

I saw no evidence of cowardice on Major Reno's part. I found it necessary at one time to caution him about exposing himself. I told him to be careful how he stood in front of the point, as volleys were coming constantly.

When I received my order from Custer to separate myself from the command, I had no instructions to unite at any time with Reno or anyone else. There was no plan at all. My orders were 'valley-hunting' ad infinitum. The reason I returned was because I thought I would be needed at the ridge. I acted entirely on my own judgment.

p. 23 I was separated from Reno fifteen miles when at the greatest distance.

I had a very fast-walking horse, which I think can walk five miles an hour easily. We had to go by files through defiles and circuit around rugged hills which were too steep to ascend, and that is why I tell you we were at a trot from the time we left Custer until we watered the horses at the morass. From ~~that time~~ until we reached the place where Reno crossed the river, the gait was the same. It was not necessary to give a command to trot, because the men would all be trotting to keep up with me. We were going then as fast as we could go without going at a gallop.

Reno could not have expected me to join him. There were no orders to do so.

When I left, I did not know that Reno had a command. The division had not been made yet, and I don't think Reno knew anything about it at the time I left. When I passed, he asked me where I was going, and I told him I was going to the left, with instructions to pitch into anything I came across. The next time I saw Reno was on the hill.

The farthest down stream that any company of Reno's got was about a half mile below that highest point. I planted a guidon there as a guide to our position for Custer. His battlefield is not visible there; I know that positively, though some officers think it was.

Not a soul in the command imagined Custer had been destroyed till Gen. Terry came up. That our first intimation. Up to that time we were wholly ignorant of his fate. From all the circumstances it is my judgment that the fight lasted from fifteen minutes to half an hour or an hour; not more than the latter. I do not think it would