

leave Gibbon's infantry too weak a force to act independently.

Under directions, then, to carry out his part of the foregoing plan, to also examine the upper part of Tullock's Fork and endeavor to send a scout through with the information thus obtained, to Gibbon's column, which was to examine the lower part of that fork, Custer started up the Rosebud on June 22nd, and Gibbon's command, personally accompanied by General Terry, moved the same day for the mouth of the Big Horn. A supply steamer was to push up the Big Horn as far as the forks, if found navigable for that distance, and Custer, at the expiration of the time for which his troops were rationed, was to report to General Terry there, unless in the meantime other orders should be received.

In accordance with this plan, all of Gibbon's column reached and crossed Tullock's Creek, on the afternoon of June 24th.

On the afternoon of June 22nd, Custer's column marched up the Rosebud twelve miles and there encamped. The next day, June 23rd, he continued up the Rosebud thirty-three miles, passing a heavy lodge pole trail, though not very fresh. June 24th, the advance was continued up the Rosebud, the trail and signs constantly growing fresher, until the column was again put in motion, turning from the Rosebud to the right up one of its branches which headed near the summit of the "divide" between the Rosebud and the Little Big Horn. About two o'clock in the morning of June 25th, the column halted for about three hours, made coffee and then resumed the march, crossed the divide, and by eight o'clock were in the valley of one of the branches of the Little Big Horn. By this time Indians had been seen, and as it was certain they could not now be surprised, it was determined to attack them.

Custer took personal command of Troops "C", "E", "F", "I", and "L"; Major Reno was given Troops "A", "G", and "M"; Captain Benteen, Troops "H", "D", and "K"; Captain McDougall with Troop "B", acted as guard to the pack train.

The valley of the creek was followed towards the Little Big Horn, Custer on the right of the creek, Reno on the left of it, Benteen off still further