

by Crazy-Horse and his allies, and that the lines of the two military departments would be disregarded by the troops until the object requested by the Secretary of the Interior was attained.

Similar directions were given General Crook, and, as the Indian villages were movable, no objective point could be fixed upon for concerted operations by the two distinct expeditions from the Departments of the Platte and Dakota.

During the time these preparations were making, efforts were continued to have the Indians come in to their agencies, settle down and be peaceable, but without avail.

Immediately upon receipt of his instructions, General Crook commenced concentrating at Fort Fetterman, the available cavalry of his command, consisting of about ten troops of the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry which, with two companies of infantry, moved out from that post March 1st, in search of the hostiles, believed to be located on the head-waters of Powder River, Tongue River or the Rosebud.

March 17th, the main part of the expedition, under Colonel J. J. Reynold, 3rd Cavalry, consisting of Troops "A", "B", "E", "I", and "K", 2nd Cavalry, with a detachment of Troop "A", and Troops "E", "F", and "M", 3rd Cavalry, attacked a large village of Sioux and Northern Cheyennes, near the mouth of the Little Powder River, Montana, destroying all the lodges, one hundred and five in number, with ammunition and stores. A large herd of animals was also captured, but were subsequently recovered by the hostiles. Four enlisted men were killed and Lieutenant Sawolle, 2nd Cavalry, and five men wounded. The village was a perfect magazine of ammunition, war material and general supplies, and every evidence was found to prove these Indians in co-partnership with those at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies, that the proceeds of raids upon the settlements had been taken into those agencies and supplied brought out in return.

The command had suffered so much from the severity of the weather, the mercurial thermometer failing to register the intensity of the cold, that