

He asked: "Can you place the command? Tell me how to place it?"

I said: "Yes, I can do that. Send some down this way, and some down the other way, and keep the Indians from going into the hills."

"Will you place them?" he asked.

I replied: "Yes, I will place one party, and send another man with the other."

He gave the orders. Captain Egan of the Second Cavalry was to make the charge down the river into the village. Captain Mills of the Third Cavalry was to support him. Captain Moore of the Third was to keep the Indians from going into the hills. Captain Noyes of the Third Cavalry, with the scouts, was to help run the ponies off. I sent Buckskin Jack with Captain Noyes, Little Bat and Charlie Jenness with Captain Egan's company. I went with Captain Moore's battalion to put it into position. It was 7 o'clock when we started to take our positions. It was 9 o'clock before we got into position. It was 10:30 when Captain Egan charged the village.

192 * After I put Moore's battalion into position I started down across the flat towards the village. I suppose it was about half a mile from there right down across the flat. The horses and everything were right in sight, and we had been in sight ourselves ever since seven o'clock and the Indians had not seen us. We had been just where, if they had looked up the hill, they would have seen us, and they had not caught sight of us. I went right down across this flat and walked up to within twenty yards of the village and commenced talking to the Indians before they knew there was anybody around. By this time Capt. Egan had come up in sight.

This was the 17th of March, 1876, fight. When I got within twenty yards of the camp I yelled to ~~them~~ ~~recalled~~ what he had told me during my endeavors to secure the Black Hills treaty--that he would rather fight than make a treaty--and told him that now was the time to come out and get all the fighting he wanted, as the troops were all around the camp!

He did not have time to answer. The charge had begun. Egan's command came right up by the side of them. The battalion that I had stationed to keep the Indians from going into the hills, instead of going to the position assigned it, commenced firing from the position it held. I don't know whether they thought they were firing at the Indians or not, but they were firing into Egan's company. I suppose they imagined they were fighting the Indians. I had to go in with Egan's troops to keep from being shot. We charged right down into the center of the village. As Capt. Egan entered the village, Hospital Steward Will Bryant was riding alongside of him. As he dashed in among the lodges an Indian came from one of the tipis aiming to kill the Captain. Bryant, seeing that Egan was in danger, ran in front of him, his horse receiving the bullet in its head, killing it instantly. Bryant took in after the Indian on foot. He was a foot-racer, but he didn't catch him, though he ran the Indian in amongst the lodges.

193 The horses and soldiers charged right through the village. They fought, I guess, for thirty minutes, when Capt. Mills' command came to their relief. When Mills came to their relief the Indians went right into the hills, as there was nobody to stop them or head them off. They went right into the rocks. We had no chance to kill or capture many of them, but secured the village and horses and one Indian. I forget how many soldiers there were killed. Every-