

dead bodies to mark their line. About 28 bodies of men belonging to the troops and other organizations were found in one ravine near the river. Many corpses were found ~~in~~ scattered over the field between Custer's line of defense, the river, and the direction of Reno's hill. These, doubtless, were of men who had attempted to escape; some of them may have been sent as courriers by Custer. One of the first bodies I recognized and one of the nearest to the ford was that of Sgt. Butler, of Tom Custer's troop. Sgt Butler was a soldier of many years experience and of known courage. The indications were that he had lost his life dearly for near and under him were found many empty cartridge shells.

All the Ind accounts that I know of, agree that there was no organized close-quarters fighting, except on the two flanks; that with the annihilation at Custer's hill the battle was virtually over. It does not appear that the Ind made any advance to the attack from the direction of the river; ~~and~~ they ~~did~~ have a definite force along the river, and in the ravines which destroyed those who left Custer's line.