

(1940) in his 88th year, and who, in 1870 was war correspondent for the New York Times, Chicago Tribune and Rocky Mountain News, of Denver. Mr. Strahorn was assigned to Gen. Crook's division, and took part personally in every battle and skirmish in which Crook's forces were engaged throughout the campaign. Mr. Strahorn is prominently mentioned and thanked by the then Secretary of War, for his courageous help in the Crazy Horse fight of March, 1876, and particularly mentioned in Capt. John G. Bourke's well-known work, "On the Border With Crook," for distinguished bravery and gallantry in action against the hostile Indians on every occasion in which Crook's troops engaged. There is no more competent living authority on the part played by Crook's forces in the Sioux Campaign of 1876, than Mr. Strahorn. In explanation of Crook's fight on the Rosebud, June 17th, and his subsequent return to his base on Goose Creek, near the present city of Sheridan, Wyoming, Mr. Strahorn wrote:

"Dear Mr. Brininstool: Your question as to why Crook, with his 1,100 men retreated to Goose Creek after the Rosebud fight, and called for reinforcements, is easily answered. After some hours of pretty close fighting with a body of Indians estimated all the way from 2,000 to 3,000 or 4,000, and incidentally their retreat down a narrow gorge (known today as the "Dead Canyon of the Rosebud") toward their main command on the Little Big Horn, we happened to be riding with General Crook and his staff at the head of the column in pursuit. Suddenly halting, and raising his hand as a signal for that, he turned square back up through the ravine — of course facing the column all the way back — and with a disappointed look. I made bold to ask him why this move? He said that with all those wounded on our hands, and with an ambuscade clearly in sight, he would not take his men down into that hole.

"So we returned to the battlefield, camped there for the night, and buried our dead, which we had been carrying, and made campfires over their graves to mislead the Indians, if possible (who would naturally have dug them up to gratify their usual appetite for plunder.)

"That night Crook took the necessary steps to discover just the situation down