

assault, should the warriors return in strong force, but early in the morning of the 27th, while preparing to resist any attack which might be attempted, the dust of a moving column was seen approaching in the distance. Soon it was discovered to be troops who were coming and in a little while a scout arrived with a note from General Terry to Custer, saying that some Crow scouts had come to camp stating that Custer had been whipped, but that their story was not believed. About half-past ten o'clock in the morning General Terry rode into Reno's lines and the fate of Custer was ascertained.

Precisely what was done by Custer's immediate command, subsequent to the moment when the rest of the regiment last saw them alive, has remained partly a matter of conjecture, no officer or soldier who rode with him into the valley of the Little Big Horn, having lived to tell the tale. The only real evidence of how they came to meet their fate, was the testimony of the field where it overtook them. What was read upon the ground, as from an open page, was described in the official report of General Terry who came up with Gibbon's column.

Custer's trail, from the point where Reno crossed the stream, passed along in the rear of the crest of the bluffs on the right bank, for nearly or quite three miles. Then it came down to the bank of the river, but at once diverged from it again, as though Custer had unsuccessfully attempted to cross; then turning upon itself and almost completing a circle, the trail ceased. It was marked by the remains of officers and men and the bodies of horses, some then dotted along the path, others heaped in ravines and upon knolls where halts appeared to have been made. There was abundant evidence that a gallant resistance had been offered by Custer's men, but that they were beset on all sides by overpowering numbers.

The officers known to be killed were General Custer, Captains Keogh, Yates and Custer, Lieutenants Cooke, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Porter, Hodgson, Sturgis and Reilly, of the 7th Cavalry, Lieutenant Crittenden of the 20th Infantry, and Acting Assistant Surgeon DeWolf; Lieutenant Harrington of the Cavalry and Assistant Surgeon Lord were missing. Mr. Boston Custer