

I went over the battlefield carefully, with a view to determine how the fight was fought. I arrived at the conclusion I have right now -- that it was a rout, a panic, till the last man was killed; that there was no line formed.

p. 22 There was no line on the battlefield. You can take a handful of corn and scatter it over a floor, and make just such lines. There were none. The only approach to a line ~~was~~ was where five or six horses were found at equal distances, like skirmishers. Ahead of them were five or six men at about the same distances, showing that the horses were killed, and the riders all jumped off, and were heading to get where General Custer was. That was the only approach to a line on the field. There were more than twenty killed there to the right; there were four or five at one place, all within a space of twenty to thirty yards. That was the condition all over the field.

Only where General Custer was found was there any evidence of a stand. The five or six men I spoke of were where Capt. Calhoun's body was; they were of his company. There were twenty-two bodies found in a ravine, fifty to seventy-five yards from the river. They had, I think, been killed with stones and clubs. They were unarmed; I think they were wounded men who had gone into the ravine to hide. There was a trail leading to a crossing about a hundred yards above that ravine.

I counted seventy dead horses and two Indian ponies. I think, in all probability that the men turned their horses loose without any orders to do so. Many orders might have been given, but few obeyed. I think they were panic-stricken; it was a rout, as I said before.

The village, as I saw it from the high point, I estimated at three to four miles long; about eighteen hundred tepees; four to seven warriors to the tepee. I saw it when it moved away (on the 26th). It started about sunset, and was in sight till darkness came. It was in a straight line about three miles long, and I think a half mile wide, as densely packed as animals could be. They had an advance guard, and platoons formed, and were in as regular military order as a corps or division.