

continued

place of defence against any attack we might make. To guard against any stampede of our ~~heard~~, we bivouaked in a form of a square, horses picketed on the inside.

October 6th The trail had decreased very much since yesterday, followed what was left of it in a Southerly course to a creek emptying into North Platte River.

The citizen volunteers had left us the day before, in the afternoon. No one in the command knew where we were, but one of Lieut. Young's scouts came across a Mr. Barngroover, who said we were North of Big Springs or Julesburgh and on Ash Creek. Having first watered our animals, an operation attended with some difficulty as they were frantic with thirst and hard riding, we marched (30) thirty miles farther to head of Blue Water Creek. The maps in our possession were so inaccurate that from this on, we ceased to place any dependence in them. On the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th, our march was through the "Sand Hills", a region of sand dunes, often high enough to be called mountains, having no water except at intervals, a series of lakes mostly saline or alkaline and no vegetation except some grass and weeds; on the 6th our wagon and ambulance were left behind. Our men were carrying (5) five days rations of hard bread and bacon on their saddles, supplemented with beef killed in Southern part of the Sand Hills. Our Officers were almost entirely out of food and suffered as much as the men, or even more than they did.

On 7th after a march of (45) forty five miles camped by the side of a marshy salt lake, without wood and with but little grass. Our experience on the 8th was almost identically the same as that of 7th. This day took up Colonel Carlton's trail going East. On 9th after a hard march over sand ridges, struck Snake river near its head, communicated with Col. Carlton who sent us some supplies from those of his own command.

Oct 10th Joined Carlton's command in camp on Niobrara, at mouth of Antelope Creek. Oct. 11th united commands moved to head of Big White Clay Creek 30 M., and Oct 12th marched 16 M. to Camp Sheridan. Officers, men and horses suffered severely from want of food and water and from mere marching. The Cheyenne warriors turned into the Sand Hills knowing the troops to be ignorant of that country and hoping there to detain pursuit, until their women and children by some other trail