

1877

Hostile Indians, 1868-1875
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two pieces of artillery moved out against the Sioux and Cheyennes under Crazy Horse, whose camp had been reported south of the Yellowstone, in the valley of Tongue River. As the column moved up the Tongue the Indians abandoned their winter camps, consisting of about six hundred lodges, and the column had two sharp skirmishes on the 1st and 3d of January, driving the Indians up the valley of Tongue River, until the night of the 7th, when the advance captured a young warrior and seven Cheyenne women and children, who proved to be relatives of one of the head-men of the tribe. A determined attempt was made by the Indians to rescue the prisoners, and preparations were made for the severe fight to be expected the next day. In the morning of January 8, about six hundred warriors appeared in front of the troops and an engagement followed, lasting about five hours. The fight took place in a canon, the Indians occupying a spur of the Wolf Mountain range, from which they were driven by repeated charges. The ground was covered with ice and snow to a depth of from one to three feet, and the latter portion of the engagement was fought in a blinding snow-storm, the troops stumbling and falling, in scaling the ice and snow covered cliffs from which the Indians were driven, with serious loss in killed and wounded, through the Wolf Mountains and in the direction of the Big Horn range. The troops lost three men killed and eight wounded. The column then returned to the cantonment at the mouth of Tongue River.

January 9, a detachment of Troops H and L, Sixth Cavalry, and Company C, Indian scouts, under command of Lieut. J. A. Rucker, Sixth Cavalry, from the Department of Arizona, had a fight with a band of Indians in the mountains in the western part of New Mexico, killing ten Indians and capturing one; one enlisted man was wounded.

January 12, on Blkhorn Creek, Wyoming, a small detachment of Troops A, Third Cavalry, had a fight with a band of Indians, three