

now very weak and ~~by~~ weary, and need at least a fortnights rest, before being fit for any effective service.

A. D. King
1st. Lieut 3rd Cav.
Commanding Company "I"

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Fort Dodge Kansas
September 24, 1874

2nd Lieut, A.McC. Guard, 19th Infantry
Post Adjutant

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following sport of my trip in pursuit of the parties who stole the 10 mules from the D. at this Post on the night of the 8th inst. which I made under verbal instruction from the commanding officer.

I left the Post at about 8:15 A.M. on the 9th inst. in command of 1 non commissioned officer and 9 privates of Co. "I" 3rd Cavalry and two Civilian employees of the Q.M.D. on the trail of the party which I followed to Dodge City, and found there on the east side of the bridge the place where the animals had been tied to the willows. The trail led from this point up the Arkansas River for a short distance in the water and came out on the north side into the prairie where it became very indistinct owing to the numerous cattle tracks. At a ford two miles above town where more traces of the trail were found I sent one soldier across the river with one of the civilians to search for the trail with instructions to signal me if anything was found and I proceeded up the river with the balance of the party for about 2 miles. Searching the prairie and back upon the bluffs for the trail. When I crossed the river and went west to the "little rocky point" five miles from Dodge City. Where finding no trace of the trail turned back again and came down the river about a mile where I met McLloyd the corral master at this post and one civilian employer who were searching for the trail without sucess. Soon after joining him I crossed the sand hills in a south eastley direction, and soon