

S. D. Bell

the village and scampering over the high points to places designated for them by their chiefs and which entirely surrounded the entrenched camp. The fire did not slacken until about 9:30 in the morning, when it was discovered that they were making a last desperate attempt. In this attack they charged close enough to the lines to use their bows and arrows, and one man lying dead within the lines was touched by the coup stick of one of the warriors. The attack was gallantly repulsed by Colonel Benteen. The fury of the attack was now over and the Indians were seen going in parties toward the village. In fact their ammunition was quite exhausted. The soldiers were in a desperate situation for a lack of water and a detachment of volunteers under Colonel Benteen descended to the river and brought up a supply without interference from the Indians. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon the grass in the bottom land was set on fire, creating a dense cloud of smoke between the soldiers and the villages. Under this cloud the Indians packed their tipis and prepared to move away. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening they came out from behind the cloud of smoke and were seen filing away in the direction of the Big Horn Mountains, moving in perfect military order. During that night Reno moved his position from the hill down to the stream where he could have an unlimited supply of water, and there entrenched himself to be prepared for any emergency which might befall him.

When Custer started up the Rosebud at noon on the 22d, Terry embarked on the steamer "Far West" and reached / ⁴³⁶ Gibbon's camp, opposite the mouth of the Big Horn, on the morning of the 24th, and by 4 o'clock on the afternoon of that day had carried the entire command across to the south side of the river, and at 5 o'clock in the evening the column, consisting of five companies of the Seventh infantry, four companies of the Second cavalry and a battery of gatling guns, marched out as far as Tullock's Creek, where they encamped for the night. The next morning, that is the morning of the 25th, the day of the Custer battle, at 5 o'clock they pushed on and the infantry made a march of twenty-two miles over country which General Terry says was the most difficult that he had ever seen. The cavalry and