

All the troops on the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, under command of Col. Jeff. C. Davis, Twenty-third Infantry, were then pushed northward in pursuit, as was also the cavalry under Captain Mauck, but the Indians tore through the country, murdering and devastating the settlements on the Beaver, the Solomon, and the Republican, killing every settler they encountered, remounting themselves with some two hundred and fifty horses stolen on the way, and abandoning about sixty worn-out ponies in crossing the State of Kansas.

On November 11, the governor of Kansas, in writing, informed the honorable Secretary of War that in this raid through his State the Cheyennes had murdered over forty men and had ravished many women.

Simultaneously with the escape from Fort Reno of this party of Northern Cheyennes under "Dull Knife" and other chiefs, a band of one hundred and eighty-two surrendered Northern Cheyennes, from Fort Keogh, Mont., were also moving, with a small military escort, towards the Indian Territory, to be located on the same reservation at Fort Reno. These Indians were at once halted at Fort Sidney, Nebr., and for a time serious apprehensions were felt that they might learn of⁸¹ the escape of their people from the Indian Territory and attempt to unite with them.

The utmost activity prevailed on the part of the few troops which could be collected upon the line of the Union Pacific Railway, and a train of cars was kept ready at Sidney, with steam up, to rapidly throw all that could then be assembled (about one hundred and forty infantry and cavalry, under Major Thornburgh, Fourth Infantry) upon any point on the road where the fugitives from the south might attempt to cross. General Merritt, with the Fifty Cavalry, was ordered to move as rapidly as possible to Fort Hiramie, and Colonel Carlton, with the Third Cavalry, to Fort Robinson, while other troops in the department also joined in the pursuit.