

It will be seen by reference to this first paragraph of this order that the command was to proceed only to the crossing of the Oak Creek, which was 18 miles from Bull's camp. After receiving this order, on consultation with Colonel Drum, Commanding the Post, it was decided that I should move as close to Bull's camp as possible without discovery, and there await the police. A short time after dawn a mounted man was discovered approaching rapidly. This proved to be one of the police who reported that all the other police had been killed.

The substance of his report with the additional statement that I would move in rapidly and endeavor to relieve any of the police who might be alive I forwarded to the Commanding Officer.

The command was at once put into condition for immediate action. A light but extended line was thrown in advance, the main body disposed in two columns in column of fours, about three hundred yards apart, the Artillery between the heads of columns a few minutes after making these dispositions another of the police came in and reported that Bull's people had a number of the police penned up in his house; that they were nearly out of ammunition and could not hold out much longer- the command was moved with all speed to a point on the high lands, overlooking the valley of Grand River, and immediately opposite Sitting Bull's house and the camp of the Ghost dancers, distance some 1500 yards.

A hasty examination showed a party of Indians approaching, apparently 40 or 50, on a high point on our right front, some 900 yards distance; but whether a party of police and friends or Bull's people, could not be determined.

While trying to make out the position and identity of the two parties there were a few shots fired by the party on the hill and replied to from Sitting Bull's house, there was also