relinquished command of the troops to him at that time.

The movements of my company from that time to the time that I returned to this post, have been as follows:

The command kept on its course and was ordered into Camp about 4:30 o'clock P.M. on Sand creek; the Troops were engaged in making preparations for supper when the alarm of Indians was given. Capt. Rendlebroke directed me to send ten or twelve men of my company to hold the western approach to the Camp. I moved up the required number of men and with Lt. Barrett of my Company remained with them, in the meantime the Cavalry was sent into action. At about 6 o'clock P.M. I was directed to return my men to Camp, the Cavalry was withdrawn about the same time. There were counted 110 Indians who were engaged in this affair. On the return of my Command I was directed to send out their "sleeping parties" or pickets of 18 men each to occupy commanding points at about three or four hundred yards distant from the Camp.

On the 22 inst. the Command started about 7 o'clock A.M. and took a westerly direction, after traveling about 2 or 2½ hours, during which time Indians were constantly in view. the Command was halted on a plateau the Infantry was ordered to the front of the line; I was directed to send 10 men up through a ravine on the left of the plateau. I was also directed to send a party of 10 men up through a ravine on the right of the plateau (these parties were each