

I then detached Captain Bell, with his company, F, Seventh Cavalry, to secure the pony herd. He rode about 15 miles, and brought to my camp, late in the evening, about 200 animals. All the teepees which the Indians refused to take down were burned as the night was coming on, and it was feared that the owners thereof would escape with them during the following night. It seemed to me the only course left to compel their surrender, and this proved to be correct, as on the following day the prisoners under guard at my camp numbered, by actual count, over 300, and only 31 lodges with them.

I am glad to report no casualties to soldiers or scouts.

X It is now known that at least 8 of the hostiles were killed during, or died of wounds since, the engagement, although this was not known at the time of my telegraphic report to your office.

I think that about 60 of the hostiles escaped during and after the engagement, some of whom have joined Sitting Bull's followers. Forty-three guns and pistols were destroyed by fire, and 26 left in my possession, some of which have been given as reward to the friendly Yanktonnais, who assisted me during the expedition with great fidelity. I have also given to them and the other scouts about 40 of the captured ponies, and trust that my action will be approved.

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I cannot speak too highly of the coolness and gallantry with which the officers and enlisted men of my command went to the scene of action and proceeded to their duties in the expectation of a severe encounter with these savage people, who were supposed to defend their stronghold to the last. (p.103)

Where all did so well I cannot discriminate in favor of one, but recommended them all to the favorable consideration of the authorities. They are good soldiers, and I congratulate myself to have been their commanding officer during this campaign, which has now lasted nearly seven weeks. They have undergone hardships which heretofore were thought almost insurmountable, when the snow is knee deep and the thermometer from 15° to 50° below zero.

weather