

Mont was, and who was then known to be EN ROUTE for that Territory.

About the same time, viz., May, 1867, the Ind, both from the north and south, began a systematic attack upon the Platte route. Gen Augur, within whose dept this route lies, was present in person and most active, doing all that was possible with the regular troops at his disposal.

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Ft Buford, Dak Ter, commanded by Brev Lt Col W G Rankin, Capt 31st inf; Garrison, Companies B, C, E, F, and G, 31st inf.

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In the middle district affairs have generally been quiet. During the winter, hostile Sioux in considerable numbers hung around Ft Buford, and occasioned some annoyance, but they were driven off with loss, no one of the garrison being injured. In Aug last, also, a small number of Ind attacked the cattle herd at the post, and killed three animals, but they were speedily put to flight.

On the 8th Aug a party of Soo appeared at Ft Stevenson nearly in the morning, and attacked a working party just outside the post, killing one civilian teamster. A single shell from the post, however dispersed them.

The troops in this district have been busily engaged during the season in building quarters, storehouses, &c., and no movements have been made other than those involved in the augmentation of the garrisons, and required by the construction of the new posts.

The navigation of the Missouri river has not been interrupted by the Indians; a few boats have been fired upon, but in only one instance has any one upon them been injured.

In obedience to verbal instructions from the Lt Gen Com, on the 7th June I left this place for Helens, Mont. I crossed the country to Ft Stevenson with an escort of one hundred and twenty-five mounted men, selecting from the sites of Ft.s Ransom and Totten on my way. I found the country between the Red River and the Missouri river perfectly quiet, and, indeed, met no Ind whatever, hostile or friendly.

In the Ter of Mont, much excitement has existed during the season in reference to apprehended attacks from the Ind.

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It is a somewhat noteworthy fact that none of these troops had then met hostile Ind. My own conclusions were briefly as fol., viz.: ever since the Ter

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of Mont was settled, Ind depredations have occurred with more or less frequency; small parties pushing out into the Ind country have from time