

INDIAN FIGHTERS ESCAPE BY CAPTURING LONE  
PROWLER AND AVOIDING MAIN ENCAMPMENT

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(Editor's note: This is another of the series of daily articles  
on Indian fighting in the Panhandle in 1874.)

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By Lemuel T. Wilson,  
Famous Scout.

After crossing the Washita the question was, what to do now. I said, "We will travel down the river until dark. If we are attacked, we will scatter into the swamp and some may get through. I have the best horse; I will stay back and cover your retreat." When we would reach a little high ground I would stop and watch while the others went ahead. Then I would catch up. We did this several times for four or five miles. It seemed like it never would get dark. I caught up with them in a little cottonwood grove just before dark. We rested here about fifteen minutes; then we started northward through a draw toward the Canadian river, which we reached about midnight without further incident. The Canadian was much swollen from the recent rains. We had to swim it and the Indian was dismounted. If we turned him loose he would go back to camp and give the alarm. Had we made him swim he would have been drowned. Wing wanted to kill him. I said, "No, that would be murder; he is unarmed and helpless." I solved the question by tying him to the tail of my horse. Schmalsle rode behind and a little down stream to watch the Indian. After crossing safely we rested a while and then took the old trail made by Gen.