

p. 20 At the angle of the line was Company A; then followed G, D, B, M and K. I was not assigned to any particular part. My company was on the extreme left. After our line was formed, it was about as lively a fire as you would like to stand up under. You had only to show a hat or a head, or anything, to get a volley. It was about 5:30 when we got our line finished, or maybe later. We were under fire from two and a half to three hours.

The Indians had picnic parties as large as a regiment standing around in the river bottom, looking on. There was no place to put them. Fully two thousand were around us, waiting for a place to shoot from!

The Indians close to us did not expose themselves. The only thing you could see would be the flash of a gun. They came so close that they threw arrows and dirt over at us with their hands, and touched one of the dead men with a coup-stick. That was the next morning. That afternoon was like the second day -- we could see nothing to shoot at. We got volleys, but could not return them.

The night of the 25th Major Reno was upon the hill where my company was, and ordered me to build breast-works. I sent for spades, but there were none. I thought it unnecessary, but the next morning the fire was much heavier, and I had a good deal of trouble keeping my men on the line.

I had to run them out of the pack-train, and I brought up sacks of bacon and boxes of hard bread and pack-saddles, and made a redoubt. I took twelve or fifteen skulking soldiers and packers, and turned the redoubt over to my first lieutenant, and told him I intended to drive the Indians from the ravine. I did so, and we then got water. Major Reno at the time was on the other end of the line. He thought the main attack would come there.

After getting to the water I sent word to Reno to get all the receptacles together, and fill them. I then told Reno I was being annoyed by a cross-fire from every quarter, and was unprotected, save the breastworks, and asked him if I might drive those Indians out. He said 'Yes', and we did it. I gave the order, and told the men to go, and went in with them.