

December 18, 1956

Mr. W. B. Edwards
GUNS MAGAZINE
8150 North Central Park Blvd.
Skokie, Illinois

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Thanks for your letter of the 13th. I am enclosing a copy of my reply to Mr. Rosebush. The military men and propagandists for the army will never admit how badly they were outclassed by the Plains Indians.

After the Sioux and Cheyenne became captives, some of them tried to curry favor by "yesing" white man's questions. It is one of the rules of respect among Indians that you never ask a leading question, and that you must deal with leading men of integrity and veracity. Moreover, you must first gain their confidence. Suppose a perfect stranger walked up to President Eisenhower and demanded point-blank his collaboration of what, in the opinion of the interrogator, happened at the Battle of the Bulge. What sort of answer would he get?

Though such matters may always be matters of controversy, you may rest assured that I had a good first-hand authority for my figures. We did not goof.

Cordially yours,

W.S. CAMPBELL
(Stanley Vestal)

WSC:vh

enc.

P.S. There is one discrepancy in your chart, taken from that in my book New Sources of Indian History, page 136. There I gave the number of Indians fighting Ouster as 1500, as against your chart giving 1000. However, such a figure must be an estimate, and so there is no harm done.