

many of his horses mired and sixty (60) of his<sup>men</sup> were killed in this "slough"; afterwards dragged out by the Indians, stripped of all valuables and generally scalped. Custer then with the balance of his troops endeavored to cross the river and make his way out through the hills on the opposite of the river, but was unable to do so from the fact of the steepness of the bank. Failing in this move and, as the Indians believe, fully realizing the trap into which he had been drawn, he recrossed the river, thinking that he might possibly cut his way back through the Indian camps and escape by the way he came in. But the Indians claim to have had 40 warriors to every one of Custer's men, and once demoralized were an easy prey to the enraged Sioux and Cheyennes, only waiting to exterminate the whole party. After the return from the attempt to cross the river - the struggle was a hand to hand fight - Custer leading his band to the right and then back down the river to the point where they were first forced into the "slough," where they were so completely surrounded as to be unable to escape in any direction and most of these remaining living were dragged from their horses and killed. Custer and a few others did succeed in riding through and over his enemy and reached an eminence nearby, only to be met by thousands on the surrounding hills where he met the same fate of his whole command.

The Indians say that after the troops were driven into the Slough they were completely demoralized, and were an easy prey/sic/showing or giving but little resistance - each one seemed trying to escape instead of trying to fight. They report that Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull were not killed, and that less than 60 Sioux and Cheyennes were killed. The greater portion being killed during the first fire before daybreak. The whole engagement did not last over one hour from the time of the first "charge."