

Headqrs. Dept. of Dakota
St. Paul, Minn, Nov. 15, 1878

Official Copy respectfully forwarded to Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.
A. H. Temp
Brigadier General
Commanding

Headquarters Southern District
Department of Dakota
Cheyenne Agency, D.T.
October 27, 1878

To the Asst. A.G.T. General,
Department of Dakota,
Saint Paul, Minn

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of recent military operations in this District:

On the morning of the 5th instant, I received a telegram, of the same date, from the Department Commander, stating that the Cheyennes have crossed the Platte the day before, followed by troops; that Carlton was coming East from Camp Robinson and Tilford south east from Bear Creek, and directing me to keep all the Infantry I could get ready to move up and defend the Cheyenne River line, should it become necessary, and to act promptly in case of need, without waiting for orders from Department Headquarters.

Acting upon this information and the instructions given, I at once organized a battalion of all the available troops within reach, consisting of three companies of the 11th Infantry (A.E. and K.) from Cheyenne agency, and our company of the 1st. Infantry (D) from Fort Tully, for field service.

Believing that the cheyennes, if they passed east of the Black Hills, would endeavor to cross the Cheyenne River, somewhere between the mouths of the Belle Fourche and Cherry Creek, the route usually taken by Indians moving north, I concluded that the proper position for an infantry command to take up, with my prospect of intercepting or pursuing the fugitives, would be some point on the Fort Pierre and Deadwood road, about midway between those two places, from which the troops could operate promptly, in either direction, should it become necessary.

This road runs nearly parallel with the Cheyenne River, is well beaten,