

and seventy-three lodges, with their contents, was entirely destroyed and about five hundred ponies were captured. The bodies of twenty-five dead Indians fell into the hands of the troops, but it was believed a much heavier loss was inflicted. The casualties of the troops were five men killed and twenty-five wounded, besides nineteen horses killed. In a very gallant charge upon the Indians, Lieutenant John A. McKinney, 4th Cavalry, was killed.

The severity of the weather was intense, and being so encumbered by his wounded, Mackenzie rejoined the main column of the expedition which had been following him, all returning to the cantonment near Fort Reno. The thermometer was so far below zero that further active field operations, in such weather, were considered impracticable and they were, therefore, suspended for the winter.

Meanwhile, in the Department of Dakota, the operations of Colonel Miles against Sitting Bull and his confederates were continued. On December 7th, First Lieutenant F. D. Baldwin, with Companies "G", "H", and "I", 5th Infantry, numbering one hundred officers and men, overtook Sitting Bull's camp of one hundred and ninety lodges, followed and drove it south of the Missouri, near the mouth of Bark Creek. The Indians resisted Baldwin's crossing of the river, for a short time and then retreated into the Bad Lands. On December 18th, this same force, under Lieutenant Baldwin, surprised Sitting Bull's band of one hundred and twenty-two lodges, near the head of the Red water, a southern affluent of the Missouri, capturing the entire camp and its contents, together with about sixty horses, ponies and mules. The Indians escaped with little besides what they had upon their persons and scattered southward across the Yellowstone.