

He related how on the night of June 25, 1876, the day before the fatal engagement, he had occasion to see Captain Benteen about a proposed change of a horse with another trooper.

As he approached, Captain Benteen was in conversation with Brevet Maj. Gen. George A. Custer, and as a result he overheard the conversation.

SCOUT REPORTED MANY INDIANS AHEAD.

He heard Charley Reynolds, famous scout, report that ahead there was the "biggest bunch of Indians I have ever seen."

He heard Benteen suggest that the command be kept together, since every man would be needed.

He heard the impetuous and headstrong Custer reply: "You have your orders. Sound to horse."

From that meeting, Custer and his men rode away to death as history knows.

Sergeant Windolph rode with Benteen's men, who later in the engagement came up with Reno's men and fought a desperate battle to ward off the blood-lustful Sioux.

His congressional medal of honor was awarded for the part he played with others in guarding the water carriers who made a sortie to the river to bring back the precious fluid to the wounded men under Reno and Benteen.

Sergeant Windolph gave a graphic-picture of the corpse-strewn battlefield where Custer died when the Indians had finally withdrawn and the troops had come up to it.

BODIES OF SOLDIERS BADLY MUTILATED.

"It has been reported that the bodies were not badly mutilated, but that is not so," he said. "They were. The bodies lay scattered over a field a half-mile square and were mostly naked. I tried to find my comrade, Corporal Finkle, but I could not recognize him."

He denies, however, the story about Custer's heart having been cut out by Chief Rain-in-the-face. Benteen, he says, placed a marker by Custer's