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Answers to other questions.

Girard gives his initials in the Court of Inquiry as F.F. so I should assume those initials to be correct.

I do not think that Girard or De Rudio are reliable. I would weigh their statements with great care and as a rule not accept them unless there is other confirmation. Most of their testimony is very favorable to Custer on controverted matters. Girard loved to be in the limelight. He claimed to have been the first one to see Custer's body and that he went there alone. I don't believe that he dared venture away from the protecting shelter of the main body. It was a four mile trip from Reno Hill to Custer Hill and there probably were prowling Indians around even after the main body had retreated.

Of course, you know all about De Rudio's connection with the attempted assassination of Napoleon the III and how his appointment was held up, that is his appointment as an officer of the U.S. Army for that reason, although he was subsequently appointed.

De Rudio wrote some article for the Harper's Publishing house, but I cannot give you the reference. Girard's and De Rudio's remaining in the bottom after the Reno flight might have been all right, but there was no reason why they should not have joined Reno on the bluff as thirteen others who were left in the bottom did join on the afternoon of the 25th. I understand that the whole circumstances of the De Rudio Girard contingent joining so late were regarded as very suspicious, but of course their testimony should be weighed. Girard told two very wild stories in regard to the campaign, but at the same time he saw a lot and has told a great deal that is true. This is one of the problems how to separate the truth from the myths which have grown up around this whole story of the Little Big Horn.

Girard is unquestionably the same Girard who was at Fort Berthold. I do not know anything about his connection with the fur business or his association with Sitting Bull.

I do not know of any separate book which has been written by an Indian but the interviews are many and differ widely. You have to discount all that they say in regard to estimates of time as to the length of the fight, the L.B.H. battle, likewise all that they say about the number of their own casualties or the casualties of the soldiers. They could not count and could only tell time by looking at the sun.

However, carefully sifted, the Indian accounts of the L.B.H. fight are extremely valuable. Nearly all of them agree that the fight in the bottom was a buffalo hunt and that the soldiers on Custer Hill died hard, a long slow fight of considerable duration, although some of them in speaking of the length of the fight are undoubtedly telling the truth when they say it only lasted a very short time. They refer, of course, to the final rush and end of the disaster, which is what I always call it and not a massacre and which perhaps the grand finale only lasted

a very few minutes.