

transmitted by telegraph, Colonel Sturgis, with Troops F, G, H, I, L, and M, Seventh Cavalry, numbering about three hundred and sixty men, was dispatched from the neighborhood of Tongue River, to try to intercept the hostiles in the direction of Judith Gap. On August 27, Colonel Sturgis received, by way of Fort Ellis, a telegram from General Howard, dated the 25th, at Virginia City, Mont., stating that the hostiles would cross the Stinking River, about one hundred miles southeast of the Crow Agency; he also received information through his scouting parties, which satisfied him that the Nez Perces were still south of the Yellowstone, so Colonel Sturgis decided to watch both the Stinking River and Clark's Fork. On September 8 he struck the trail, and on September 11 met the exhausted troops of General Howard in the vicinity of Clark's Fork.

Colonel Sturgis pushed on, with his own command, hoping by forced marches of fifty or sixty miles per day, for three or four days, to overtake the Nez Perces; so, joined by about fifty men of Troops C and K, First Cavalry, and two mountain howitzers from General Howard's expedition, the chase was resumed. At the same time word was sent by couriers to Colonel Miles, at Tongue River, notifying him of the course the Nez Perces were last following, in the belief that he might, by a rapid direct march from his post, intercept the hostiles still further to the north.

The first day after leaving General Howard, Colonel Sturgis marched fifty miles, and the next morning, September 13, he reached the Yellowstone and crossed the river. The Nez Perces being reported in sight, the column moved rapidly down the valley six or seven miles, the advance guard attacking a few Indian skirmishers posted behind the crests of some ridges. Colonel Sturgis' entire force soon became engaged and