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continued

Wounded Knee". The letter asked that any information regarding the Cheyennes, the general feeling of Red Clouds Indians or any communication might be forwarded by Bull Eagle, and stated that the troops would probably reach the Agency on the 13th. The horses of these Indians being broken down, and being unable to remount them at our camp, it was impossible to send them back to find Colonel Tilford's command.

On the evening of the 16th Corporal Connolly and the scout, whom I had sent out on the morning of the 13th to communicate with the troops moving south west from Bear Butte, returned to camp and reported that they had found their trail and had passed several of their old camping places, which appeared to be several days old. but were unable to over take them.

On the 17th Major Lazellek with his family and our officer and sixty two enlisted men, passed our camp enroute to Camp Muklen.

On the morning of the 19th I sent back to Cheyenne Agency, the five Indians who had volunteered to ~~aseompany~~ accompany the command as scouts. For five or six days before, they had appeared discontented and were unwilling to do any scouting, complaining that their horses were broken down.

Having learned about the same time, that the rumor concerning the hostile conduct of the Spotted Tail and Red Cloud Indians were not true, and believing the Cheyennes had passed to the west of the Black Hills, which belief seems to have been shared by freighters over the Fort Pierre Road, as the numerous freight trains, which had been withdrawn from the road, as soon as possible after the first alarm, had again commenced running, I concluded on the coming of the 20th to break camp the next morning and return to Cheyenne Agency, which we did, reaching that post late on the evening of the 24th, the last 28 miles of the march having been accomplished in a severe storm of snow and wind.

Although the operations of the command were unsuccessful, so far so the Cheyennes were concerned still they were not without special benefit to both officers and enlisted men. The fine opportunity offered for skirmish drill, while lying in Camp, was improved, and the country, to the south and southwest was daily scouted over. A large portion of the command was composed of recruits, many of whom, previous to starting out, had had less than a month's drilling and I take pleasure in saying that