

1878

MS 43
5885
Hostile Indians, 1868-82
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July 1878
After the extensive surrenders in 1877, of the hostile Northern Cheyennes in the Departments of Dakota and the Platte, a portion, numbering two hundred and thirty-five men, three hundred and twelve women, and three hundred and eighty-six children, with four Arapahoes, were sent with a military guard from Fort Robinson, Neb., to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Agency, at Fort Reno, Ind. T., where they were turned over to the Indian agent on August 8, 1877.

Subsequent to that date other small parties surrendered and some died, so that on July 1, 1878, the number of Northern Cheyennes, at Fort Reno, Ind., T., was nine hundred and forty-two. An attempt had been made by General Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, to disarm and dismount these Indians, so as to place them on the same footing with the Southern Cheyennes, but as it was found this ⁷⁹ could not be done without violation of the conditions of their surrender, they were permitted to retain their arms and ponies.

A large part of these Northern Cheyennes found friends and kindred among the Southern Cheyennes at Fort Reno, mixed with them, and joined the various bands. About one-third of the Northern Cheyennes, however, under the leadership of "Dull Knife," "Wild Hog," "Little Wolf," and others, comprising about three hundred and seventy-five Indians, remained together and would not affiliate with the Southern Cheyennes. Dissatisfied with life at their new agency at Fort Reno, they determined to break away, move north, and rejoin their friends in the country where they formerly lived. As nearly as could be ascertained, those who escaped from Fort Reno numbered eighty-nine men, one hundred and twelve women, and one hundred and thirty-four children. Their intention to escape had long been suspected and their movements were consequently watched by the troops, but by abandoning all their lodges, which they