

left standing, they stole away on the night of September 9. Two troops of the Fourth Cavalry, under Captain Bendlebrock, the only mounted forces at Reno, started immediately in pursuit, and the garrisons were ordered out from Forts Supply, Dodge, Lyon, and other places near the Arkansas River, to intercept or overtake the escaping band; some cavalry was also ordered up to Fort Reno, from Fort Sill, to prevent an extension of this exodus, and two troops of the Fourth Cavalry were also directed to march rapidly from Fort Elliott, Tex., to Fort Dodge. Besides these precautions, the garrisons of Fort Wallace, two companies of Sixteenth Infantry, Fort Hays, three companies of Third Infantry, and Fort Leavenworth, the latter consisting of one hundred mounted men of the Twenty-third Infantry, altogether two hundred and fifty men, were disposed along the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, to watch for the Cheyennes, should they succeed in eluding the troops upon the Arkansas.

In the Department of the Platte, dispositions of troops were made along the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, at points where the Indians might be expected to cross, should they escape between the detachments in the Department of the Missouri.

On September 16, Lieut. Col. Wm. H. Lewis, Nineteenth Infantry, commanding officer at Fort Dodge, Kans., reported that the Cheyennes were raiding about the mouth of Bluff Creek, Indian Territory, and were driving off stock. Colonel Lewis sent all the force he could spare (about forty men of the Nineteenth Infantry* to Pierceville, north of the Arkansas and west of Fort Dodge, to try and strike the Indians, if they attempted to cross the river. On September 19, he sent Captain Morse, with his company of thirty-five men of the Sixteenth Infantry, ten more men of the Nineteenth Infantry, and Troop I, Fourth Cavalry, all of whom had arrived at Fort Dodge, to assist in pursuit south of the Arkansas.