

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,

In the Field, Depot on the North Canadian River, at the Junction of Beaver Creek,  
Indian Territory, November 29, 1868.

General Field Orders,) )  
No. 6. )

The Major General Commanding announces to this command the defeat by the 7th Regiment of Cavalry, of a large band of Cheyenne Indians under the celebrated Chief, Black Kettle, reinforced by the Arrappahoes under Little Raven, and Kiowas under Satanta, on the morning of the 27th inst., on the Washita River near the Antelope Hills, Indian Territory, resulting in a loss to the savages of one hundred and three (103) warriors killed, including Black Kettle; the capture of fifty-three (53) squaws and children, eight hundred and seventy-five (875) ponies, eleven hundred and twenty-three (1123) buffalo robes and skins, five hundred and thirty-five (535) pounds of powder, one thousand and fifty (1050) pounds of lead, four thousand (4000) arrows, seven hundred (700) pounds tobacco, besides rifles, pistols, saddles, bows, lariats and immense quantities of dried meat and other Winter provisions; the complete destruction of their village, and almost total annihilation of this Indian band.

The loss to the 7th Cavalry was two officers killed, Major Joel H. Elliott and Captain Louis M. Hamilton, and nineteen (19) enlisted men; three officers wounded, Brevet Lieut. Col. Albert Barnitz, (badly,) Bvt. Lieut. Col. T. W. Custer and 2d Lieutenant T. J. March, (slightly,) and eleven (11) enlisted men.

The energy and rapidity shown during one of the heaviest snow storms that has visited this section of country, with the temperature below the freezing point, and the gallantry and bravery displayed resulting in such signal success, reflects the highest credit upon both the officers and men of the 7th Cavalry; and the Major General Commanding, while regretting the loss of such gallant officers as Major Elliott and Captain Hamilton, who fell while gallantly leading their men, desires to express his thanks to the officers and men engaged in the Battle of the Washita, and his special congratulations are tendered to their distinguished Commander, Brevet Major General George A. Custer, for the efficient and gallant