

reached the top of the divide, we struck the Indian trail fresh, the horses' droppings still smoking. Following it rapidly, the trail turned and went south. Pursuing it some distance it entered a region strewn with large boulders and rocks where our horses could not be led except with great difficulty and delay.

As the Indians were hampered by their animals I felt sure that on foot I could overtake them. Dismounting my troop we left the horses and dashed up through the rocks. But our efforts were fruitless. After a march of 7 miles on foot we had not overtaken the Indians. The heat was intense though and the men exhausted by their efforts were in great want of water. Some of the soldiers cut the pulp out of the cactus and chewed it, but this gave little relief. I was obliged to conduct them back to their horses. Thus the Indians had got several hours' start. We made this day 32 miles, 14 miles on foot. The command was very tired.

As the Indians had evidently seen us coming up Skeleton Canyon, had taken the alarm and were fleeing back to Mexico, it seemed unlikely we would be able to overtake them. In the next 3 days we made through appallingly rough country, seventy-seven miles. Near Cajon Bonito, a remarkable and beautiful canon descending into Mexico, the trail was finally obliterated by a heavy downpour of rain.

July 2nd we returned to Cloverdale when I forwarded my report of the scout to the District Commander, Colonel Beaumont, at Fort Bowie. The substance of this report having been telegraphed to General Miles at Albuquerque, he at once ordered that I proceed into Mexico with a command "on the trail of the hostiles."

The treaty with Mexico providing for crossing the boundary says: "It is agreed that the Regular Federal Troops of the two Republics may reciprocally cross the boundary line when they are in close pursuit of a band of savage Indians." "The pursuing force shall return to its own country as soon as it has fought the Indians or lost the trail." While the conditions in my case were not exactly those mentioned in the treaty it was evident to me that General Miles, a man of resources, thought he could stretch them to justify my expedition. Only a First Lieutenant, I felt flattered at being selected for the command.

After some delay due to the late arrival of pack mules and of scouts, I started for Mexico July 24th, 1886. The expedition consisted of thirty cavalymen, twelve infantrymen, eleven packers, forty pack mules, two wagons with teamsters, interpreter Montoya, and the scouts; Hank Frost and fifteen Yaqui Indians. The officers with me, a more congenial, efficient lot I never saw, were First Lieutenant W. B. Banister, Surgeon; Second Lieutenant W. T. Richardson, 8th Infantry, in charge of the cavalry; and Second Lieutenant R. L. Bullard, 10th Infantry, quartermaster and commissary.

My orders were to "take up the trail of six hostiles you were pursuing, follow it into old Mexico, and try to intercept or overtake, destroy or capture them." Of course, it was understood that in attempting this I might have to fight the main body of the hostiles. I carried forty days' rations. I was further ordered to communicate, if practicable, with Captain Lawton, whose expedition was still in Mexico in which case, the order stated, we might "be of mutual assistance."

At Carretas a courier from Cloverdale reached me with orders for me to halt my column and await the arrival of Lieutenant C. B. Gatewood, 6th Cavalry, with a party consisting of interpreter Wratten and two Indians. On July 21st Gatewood arrived. He showed me his papers. One was a letter from General Miles to Colonel Beaumont, District Commander. In it Miles said "Lieutenant Gatewood with two Indians will pass through your post. The Indians have instructions to go to the hostile camp to carry a communication to the hostiles. * * * It is desirable that they be put on the trail of the six Parker was following, as there are indications that they desired to surrender! You may hold that command of Parker's near the line for further service or until the disposition of the hostiles can be ascertained."

The orders from Beaumont stated: "The District Commander directs that you furnish Lieutenant Gatewood with a sufficient escort to enable him to perform the duties he is intrusted with. The escort need only be large enough for the protection of Lieutenant Gatewood and his Indians against Mexicans and hostiles. The District Commander further directs that you keep your command in readiness