

When the troops first opened fire, I did not see what the result was; but going back a short time afterwards--when we had got the horses driven away-- I saw there had been a mistake made, and the Indians were firing back and the fight was general. Capt. Mills had given the order to retreat, and Crawford had told him that it was impossible to retreat. The Indians had run out of the village and got on the other side of the creek, so that the village lay in between the Indians and the soldiers. It was a sure enough fight there for a little while across the village. Knowing the Indians would have reinforcements before a great while, I tried to send Capt. Jack back with dispatches to Gen. Crook, but he didn't want to go, and one of the packers volunteered and went back. Giving the courier a verbal message to Crook, telling the General how we were situated, and asking him to hurry up his command, or part of it, as quickly as possible, I went back to the fight, and found that Lieut. Von Leuttewitz had been shot through the knee. A corporal had also been wounded. The surgeon amputated their legs afterward.

306

* We then moved around so as to drive the Indians from the other side of the creek, which we did; but a few of them got into a kind of cave, and they could not be driven out, and it was a long while afterward before we could get them out. They killed several of our men before we could dislodge or capture them. Up to that time nobody had ventured down into the village. Of course, we did not know about these Indians being in this cave until we got down into the village; not until the soldiers went down to plunder the village. Dried meat was the first thing the soldiers looked for. The troopers found a great many things that had belonged to Custer's command, such as a guidon, a great deal of clothing and money.

During the charge made on the village Private W.J. McClinton, of Troop C, Third Cavalry, discovered one of the guidons belonging to the ill-fated Custer command. It was fastened to the lodge of American Horse and McClinton lost no time in securing the trophy. The guidon was given by McClinton to Captain Mills, and finally found its way back to the Seventh Cavalry. Mr. McClinton was very proud of the capture he had made at the Slim Buttes battle, and when he received his discharge papers he found the face of the document embellished in red ink with a statement of the fact of the guidon's capture by himself. Mr. McClinton is at present a resident of Sheridan, Wyoming, where he has lived for many years, and has been successful in business. He never tires of singing the praises of General Crook and the brave men who opened up the rich valleys of the Tongue and Goose creeks to settlement.

307

* The lodges were full of furs and meat, and it seemed to be a very rich village. One man found eleven thousand dollars, I think it was, all in one roll, in one of the tipis. Of course, it had come from the Custer command. Then another article the soldiers found was tobacco, which they were very much in need of, as everybody was out of the weed. Some of the men went into a lodge and turned over the robes and blankets. A little Indian girl jumped out from under the robes. She commenced crying and screaming as quick as they found her, and she ran everybody out of the lodge. When she began to cry and yell the soldiers supposed there were more Indians in the lodge, and they got out in double quick time. The little girl was about eight or nine years old.

It was right at this time that we found that some of the Indians had got into a cave at one side of the village. One of the men started to go past that spot on the hill, and as he passed the place he and his horse were both shot. This cave or dugout was down in the bed of a dry creek. The Indian children had been playing there, and had dug quite a hole in the bank, so that it made more of a cave than anything else--large enough to hold quite a number of people. Quick as we located the Indians we commenced shooting in there without seeing anything. Not knowing how many Indians were in there, the soldiers surrounded them and continued shooting into the cave until they got tired. They