

continued

instant he stated he stated that information had just reached him that the Spotted Tail Indians had destroyed everything at their agency and left; that he had heard nothing from the Indian Camp for several days, but that he would inform me of the disposition of the Red Cloud Indians as soon as possible, by courier. The telegram from the Department Commander directed Captain Vroom to leave a small guard at Red Cloud Agency and move with all available Cavalry southwest to White River until he met hostiles or communicated with some of our troops.

Although this startling news seemed to complicate matters, and to indicate serious trouble with powerful bands of Indians who were supposed to be friendly when we set out, it confirmed me in my opinion that, ~~even~~ for this new emergency, the proper place for my command was the one above designated, so from it I could move easily, communicate with other troops in the field, and cooperate with them against the fugitive Cheyennes or against hostile Sioux.

Resuming the march on the 8th encamped that night on Lance Creek, near the intersection of the Cheyenne Agency and Fort Pierre and Deadwood road. Found good grazing, and water in ponds. No fuel at this or the former camp.

Crossed Frozen man's Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek on the 9th, and camped in Big Cottonwood Creek, Took wood from the Little Cottonwood, there being none on the other two Creeks.

On the 10th passed several small water holes, and camped on Burnt Creek, sometimes called South Fork or Mitchel's Creek. Found only small willows for fuel. Sent out scouts south towards Bad River.

On the 11th crossed Little Buzzard Creek and went into camp on Big Buzzard Creek. Instructed mail carrier from Fort Pierre, who overtook us during the day, to communicate to any troops he might see, or others, our presence on the road. Send out scouts to the south and southwest to Bad River.

On the 12 crossed Medicine Creek and Grindstone Butte Creek, and went into Camp on Deadman's Creek, where we found excellent grazing for the animals, good water in pools, and for the first time since leaving Cheyenne Agency, an abundant supply of fuel for the command. The mail carrier from the Black Hills, on his way to Fort Pierre, came into Camp about 3 O'clock P.M. and brought rumors of a recent fight