

when disasters had occurred which might have been averted by that greater familiarity with the country which would have been acquired by the troops intended to be stationed there."

"February 9th, Lieutenant L. H. Robinson, 14th Infantry, with Corporal Collins, while in charge of a lumber train returning from the government saw-mill near Laramie Peak, Wyoming, were wantonly murdered by Indians. This seemed to be the signal for other depredations and for the commencement of great trouble at Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's Agencies, located one hundred and twenty and one hundred and fifty miles, respectively, north east of Fort Laramie. At the request of the Interior Department and at great suffering and exposure, troops had to be sent in the dead of winter for the protection of the Indian Agents and their employes at these agencies. Upon the arrival of the troops the hostile bands withdrew from the agencies, leaving the peacefully inclined to remain under the protection of the soldiers, the hostiles fleeing northwest towards the Powder River and Big Horn valleys, sending out young warriors to steal stock and scalp people, whenever they could get the chance to do so without much danger to themselves. The acts of these bands seemed to fire the blood of the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes, two bands at that time affiliated with the Indians belonging to Red Cloud's Agency; they usually made their home at "Pumpkin Butte", near the Powder River, or further west in the valley of the Big Horn, where the Wind River breaks through the Big Horn range of mountains. From this last named point they commenced a series of raids upon the friendly Shoshones near Camp Brown, (Fort Washakie,) in the Wind River country, stealing stock, also, from the settlers in the valleys of the Big and Little Popcagie Rivers."

"To break up a rendezvous of the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes, discovered about ninety miles from Camp Brown, Wyoming, Captain A. E. Bates with Troop "B", 2nd Cavalry and about one hundred and sixty friendly Shoshones, made a rapid march from that post and on. . . . .

July 4th, after a gallant fight, completely defeated the hostiles near