

continued

at a point (10) ten or (12) twelve miles from Ogallalla, where a ford was found, ~~crossed~~ with great difficulty by the wagons and foot soldiers.

The mounted troops were all across by 8 P.M., but the Infantry, with wagontrain, did not reach camp until after midnight and then with such damages to some of the transportation from the passage of the river that it was seen to be useless to attempt to continue the pursuit unless our vehicles were abandoned.

In the meantime, scouts had been sent out in the direction of the Lead of White Tail Creek; these returned about 3. A.M. on 5th, reporting having found the trail and seen ponies grazing near where they supposed the bivouac of the Indians to be. A dense mist precluded a very close reconnaissance.

At 3:30 A.M. Camp was aroused and as soon as could be in the obscurity of the fog, horses were saddled and the mounted part of the command pushed forward. The Infantry was sent back with all the transportation, excepting one light wagon and one ambulance which it was at first thought might be taken with us.

Our progress was very rapid, much of the time at a gallop and never at a slower gait than a trot.

The column, headed by Mr. Ware and five other cattle men who joined us that morning, pushed on in a Northerly course for (12) twelve or (15) fifteen miles to the head of White Tail, where the halting place of the enemy was found as well as the carcasses of (6) six or (7) slaughtered beeves.

This bivouac had been chosen in an almost inaccessible ravine, perfectly secure against surprise.

8 Immediately after leaving White Tail the Cheyenne trail began to break, but the main portion, making at that particular time a very distinct line of travel, led the pursuit to all points of the compass, but generally to the S. and W. for between 50 and (60) sixty miles farther, when darkness supervened and the command halted on the trail. The closeness of the pursuit could be judged from the horses found on the trail, still wet with the sweat of riding and from the number of abandoned packs, strewn over the plain. One horse was found with the pack still on him. At place of halting, and a small freshly abandoned rifle pit, excavated as a