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Camp on the North Fork of  
Powder River, Wyo.

November 26, 1876.

The A. A. A. General.

Powder River Expedition,

Camp on Crazy Woman's Fork,

Wyoming Ty.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that about 12 o'clock M. on the 24th inst. While marching in a South Westerly direction towards the Sioux Pass of the Big Horn Mountains, I was met by five of seven Indian scouts, who had discovered the main camp of the Cheyennes at a point in the mountains about fifteen or (20) twenty miles distant, two of the seven Indians remaining to watch the camp. The command halted until near sunset and then moved towards the village, intending to reach it at, or before daylight. Owing to the nature of the country which is very rough, and in some places difficult to pass with cavalry, the command did not reach the village until almost half an hour after daylight. The surprise was, however, almost, if not quite complete.

The approach to the village, the only practicable one entered the lower end, and the Indians taking alarm, took refuge in a new work of very difficult ravines beyond the upper end of the village, leaving on foot and taking nothing but their arms with them. A brisk fight for about an hour ensued, after which skirmishing was kept up until night. The village consisting of (173) one hundred and seventy three lodges, and their contents were destroyed; almost 500 ponies were taken and 25 Indians were killed, whose bodies fell into our hands, but from reports which I have no reason to doubt, I believe a much larger number were killed.

Our loss was: Killed, one officer and (5) five men; wounded, (25) soldiers and a Shoshone Indian Scout. Fifteen (15) cavalry horses were killed and four horses belonging to Indian scouts. The command remained in the village during the night and moved to the mouth of Canon, this point, today.

Lieutenant McKinney, 4th Cavalry, who was killed in this affair was one of the most gallant officers and honorable men I ever knew.

R. S. Mackenzie,

Colonel 4th Cavalry,

Commanding.