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The entire command was mounted, and numbered 12 commissioned officers, 272 enlisted men, 19 Indian scouts and volunteers, and 2 citizen volunteers. I took with my column the Hotchkiss gun, which, during the engagement, was handled and served with great skill and coolness by First Lieut. T. M. Woodruff, Fifth Infantry, personally, and his gunners.

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After crossing the Missouri and filing slowly through a slough fringed by a thick/ (p. 102) growth of willows, I came upon the first village, that of Minneconjous, 32 lodges which, with the exception of a few superannuated bucks, was entirely deserted. These came running from the woods towards me, and deposited a few worthless muskets on the ground. I directed Captain Owenshine, Fifth Infantry, with his company, to search the teepees for Indians and fire-arms, which search resulted in the finding of 16 rifles and guns, of different patterns, and two pistols. These arms were burned by that officer.

Re-enforcing Captain Owenshine with Company A, Fifth Infantry (commanded by Lieutenant Avis), and instructing him to continue the search and invite the Indians to take down their teepees, preparatory to removal to my camp, I proceeded with the rest of command in an easterly direction, and soon struck the main camp of the Uncapapas (about forty lodges), reported as Gall's followers. Here perfect silence reigned, and not an Indian could be seen. I then directed Lieutenant Woodruff to place the field gun in position, and to send a few shells into the woods for the purpose of convincing the hostiles gathered in timber to the rear that I was in earnest. At the first shot a solitary Indian was seen to leave one of the teepees leisurely walking towards the rear, away from us. I then placed my column by the flank to the front of the village and dismounted, cautioning officers to reserve fire until further orders.

Captain Hargous, with Company C, Fifth Infantry, the center company of the batalion, was ordered to advance upon the village and search the same for