

Indian Chief Tells of Custer's Death at Little Big Horn Battle

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (AP)—A long disputed historical question — who killed Gen. George Armstrong Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn? — was answered today by the post-mortem publication of an interview with Sioux Chief White Bull. The Indian said he killed Custer.

White Bull revealed in an interview with author Stanley Vestal in 1932 that he shot Custer fatally in the June 25, 1876, battle. Vestal, fearing that "some hothead might harm the old man," kept White Bull's confidence until he wrote an article on the famed battle for the current issue of the American Heritage magazine.

White Bull met Custer in hand-to-hand combat after the American general and his 225 men were attacked on all sides by the Indians at the Little Big Horn river in Montana territory. White Bull was 26 years old at the time, a veteran of 19 engagements.

"We grabbed each other and wrestled there in the dust and smoke," White Bull recalled.

"This soldier was very strong and brave. He tried to wrench my rifle from me. I lashed him across the

face with my quirt. He let go, then grabbed my gun with both hands until I struck him again . . . he hit me with his fists on the jaw and shoulders, then grabbed my long braids with both hands, pulled my face close and tried to bite my nose off. I yelled for help . . . Bear Lice and Crow Boy heard me call and came running. These friends tried to hit the soldier. But we were whirling around, back and forth, so that most of their blows hit me. They knocked me dizzy. I yelled as loud as I could to scare my enemy, but he would not let go.

"Finally I broke free. He drew his pistol. I wrenched it out of his hand and struck him with it three or four times on the head, knocked him over, shot him in the head, and fired at his heart.

"I took his pistol and cartridge belt . . . That was a fight, a hard fight. But it was a glorious battle, I enjoyed it . . . At the time I stopped fighting, only 10 soldiers were on their feet. They were the last ones alive."

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preario to buy his own railway cars.