

from the fort. With the remaining twenty-six men and his lieutenant, John C. Jenness, he established headquarters on the plain in the open. The wagons used by the wood cutters were furnished by the quartermaster's department. In transporting the cord wood the woodsmen made use of the running gears only, the wagon bodies having been deposited in Powell's camp in the clearings. It has been stated that these wagon bodies were lined with boiler iron, but that is not true, they were just the ordinary wooden wagon beds. There were fourteen of these wagon bodies. Powell arranged them in the form of a wide oval at the highest point of the plain, which happened to be in the vicinity when this corral was made. The wagon beds were deep and afforded ample concealment for anyone lying in them. There were plenty of tools, including augers, in the camp, and with these Powell's men made a number of loop holes about a foot from the ground in the outsides of the wagons. The openings to the corral were at either end, where the configuration of the ground made it most vulnerable to attack, especially by mounted men; therefore, at each end a complete wagon, running gears, body and all, heavily loaded, was placed before the entrances a short distance from the corral to break the force of a charge and that the defenders might fire at the charging party underneath the body and through the wheels. The wagon bodies forming the sides of the corral were re-inforced with logs and sacks of grain, or anything that was available that would turn a bullet. All of the supplies for the soldiers and the wood cutters were contained within this corral. Powell's party were provided with the new Allen modification of the Springfield breach-loading rifle. He had rifles enough for all of his men and for all of the civilian employees, and plenty of ammunition. The new rifle had never been used by the troops in a combat with the Indians and the red men were entirely ignorant of its tremendous range and power and of the wonderful rapidity of fire which it permitted.