

1874

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Miles 19a

Hans Stealy

Year 1879.

Page 13 of "Report of Supt. n Walsh. Wood Mt., 16th Dec. 1879.

15th July.-U.S Expedition to Milk River and boundary line.

About this date Lieutenant Tillson, U.S.A., arrived at this post (via Fort W Walsh) bearing a despatch from General Miles, U.S.A., requesting the arrest of certain Indians who were suspected of committing a murder on the Yellowstone River in the month of March, and were now supposed to be in the St Teton Sioux camp.

Lieutenant Tillson brought with him a man named Sturms, who was present when the murder was committed, and was wounded while making his escape, and who could identify the perpetrators.

Sturms informed me that the party consisted of five Indians, two Nez Perces, one the "White Eye" and the other "Johnson," and three Sioux.

The Sioux he could not give any description of, but thought he would know them if he saw them again.

I immediately set to work to trace these men, and found that the "White Eye" had been killed nine days previous by Crow Indians near the Little Rockies; and that "Johnson" was in the Teton camp, situated about thirty miles west of this post.

I then concluded to take Sturms to the camp and let him see "Johnson;" giving him, at the same time, an opportunity to identify the three Sioux.

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A report having reached me that Gen. Miles had struck a hunting party of Teton at Milk River, killing four or five, and had crossed the Milk River, and was moving towards the boundary line; Lt. Tillson requested that I would send an escort with him to the Command.

Having no available men for my escort duty, I decided to have him accompany me to the camp, and after completing my business there with Sturms, I would proceed with him to meet General Miles, who would, no doubt, by that time be close to the Boundary Line.

On arriving at the Sioux Camp I had "Johnson" brought before me, but Sturms, who was also present, said he was not one of the party. There must have been at least 2,000 warriors present at the time, and I told Sturms to look through them, and that if he saw anyone he thought was in the party to point him out to me.

He failed to recognize any one of them. For this trip Sturms disguised himself by cutting off his beard, etc., and declared to me that it was utter impossibility for the Indians to be able to recognize him.

Sturms then requested to proceed to General Miles' command, saying that as "White Eye" was killed, he did not think anything further could be done on the matter.

Owing to Gen Miles' skirmish on Milk River, and the movement of his command north, I found the Indians in quite an excited state, but altogether their conduct was very good.

Taking six reliable young warriors with me as an escort, I started from the Sioux camp at 12 p.m., and arrived at the boundary line on Rock Creek at 7 p.m., where I met Gen Miles just going into camp immediately south of the line.

Lt Tillson and Sturms then went into Gen Miles' camp, and I remained about one mile north of the line.

I met Gen Miles in the evening at the line and the following morning at his camp. Gave him all the information he required concerning the Teton, assuring him that they were clamorous for peace and would not give him battle.