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Indians were likely to pass, that liberal compensation would be paid for reliable information concerning the Cheyennes.

On the night of Oct. 3rd, word was received from Captain Mauck 4th Cavalry, commanding pursuing party of troops from the Department of the Missouri, that in his opinion, Indians would cross Union Pacific Rail Road on night of 5th between Ogallalla and Julesburgh. Almost at same time, our scouting parties reported them on head of frenchman's creek, South of Rail Road, moving North-West towards Sidney. Messages also came from Big Springs, Ogallalla, Julesburgh and, I think one or two other points that Cheyennes had been discovered in small parties to the South of those places.

These reports being very conflicting, often directly opposite caused great perplexity. It was evident that the object of the Cheyennes was to cross the Platte at some point out of reach of the military and that their object would best be frustrated by keeping the troops massed in one position and throwing them as quickly as possible upon the enemy the movement authentic information should be received of a passage being attempted.

No other course was possible with the small number of soldiers at hand to attempt to guard each little station which reported itself in danger, would be to render the whole command powerless.

October 4th, about 11 o'clock, word was received from Ogallalla that the Cheyennes were just crossing the South Platte River and the U.P. Rail Road near Alkali (5 miles to the East of Ogallalla).

The command was immediately put on board the train held in readiness for the purpose, but an hour was consumed in getting men and horses in the cars.

At 12.25, the train started, reaching Ogallalla, (74 miles) at 4.P.M. at 4.25, the Cavalry and mounted Infantry moved out at a fast gait, leaving the foot-troops to follow with the wagons.

Efforts were made in Sidney and Ogallalla to obtain guides, but no person could be found acquainted with the country North of the North Platte.

By dark, the mounted portion of the command had gained the North Platte