

been directed to keep forty rounds a man on hand for immediate use in any emergency, besides extra boxes always kept in company quarters. The men had been exercised in firing recently and some of the ammunition had been expended, although they had a supply abundant for the purpose of the expedition. Carrington personally inspected the men before they left and rejected those who were not amply provided. The situation of the wood train was critical and the party was assembled with the greatest dispatch. Just as they were about to start, Captain Fetterman, who had less experience in the country, and in Indian fighting than the other officers, for he had joined the regiment some time after the fort had been built and expected assignment to command Fort Phil Kearney, begged for the command of the expedition, pleading his senior captaincy as justification for his request. Carrington reluctantly acceded to his plea, which indeed he could scarcely have refused, and placed him in charge, giving him strict and positive instructions to, 'relieve the wood train, drive back the Indians, but on no account to pursue the Indians beyond the Lodge Trail ridge and to return immediately to the fort when he had performed this duty.'

"Captain Fetterman, as has been said, had frequently expressed his contempt for the Indians although his fight on December 6th had slightly modified his opinions. Carrington, knowing his view, was particular and emphatic in his orders. So necessary did he think the caution that he repeated it to Lieutenant Crummond, who, with the cavalry, followed the infantry out of the gate. The infantry, having fewer preparations to make, getting away first. These orders were delivered in a loud voice and were audible to many persons, women, officers and men in the fort. The general went so far as to hasten to the gate after the cavalry had left the fort and from the sentry platform, or banquette, overlooking it, called out after them again, emphatically directing them 'on no account to pursue the Indians across Lodge Trail ridge.'

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/"The duty devolved upon Captain Fetterman was exactly the same as that which Captain Powell had performed so satisfactorily a few days before. With Captain