

May 17, 1930.

Lieut-Colonel Joseph M. T. Partello,  
San Francisco, California.

*C/o Adjutant Genl,  
War Dept.  
Washington, D.C.*

Dear Sir:

Colonel Charles Francis Bates informs me that you were present at the Poplar Creek fight when Gall and his hostiles surrendered. As it happens, I am writing a Life of Sitting Bull, and wish to request your assistance. Colonel Bates thought you might be willing to aid me.

I shall be very grateful for any information regarding that fight and any other fights with the Sioux in those days. Also your impressions of Gall and his lieutenants would help me, for of course I must show Sitting Bull among his "generals". If you ever saw Sitting Bull himself, I shall be glad to have your impression of the man, of his words, and anything he did. A great many myths have been created around him, and only those who had contact can set me right.

Have you ever read scout Allison's little book, The Surrender of Sitting Bull? I should be glad to have your comments on that. His story varies considerably from that of the annual report of the Secretary of War. It seems that Scout Allison, the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, some Canadian Traders, and the War Department are all under the impression that they alone procured the surrender of Sitting Bull! I should greatly value your own statements as to this.

What is your opinion of the Sioux Indian as a strategist? Do you think he learned anything or adopted anything from us after fighting with our troops? There seems to be some diversity of opinion as to the relative merits of Gall and Crazy Horse as military leaders. What is your opinion?

I may say that I am not a journalist looking for copy, but a serious historian. Perhaps I should add that, although since childhood I have gone by the name Campbell (my step-father's), I prefer to publish under the name of my own father, Vestal.

I shall be glad to give you credit for any information you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. CAMPBELL  
(Formerly Captain, 335th F.A., A.E.F.)