

and I do not remember how he acted. Remember I was newly married, with other interests, and was just one of the party of officers from the garrison who visited the Indian camp from time to time. I do remember that Sitting Bull at this time, did not appear to be a well man, showing in his face and figure the ravages of worry and hunger he had gone through. He was getting old. Since the sixties he had been the hero of his race. In October 1876 he met his first serious reverse, followed in December by his defeat by Bledwin of the 5th Infantry at the Red Water, and in 1881 came the giving in to the hated whites and the final surrender of his cherished independence. It was a hard blow to his pride and he took it hard. He was at Buford only a short time and I saw him twice, but had no chance to talk with him on either occasion.

*Crazy Horses  
impressions  
of any of the  
others*

There were some eighty-five tribes of Indians on the plains during this campaign. Some of the Indian leaders that I have met were: Gall, Crazy Horses, Two Moons, Iron Shield, Hump, Rain-in-the-Face, Lone Deer, Broad Tail, Kicking Bear and Spotted Eagle. Of this number Gall is the only one I remember was with Sitting Bull at the time of his surrender. All the Indians at the time of their surrender were armed with rifles.

During the years 1876-1880 the Indians in Montana, Dakota and Wyoming were well armed and had plenty of ammunition, the Indian traders saw to that.

The Indian as a "stand-up" fighter didn't amount to much. The affairs of Crook in 1875-1876 and the Custer Fight itself were their only big fights. As a rule when the troops got really ready to fight, the Indians were willing to withdraw or surrender. If the Indians had a good chance for a surprise, they would swoop down, strike, then withdraw; but would seldom stand for a regular prolonged engagement.

I was with General Miles at the affair at Beaver Creek in 1879. It was only a two company affair and was over before it had hardly begun. Lieutenants Clark, 2nd Cavalry and Borden, 5th Infantry, with their companies were the only combatants on the army side. It was only a skirmish of advance-guards.

In reference to General Miles "Recollections," be sure to turn to index and under Sitting Bull you will get the views of the best Indian fighter in the army from 1876-1880, regarding him. Write to Major-general Hugh L. Scott, retired, in care The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D.C., who at the present time is the best authority on Indians.

The Indian was unjustly treated, it is true, but by the authorities in Washington, not by the troops.

I shall be glad to give you any further information you may desire.

Very truly yours,

*W. S. C. J. J. J.*

*Ret ✓ The two pictures inclosed may be kept by you for #3. #, just what they cost me. Please return them or the money.*