

12th Extracts from diary of Lieut J. L. Baldwin 5th Inf. (Candy Co. 9, NY) 5th Inf
 Dec 6th Arrived at Ft Peck (from the West) at noon after a march of 18 miles.
 Learned here that Sitting Bull with 100 lodges is on the Porcupine 15 miles away.
 Baldwin Makes preparations with his force of 112 (Officers & men) to attack Sitting Bull. Pack transportation
 8 P.M. Leaves on a night march to attack Sitting Bull.

Dec 7 4:30 A.M. Arrives at Milk River.
 Sitting Bull, now reinforced to 194 lodges, (600 warriors) learns of Baldwin's move & sends his women & children over to Bark Cr retaining his warriors for an anticipated engagement.
 11:30 A.M. Baldwin sends Guide Culbertson & 2 soldiers across the M.R. on the ice to commitre. Enemy opens a brisk fire and Baldwin's men given back.
 Co H then sent forward to develop enemy's numbers & position. This was done in fine style driving the hostiles thru the timber to the foothills where his position was found to be impregnable. Baldwin reluctantly decides that the odds (500 to 100) are too much against him & withdraws Co H with view to maneuvering to where he can fight Sitting Bull on more equal terms - his officers concur in this view. Sitting Bull seems to have tried to trap B. Baldwin moves slowly down to the mouth of the Little Porcupine. About dark a severe norther comes up. Temperature estimated at 30° to 35° below zero. in a footnote to his report Baldwin states that on this night the thermometer was frozen at Ft Peck (-40° or lower) His men had but one blanket per man, & at such temperature he did not dare go into camp, therefore at 9 P.M., in a severe north wind, he starts to "foot it" back to Ft Peck.

Dec 8, 1876 6 A.M. Arrives to within 7 miles of Peck, & halts to let men rest.
 1 P.M. Command arrives at Ft Peck & 25 men report to Surgeon with frost bites. Ft Peck was an Indian Agency - not an Army post.
 In the official report Baldwin states that from 6 A.M. Dec 6 to 12 M. Dec 8 he marched 73 miles.

Note by K.C.B. Baldwin remained at Ft Peck until Dec 11, getting word on the 10th that Sitting Bull had gone to Redwater Cr. Baldwin left Ft Peck Dec 11 arriving at Wolf Point Dec 12. Guided by on 13th. Crossed the M.R. on the ice on 14th and started south east for Redwater, surprising Sitting Bull on the 12th at head of Redwater on Ash Cr. two miles west of where P.O. of Olando is now located on ranch of L.R. McLean.

