

The General asked me, upon my arrival in camp, from my trip to the village of the friendly Crows, if I had any idea where the Sioux camp was. From all signs I had seen I supposed they were on the Rosebud, and I so informed him. He told me that he wanted to start as soon as he could get ready. Two days afterward the infantry was mounted on mules, and ~~the command started for the~~ ^{was} Rosebud, leaving the wagon train upon the Big Goose, about a mile from the forks. We traveled in light marching order, taking as little with us as possible--much less than we needed. The first night out we camped on Tongue river, near the mouth of Big Goose, the next morning starting off through the hills over to Badger creek, sending out two parties of scouts from there to try and discover the Sioux village.

224 There being plenty of buffaloes along the line of march, the Indians killed hundreds of them. Camping on the Rosebud, we ran onto a scouting party of Sioux just before reaching the river, but from the direction they took I was satisfied the camp was on the Rosebud, * down the stream. The next morning we moved down toward the Big Bend of the Rosebud and went into temporary camp there to await the report of the scouts who had been sent out to discover the hostile village. We had not reached the Big Bend before we went into camp.

It was the morning after the scouts had been sent out that the Sioux were reported to be coming in large numbers. Then we moved down to the Big Bend. There we laid down our arms and rested without unsaddling. Our Indian allies had caught up their horses ready for anything that happened to turn up. The scouts commenced to come in then, telling us that the Indians were coming. Not having had much experience with the troops I could not tell whether they were ready to meet the enemy or not; but I supposed that they were always ready for a fight and did not pay much attention to them. It was not long before an Indian they called Humpy, a little hunch-backed Sioux (Crow), came riding down over the hills as fast as his horse could carry him, hallooing "Sioux." As he came into camp he said the Sioux were charging on us, and almost at the same time you could hear the Sioux war-cry.

225 The Indians and the scouts jumped on their horses, and just then the Sioux came charging down over the hills. But the troops were not ready to meet the attack, so the Crows met the first charge of the Indians, and I believe if it had not been for the Crows, the Sioux would have killed half of our command before the soldiers were in a position to meet the attack. It was a * hand-to-hand fight for quite a while between the Crows and Sioux. It was on a kind of plateau where they were fighting, and the troops were down under the hills. I charged up the hill when the Shoshones and Crows started out, so that I could see everything that occurred. It was all of twenty minutes, I thin, before the soldiers appeared over the hill. As soon as the soldiers came up and commenced fighting, the Sioux fell back. The coming together of the Sioux, Crows and Shoshones I think was the prettiest sight in the way of a fight I have ever seen. They were all mixed up and I could hardly distinguish our allies from the hostiles. After the fight became general with the troops, our Indians drew back. I passed there one Crow Indian was sitting on the ground, and he didn't act as if he was one bit hurt. He was watching the fight between the Indians, and every once in a while he would yell like a madman. He was unable to get on his feet, having been shot just above the knee, and the bone was terribly shattered. His horse was lying dead by his side. He seemed to be so interested in the fight that he had entirely forgotten his wound. The soldiers could not tell one Indian from another, but the redskins knew each other all right, and if a man was familiar with them he would know; but it was very hard to keep the soldiers from firing into our allies after the troops became engaged with the Sioux, mistaking the Crows and Shoshones for the enemy.

After the troops came up they formed into line and commenced driving the Sioux back. Then the Shoshones, Crows and Sioux commenced separating.