

was, therefore, known only to himself and not to Major Reno, for HE must naturally have expected his assistance to come from the rear and not from the front.

The position of the bodies on the Custer battlefield indicated that the officers did not die with their companies, for only three officers were found with their companies. That shows they did not fight by companies. All the officers, except Keogh, Calhoun and Crittenden, were on the line with Custer. That would not be the fact if the command was overwhelmed making a stand. If there had been a charge, the officers would have led it; there is no royal road to death in a charge.

p. 26 The officers' bodies, including General Custer's, were in a position which indicated that they had not died in a charge. There was an arc of a circle of dead horses around them.

Lines could have been formed, but lines were not formed -- they probably had not had time to form lines. General Custer might have fled the field and saved a part of his command; and I think discretion would have been the better part of valor if he had done that.

The sergeant who came to me had verbal orders to the commanding officer of the pack-train, and I did not consider that an order to me. The pack-train was not a part of my command or column.

My supposition in regard to Custer's whereabouts was that he had found more Indians than he could conveniently handle with his battalion of five troops, and that he had fallen back to connect with Generals Terry and Gibbon.

My battalion got to the point in time to save Reno's forces; but from not knowing the position or needs of Custer, it was without the bounds of possibility to render him any assistance. That my battalion made such an attempt is clear enough. It is also clear to me that after the occurrence, the whole seven companies of the regiment could have rendered no assistance to Custer after Reno had been defeated, even had there been time and we had known the lay of the land.

And the reason for this is: that there were a great deal too many Indians who were powerful good shots, on the other side. We were at their hearths and homes; they had