

1877

Hostile Indians, 1868-82  
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some warriors in ravines leading into the valley, rendered it impossible for his scouts to determine the full size and strength of the camp. The whole column, however, advanced at a rapid gait, the leading battalion of the Second Cavalry being sent to make a slight detour, attack in rear, and cut off and secure the herd. This was done in gallant style, the battalion, in a running fight, capturing upwards of eight hundred ponies; the battalions of the Seventh Cavalry and the Fifth Infantry charged, mounted, directly upon the village.

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The attack was met by a desperate resistance and every advance was stubbornly contested by the Indians, but with a courageous persistence, fighting dismounted, the troops secured command of the whole Indian position, excepting the beds of the ravines in which some of the warriors were posted. A charge was made on foot by a part of the Fifth Infantry down a slope and along the open valley of the creek into the village, but the fire of the Indians soon disabled thirty-five per cent. of the detachment which made this assault, and attempts to capture the village by such means had to be abandoned.

In the first charge by the troops, and during the hot fighting which followed, Capt. O. Hale, Seventh Cavalry, Lieut. J. W. Biddle, Seventh Cavalry, and twenty-two enlisted men were killed; Captains Moylan and Godfrey, Seventh Cavalry, First Lieutenants Baird and Romeyn, Fifth Infantry, and thirty-eight enlisted men were wounded.

The Indian herd having been captured, the eventual escape of the village became almost impossible. The casualties to the troops had amounted to twenty per cent. of the force engaged, there ~~were~~ many wounded to care for, and there were neither tents nor fuel, a cold wind and snow storm prevailing on the night of September 30, so Colonel Miles determined to simply hold his advantage for a time, notifying General Howard and Colonel Sturgis of the situation; Colonel Sturgis