

continued

enlisted men, and marched south-west in the direction of White River. I arrived at the old Indian camp at the Forks of White River, distance from the post sixty two miles, on the 8th instant. At this point I learned that the Red Cloud Indians had left their camp at the head of Pass Creek, and had moved to Big White Clay. I also received information that the reports of the destruction of the Rosebud Agency and the stampede of the Spotted Tail Indians, were without foundation, and that the troops from that Agency had moved south toward the Randall Road. I therefore decided to continue my march in a south westerly direction, and leaving the Forks of White River on the 9th, I followed the old road leading from the mouth of Yellow Medicine Creek to Fort Laramie, the same route taken by the Red Cloud Indians, On the 12th inst. I struck the South Fork of White River near the Crossing of the Randall Road, at which point I met Captain H.W. Wessells, 3 Cavalry with the troops from Rosebud Agency. On the 13th inst. I marched east with Captain Wessells command to the second crossing of the South Fork of White River, and at this point received information of the whereabouts of Major Tilford's command. On the 14th I moved west following the Randall Road and encamped on the 15th at the headwaters of the South Fork of White River. I here learned that Major Tilford with his command was at Wounded Knee, that Carlton's and Thornburgh's command were at Camp Sheridan, and that the hostiles had passed west of the Black Hills. On the 16 instant I started on my return to my post, by way of the Forks of White River, reaching there on the 21st instant. I saw no trail or indications of hostile Indians during the march. Extensive prairie fires prevailed and the whole country between the South Fork of White River and Wounded Knee Creek has been burned over. The total distance marched by the command was three hundred and seventy miles. I enclose a sketch of the route, prepared by A. A. Surgeon V. T. McGillicuddy, U.S.A.

I am Sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

P.D.Vroom  
Captain 3 Cavalry, Comdg.P.