

*Sec of War Dept  
67-8  
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Wash. Govt. Ptg. Office. 1868.

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Since the Indian Commission provided by act of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1867, commenced its labors, the operations of the troops have been confined to the defensive, and they are now principally engaged in garrisoning the most important posts.

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The following number of trains have passed Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, from Feb. 1 to Sept. 28:

Trains, 124; Wagons 3,074; men, 4,587; women, 556; children, 587; mules, 5,738; oxen, 11,096; horses, 1,062; led animals, 946.

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Shortly after this affair, viz., Dec. 26, 1866, other bands of Sioux made their appearance in hostile array at Fort Buford, at the mouth of Yellowstone, garrisoned by one company of the thirty-first infantry, Brevet Lt. Col W G Rankin commanding. They made no impression and did not but little damage, yet, as the severity of the winter cut off all communication with the place from early Jan. till March, reports were circulated that the entire garrison were massacred, and it was near two months before the truth was revealed that all were safe and well, and perfectly unconscious of their reported destruction.

As the spring of 1867 opened, reports of Indians hostilities came pouring in from every quarter, but in order to give a connection to these I will begin at the extreme north. On the 3d of May, 1867, the honorable Secy of War, Mr. Stanton, transmitted to me despatches of the most alarming nature from the acting governor of Mont, Gen Meagher, and the chief justice of the

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Territory to the effect that large bands of hostile Sioux and Crows were threatening the valley of the Gallatin, and that the people were fleeing for their lives.

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Gen Augur despatched that most judicious officer, Maj Brev Lt Col Wm H Lewis, thirty-sixth inf, who reached Virginis city about May 19, 1867, and, after remaining there a month, confirmed me in the belief that Gallatin valley had not been invaded by hostile Ind at all, but that the murder of a Mr. Bozeman, more than sixty miles beyond Gallatin, in the direction of Ft B C F Smith, was the only real act of hostility that he could hear of that had been committed in that quarter. I then recalled Brev Lt Col Lewis, and left the whole quarter to Gen Terry, in whose Dept