

would themselves surrender, otherwise that they should try to join Sitting Bull, who still remained in the British possessions. These prisoners also stated, through Mr. Ben Clarke, Cheyenne interpreter, that they had lost fifteen killed in the various fights subsequent to their escape from Fort Reno.

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The fugitives, having now eluded capture in both the Departments of the Missouri and the Platte, the troops in the Department of Dakota were added to the pursuing forces, and on October 17, Major Tilford, with nine troops of the Seventh Cavalry, two companies of the First and two of the Eleventh Infantry, numbering four hundred and thirty enlisted men, reached Camp Sheridan, from Bear Buttes (Fort Meade), Dak.

On October 18, Acting Indian Agent Tibbetts, Red Cloud Agency, reported the capture, by Red Cloud's Indians, of a party of ten of the fugitives. On October 21, Major Carlton reported that "American Horse," an agency Indian, expressed the opinion that two parties of the Cheyennes had escaped northward, but that a third party still remained in the Sand Hills, and that the agency Indians wanted to catch them, if they could keep their captured arms and horses. Major Carlton detached a force in search of this party, and on October 22, Capt. J.B. Johnson, commanding Troops B and D, Third Cavalry, captured one hundred and forty-nine of the Cheyennes and one hundred and forty head of stock. Chiefs "Dull Knife," "Old Crow," and "Wild Hog" were among the prisoners. Their ponies were taken away, together with such arms as could then be found, but the prisoners said they would rather die than be taken back to the Indian Territory. On October 25, when told they must go to Fort Robinson, regarding this as a step toward the Indian Territory, they began digging rifle pits and constructing breastworks in their camp. A fight seemed inevitable, but by great coolness and good judgment on the part of the officers a collision was prevented;