

continue the march to Buford, many of his band would refuse to leave Poplar Creek. All these facts I reported to Major Brotherton, and advised that the two companies stationed at Poplar Creek, be re-enforced by at least five companies, which was accordingly done. Three companies being sent from Fort Keogh, Montana, and two from Buford, and all commanded by Major Guido Ilges.

My object in having the garrison at Poplar Creek re-enforced, was to overawe the Agency Chiefs and prevent their interference with the hostiles; but being detained with the delegates longer in Buford than I had anticipated, Major Ilges, with the re-enforcements, reached Camp Poplar Creek ahead of me, and immediately undertook a little work on his own account, and for his own glory, which, only for the prompt and decided action, first, of Chief Gall, and afterwards of Patriarch Crow, would have undone all the work that I had thus far accomplished.

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He demanded the immediate and unconditional surrender of Chief Gall and his band. This was in the afternoon of about the ninth day of January, 1881, and I reached Poplar Creek with the Patriarch Crow and his two companions that night. Chief Gall heard of my return, and early in the morning, came over from his camp, which was situated in the woods across the Missouri River, crossing on the ice, to see me, and as he said, to present me with the pony he rode, a splendid black mare. He was proceeding to tell me how Major Ilges had ordered his surrender, when looking toward the military camp, we saw the entire command mounted, and in line with two pieces of artillery, and moving toward the river, in the direction of Gall's camp. Here was a splendid opportunity for a repetition of the Custer Massacre. Not more than four hundred soldiers going out to do battle with fully that