

" December 16 90
Hon. T.J.Morgan,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In accordance with my telegram of yesterday informing you of a fight with the Indians of this reservation, I now have the honor ~~to~~ to make the following detailed ~~statement~~ statement. My action in the matter had been governed by Department instructions.

The troops left Fort Yates at 12 PM on the night of Sunday the 14th inst for Grand River, with Louis Primeau as Guide - etc

At Day Break on Monday morning the 15th the Police went to Sitting Bull's camp direct to his house and surrounded the house; a detail was sent into the house where Sitting Bull was sleeping on the floor, etc They aroused him and announced their purpose, at the same time raising him to a sitting position, and he at first seemed inclined to offer no resistance and they allowed him to dress, during which time he changed his mind and they took him forcibly from the house. By this time the Police were surrounded by Sitting Bulls followers, members of the Ghost Dance, and the first shot was fired by "Catch the Bear" one of the hostiles, and the Lieutenant of Police, Henry Tatankapah (Bull Head) who was in command of the detachment of 42 men was struck; the fighting then became general, in fact it was a hand to hand fight. Sitting Bull was killed, shot through the body and head in the early part of the fight by Bull Head and Marcellus Chankpidutah (Red Tomahawk) who each shot at him. Four Policemen were killed outright and three wounded, one of the latter dying at the Agency Hospital this morning after his removal there.

(Note by Welch- This was Shave(d) Head)

Bull Head, the Lieutenant of Police, is dangerously wounded but may recover. (Note by Welch - He died on the 18th (18th))
The hostile Indians lost 8 killed and several wounded and were driven from the field by the police; they fled up Grand River, leaving their wives and families & all their property and dead behind them. Two troops of the U.S.Cavalry (100 men) arrived on the ground immediately after the fight which had occupied less than half an hour and took possession of the camp, its inhabitants, property and dead. The military did not pursue the the fleeing hostiles and the latter will no doubt fall into the hands of some one of the commands moving at the different points west or south of the reservation.

The Police returned about 3 P.M. today accompanied by the Cavalry detachment having in charge the remains of the four dead policemen, and Sitting Bull also two prisoners, Henry Growler Sitting Bulls nephew 21 years old, and "Middle" son of Little Assinaboine, 21 years old.

The dead policemen will be buried tomorrow at the Agency with military honors. Sitting Bull's remains are in possession of the Military at Fort Yates.

* * * * * Besides the Indian police there were four volunteers, viz: "Gray Eagle", "Spotted Thunder" "Otter Robe" and "Young Eagle" whp participated in the fight rendering good service and deserving like recognition. Gray Eagle * * is one of the Judges of the Court of Indian Offenses and his two sisters are Sitting Bulls wives.

O.P. Morgan

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