

Capt. E.G. Fechet of the Eighth Cavalry (now Major of the Sixth Cavalry, stationed at Fort McKinney, Wyoming), who commanded the detachment charged with the duty of executing the order of Sitting Bull's arrest, reported under date of December 17, 1890, to the Post Adjutant at Fort Yates as follows concerning the part his command took in carrying out the order of Gen. Miles:

For the information of the commanding officer I have the honor to report the operations of the battalion of the Eighth Cavalry under my command for the purpose indicated in orders No. 247 of this Post.

The command consisted of Troop F, Eighth Cavalry, Lieutenants Slocum and Steele, and forth-eight enlisted men; Troop G, Eighth Cavalry, Captain Fechet, Lieutenants E.H. Crowder and C.E. Brooks, and fifty-one enlisted men; Captain M.R. Chaplain, Medical Officer, and Acting Hospital Steward August Nickel, two Indian scouts, Smell the Bear and Iron Dog; Mr. Louis Primeau, Indian Department, Standing Rock Agency, guide and interpreter.

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One battling gun was attached to F Troop and one * breech-loading steel Hotchkiss gun was attached to Troop G. There was furnished the command one four-horse spring wagon, carrying one day's cooked rations and one day's grain for the whole command, and one red cross ambulance.

The commanding officers were Capt. E. Fechet, commanding battalion; Lieut. E.H. Crowder, commanding G troop; Lieut. S. L'H Slocum, commanding F troop; Lieut. E.C. Brooks, commanding field artillery.

The command moved out at midnight, December the 14th, and by rapid marching was by daylight within three miles of Sitting Bull's camp, which is fully from forty-one to forty-two miles up from Fort Yates. After daybreak I expected every minute to meet the Indian police with Sitting Bull their prisoner, it having been arranged by Major McLaughlin, Indian Agent, that they would make a descent on Bull's camp about daybreak, arresting Bull and delivering him to me for conduct to this Post. It will be seen by reference to the first paragraph of the order that the command was to proceed only to the crossing of Oak river, which was eighteen miles from Bull's camp.

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After receiving this order, on consultation with Col. Drum, commanding the Post, it was decided that I should move as close to Bull's camp as possible without discovery, and there await the police. A short time after dawn a mounted man was discovered approaching rapidly. This proved to be one of the police, who reported that all the other police had been killed. The substance of his report, with the additional statement that I should move rapidly and endeavor to relieve any of the police who might be alive, I forwarded to the commanding officer.

The command was at once put in condition for immediate action. A light but extended line of skirmishers was thrown in advance; the main body was disposed in two columns, in column of fours, about three hundred yards apart, the artillery between the heads of columns. A few minutes after making these dispositions another of the police came in and reported that Bull's people had a number of the police penned up in his house. The command was moved with all speed to a point on the high lands overlooking the valley of Grand river, and immediately opposite Sitting Bull's house and the camp of the ghost dancers, distant some 1,500 yards.