

In an hour or less the pack-train came up. Some carbine ammunition was then unpacked from it, and was issued to some of Reno's men.

I heard very little firing at all after the time I got on the Reno Hill. Not more than fifteen or twenty shots. While at the river I could both hear and see it, about two miles away. My effective force was about 125 men. I reached Reno about 3 p.m. The pack-train was not yet in sight.

p. 17 Reno was not present when Custer ordered me to move off to the left.

Reno's men appeared to be in good order, but pretty well blown, and so were the horses. They were not in line of battle, but were scattered around, I suppose to the best advantage. They all thought there was a happier place than that, I guess.

I had no knowledge or impression where Custer was, or on which side of the river. My impressions from Trumpeter Martin were that the Indians were 'skeddadling,' but my first sight of the fight showed that there was no skeddadling being done by the Indians.

Reno did not explain to me why he had retreated from the river bottom to the hill; nor did he express any solicitude or uneasiness about Custer. Nor did I. I supposed General Custer was able to take care of himself.

The only firing I heard which came from the direction Custer had gone was fifteen or twenty shots that seemed to come from about the central part of the village. I have heard officers disputing about hearing volleys. I heard no volleys.

About this time I saw one of the troops of my battalion proceeding to the front, mounted. It was Capt. Weir, who sallied out in that direction in a fit of bravado, I think without orders. That was about half an hour after we arrived. It was before the packs came up. Upon this, I followed with the other two troops, Major Reno having his trumpeter sound the halt continuously and assiduously; but I had to get in sight then of what I had left my valley-hunting mission for.

Capt. Weir, with his troops, had gone down a gorge. Indians were riding around the bluffs on either side of this troop, signaling. I then threw forward a troop, dismounted, at right angles with the river, and one on the bluffs parallel with the river, so that if Custer's forces were near, our position would be defined.