

MILITARY EXPEDITION AGAINST THE SIOUX INDIANS.

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JULY 15, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

JULY 18, 1876.—Recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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MILITARY EXPEDITION AGAINST THE INDIANS.

Mr. BANNING. I ask unanimous consent to submit for adoption now the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to report to the House the object of the military expeditions under Generals Crook, Gibbon, and Terry, now operating against the Northwest Indians, and the circumstances leading to their necessity, with copies of all correspondence bearing upon the origin of the expedition ; also copies of all military orders issued by the War Department directing these expeditions under Generals Terry, Crook, and Gibbon.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, July 14, 1876.

SIR : In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 10th instant, I have the honor to send herewith to the Speaker a report and accompanying papers made to the President of the United States, showing the object of the present military operations against the Sioux and other Northwestern Indians, and the circumstances tending to the necessity of the operations.

The copies of papers accompanying give all the information on file as to the orders issued by the War Department directing these expeditions.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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COMMUNICATION, JULY 8, 1876, AND INCLOSURE, FROM SECRETARY OF WAR TO PRESIDENT UNITED STATES, IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION OF JULY 7, 1876.

Official :

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, July 15, 1876.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, July 8, 1876.

To the PRESIDENT :

To enable you to answer the inclosed resolution of the Senate of July 7, I have the honor to submit the following brief statement of facts as exhibited by the records of this Department :

The Sioux or Dakota Nation of Indians, embracing various tribes, as the Yanktons, Yantonnais, Brulés, Ogallallas, Minneconjoux, Sans Arcs, Two Kettles, &c., have long been known as the most brave and warlike savages of this continent. They have for centuries been pushed westward by the advancing tide of civilization, till in 1868 an arrangement or treaty was made with them, by a special commission named by Congress, whereby for certain payments and stipulations they agreed to surrender their claim to all that vast region which lies west of the Missouri River and north of the Platte, to live at peace with their neighbors, and to restrict themselves to a territory bounded east by the Missouri River, south by Nebraska, west by the one hundred and fourth meridian, and north by the forty-sixth parallel, a territory as large as the State of Missouri. The terms of this treaty have been literally performed on the part of the United States, and have also been complied with by the great mass of the Sioux Indians. Some of these Indians, however, have never recognized the binding force of this treaty, but have always treated it with contempt; have continued to rove at pleasure, attacking scattered settlements in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and Dakota, stealing horses and cattle, and murdering peaceful inhabitants and travelers.

On the 9th of November, 1875, United States Indian Inspector E. C. Watkins made an elaborate report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which he uses this language :

"I have the honor to address you in relation to the attitude and condition of certain wild and hostile bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota and Montana, that came under my observation during my recent tour through their country, and what I think should be the policy of the Government toward them. I refer to Sitting Bull's band, and other bands of the Sioux Nation under chiefs or head-men of less note, but no less untamable and hostile. These Indians occupy the center, so to speak, and roam over Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder River, and make war on the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinaboines, Blackfeet, Piegans, Crows, and other friendly tribes on the circumference.

"From their central position they strike to the east, north, and west, steal horses and plunder from all the surrounding tribes as well as frontier settlers and luckless white hunters, or emigrants who are not in sufficient force to resist them."

After describing at great length their character and supposed numbers, given at a few hundred, he says : "The true policy, in my judgment, is to send troops against them in the winter, the sooner the better, and whip them into subjection. They richly merit punishment for their incessant warfare, and their numerous murders of white settlers and their families, or white men wherever found unarmed." The force estimated as necessary to whip them was one thousand men.

This communication was submitted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Hon. Edward P. Smith, to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, Z. Chandler, who in turn submitted it to the then Secretary of War, General Belknap, for his "consideration and action."

In a subsequent communication of the Secretary of the Interior, of

December 3, 1875, to the Secretary of War, occurs this language: "I have the honor to inform you that I have this day directed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to notify said Indians (Sitting Bull and others outside their reservation) that they must remove to the reservation before the 31st day of January, 1876; that if they neglect or refuse so to remove, that they will be reported to the War Department as hostile Indians, and that a military force will be sent to compel them to obey the orders of the Indian Office."

On the 1st day of February, the Secretary of the Interior further notified the Secretary of War, "The time given him (Sitting Bull) in which to return to an agency having expired, and the advices received at the Indian Office being to the effect that Sitting Bull still refuses to comply with the directions of the Commissioner, the said Indians are hereby turned over to the War Department for such action on the part of the Army as you may deem proper under the circumstances."

During all the stages of this correspondence, the General of the Army and his subordinate commanders were duly notified, and were making preparations for striking a blow at these hostile savages, an enterprise of almost insurmountable difficulty in a country where, in winter, the thermometer often falls to 40° below zero, and where it is impossible to procure food for man or beast. An expedition was fitted out under the personal command of Brig. Gen. George Crook, an officer of great merit and experience, which, in March last, marched from Forts Fetterman and Laramie to the Powder River and Yellowstone Valleys, struck and destroyed the village of Crazy Horse, one of the hostile bands referred to by Indian Inspector Watkins, but the weather was found so bitter cold, and other difficulties so great arose, that General Crook returned to Fort Laramie in a measure unsuccessful so far as the main purpose was concerned. These Indians occupy parts of the Departments of Dakota and Platte, commanded by Brigadier-Generals Terry and Crook, respectively, but the whole is immediately commanded by Lieutenant-General Sheridan, who has given the matter his special attention. Preparations were then made on a larger scale, and three columns were put in motion as early in May as possible: from Fort Abraham Lincoln on the Missouri River under General Terry; from Fort Ellis in Montana under General Gibbon; and from Fort Fetterman under General Crook. These columns were as strong as could be maintained in that inhospitable region, or could be spared from other pressing necessities, and their operations are not yet concluded nor is a more detailed report deemed necessary to explain the subject-matter of this inquiry.

The present military operations are not against the Sioux Nation at all, but against certain hostile parts of it which defy the Government, and are undertaken at the special request of that bureau of the Government charged with their supervision, and wholly to make the civilization of the remainder possible. No part of these operations is on or near the Sioux reservation. The accidental discovery of gold on the western border of the Sioux reservation, and the intrusion of our people thereon, have not caused this war, and have only complicated it by the uncertainty of numbers to be encountered. The young warriors love war and frequently escape their agents to go on the hunt or war-path, their only idea of the object of life. The object of these military expeditions was in the interest of the peaceful parts of the Sioux Nation, supposed to embrace at least nine-tenths of the whole, and not one of these peaceful or treaty Indians has been molested by the military authorities.

The recent reports touching the disaster which befell a part of the

Seventh Regular Cavalry, led by General Custer in person, are believed to be true. For some reason as yet unexplained, General Custer, who commanded the Seventh Cavalry, and had been detached by his commander, General Terry, at the mouth of Rosebud to make a wide detour up the Rosebud, a tributary to the Yellowstone, across to the Little Horn and down to the mouth of Big Horn, the place agreed on for meeting, attacked *en route* a large Indian village with only a part of his force, having himself detached the rest with a view to intercept the expected retreat of the savages, and experienced an utter annihilation of his immediate command. The force of Generals Terry and Gibbon reached the field of battle the next day, rescued fifty-two wounded men and buried two hundred and sixty-one dead men, including Lieut. Col. George A. Custer, Captains Custer, Keogh, Yates; Lieutenants Cook, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Hodgson, Reilly, Porter, Sturgis, all of the Seventh Cavalry; and Lieutenant Crittenden, of the Twentieth Infantry, Lieutenant Harrington, Assistant Surgeon Lord, and Acting Assistant Surgeon De Wolff are missing.

The wounded were carried back to the mouth of the Big Horn in the Yellowstone River, which is navigable, and where there were two steamboats, one of which was sent down the river, to Fort Abe Lincoln, with the wounded and to communicate these sad facts.

General Terry is, therefore, at the mouth of the Big Horn refitting, and will promptly receive re-enforcements and supplies, and will resume his operations immediately.

Meantime General Crook had also advanced from Fort Fetterman, and on the 17th of June, eight days before General Custer's attack, had encountered this same force of warriors on the head of the Rosebud, with whom he fought several hours, driving the Indians from the field, losing nine men in killed; one officer and twenty men wounded. General Crook reports his camp as on Tongue River, Wyoming. Re-enforcements and supplies are also *en route* to him, and every possible means have been adopted to accomplish a concert of action between these two forces, which are necessarily separated, and are only able to communicate by immense distances around by their rear.

The task committed to the military authorities is one of unusual difficulty; has been anticipated for years, and must be met and accomplished. It can no longer be delayed, and everything will be done by the Department to insure success, which is necessary to give even an assurance of comparative safety to the important but scattered interests which have grown up in that remote and almost inaccessible portion of our national domain.

It is again earnestly recommended that the appropriation asked for repeatedly by General Sheridan, of \$200,000, be made, to build two posts on the Yellowstone at or near the mouths of the Big Horn and Tongue Rivers.

Inclosed herewith please find copies of General Terry's report, just received by telegraph, since the preparation of this letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

[Copy telegram.]

CHICAGO, ILL., July 8, 1876.

To ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C. :

The following is a copy of General Terry's report of action of June 25th :

"CAMP ON LITTLE BIG HORN RIVER, June 27.

"To ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF MILITARY  
"DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
"Chicago, Ill. :

"It is my painful duty to report that day before yesterday, the 25th instant, a great disaster overtook General Custer and the troops under his command. At 12 o'clock of the 22d he started with his whole regiment and a strong detachment of scouts and guides from the mouth of the Rosebud. Proceeding up that river about twenty miles he struck a very heavy Indian trail, which had previously been discovered, and pursuing it found that it led, as it was supposed that it would lead, to the Little Big Horn River. Here he found a village of almost unexampled extent and at once attacked it with that portion of his force which was immediately at hand. Major Reno, with three companies, A, G, and M, of the regiment, was sent into the valley of the stream at the point where the trail struck it. General Custer, with five companies, C, E, F, I, and L, attempted to enter it about three miles lower down. Reno forded the river, charged down its left bank, dismounted, and fought on foot until finally, completely overwhelmed by numbers, he was compelled to mount, recross the river, and seek a refuge on the high bluff which overlooked its right bank. Just as he recrossed, Captain Benteen, who, with three companies, D, H, and K, was some two miles to the left of Reno when the action commenced, but who had been ordered by General Custer to return, came to the river, and rightly concluding that it was useless for his force to attempt to renew the fight in valley, he joined Reno on the bluffs. Captain McDougall with his company (B) was at first at some distance in the rear with a train of pack-mules. He also came up to Reno. Soon this united force was nearly surrounded by Indians, many of whom, armed with rifles, occupied positions which commanded the ground held by the cavalry—ground from which there was no escape. Rifle-pits were dug, and the fight was maintained, though with heavy loss, from about half past 2 o'clock of the 25th till 6 o'clock of the 26th, when the Indians withdrew from the valley, taking with them their village. Of the movements of General Custer and the five companies under his immediate command, scarcely anything is known from those who witnessed them, for no officer or soldier who accompanied him has yet been found alive. His trail, from the point where Reno crossed the stream, passes along and in the rear of the crest of the bluffs on the right bank for nearly or quite three miles; then it comes down to the bank of the river, but at once diverges from it, as if he had unsuccessfully attempted to cross, then turns upon itself, almost completes a circle, and closes. It is marked by the remains of the officers and the bodies of his horses. Some of them dropped along the path; others heaped where halts appear to have been made. There is abundant evidence that a gallant resistance was offered by the troops, but they were beset on all sides by overpowering numbers. The officers known to be killed are General Custer, Captains Keogh, Yates, and Custer; Lieu-

tenants Cook, Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Porter, Hodgson, Sturgis, and Reilly, of the cavalry. Lieutenant Crittenden, of the Twentieth Infantry, and Acting Assistant Surgeon De Wolf, Lieutenant Harrington, of the cavalry, and Assistant Surgeon Lord are missing. Captain Benteen and Lieutenant Varnum of the cavalry are slightly wounded. Mr. Boston Custer, a brother, and Mr. Reed, a nephew, of General Custer, were with him, and were killed. No other officers than those whom I have named are among the killed, wounded, or missing. It is impossible as yet to obtain a reliable list of the enlisted men who were killed and wounded, but the number of killed, including officers, must reach two hundred and fifty. The number of wounded is fifty-one. At the mouth of the Rosebud, I informed General Custer that I should take the supply-steamer Far West up the Yellowstone to ferry General Gibbon's column over the river; that I should personally accompany that column, and that it would in all probability reach the mouth of the Little Big Horn on the 26th instant. The steamer reached General Gibbon's troops near the mouth of the Big Horn early in the morning of the 24th, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon all his men and animals were across the Yellowstone. At 5 o'clock the column, consisting of five companies of the Seventh Infantry, four companies of the Second Cavalry, and a battery of three Gatling guns, marched out to and across Tullock's Creek, starting soon after 5 o'clock in the morning of the 25th. The infantry made a march of twenty-two miles over the most difficult country which I have ever seen. In order that scouts might be sent into the valley of the Little Big Horn, the cavalry with the battery was then pushed on thirteen or fourteen miles farther, reaching camp at midnight. The scouts were set out at half past four on the morning of the 26th. The scout discovered three Indians, who were at first supposed to be Sioux, but when overtaken they proved to be Crows who had been with General Custer. They brought the first intelligence of the battle. Their story was not credited. It was supposed that some fighting, perhaps severe fighting, had taken place, but it was not believed that disaster could have overtaken so large a force as twelve companies of cavalry. The infantry which had broken camp very early soon came up, and the whole column entered and moved up the valley of the Little Big Horn. During the afternoon efforts were made to send scouts through to what was supposed to be General Custer's position, and to obtain information of the condition of affairs; but those who were sent out were driven back by parties of Indians, who, in increasing numbers, were seen hovering in General Gibbon's front. At twenty minutes before 9 o'clock in the evening, the infantry had marched between twenty-nine and thirty miles; the men were very weary, and daylight was failing; the column was therefore halted for the night at a point about eleven miles in a straight line above the mouth of the stream. This morning the movement was resumed, and after a march of nine miles Major Reno's entrenched position was reached. The withdrawal of the Indians from around Reno's command and from the valley was undoubtedly caused by the appearance of General Gibbon's troops. Major Reno and Captain Benteen, both of whom are officers of great experience, accustomed to see large masses of mounted men, estimated the number of Indians engaged at not less than twenty-five hundred. Other officers think that the number was greater than this. The village in the valley was about three miles in length, and about a mile in width. Besides the lodges proper, a great number of temporary brushwood shelter was found in it, indicating that many men besides its proper inhabitants had gathered together there. Major Reno is very confident that there

were a number of white men fighting with the Indians. It is believed that the loss of the Indians was large. I have as yet received no official reports in regard to the battle, but what is stated herein is gathered from the officers who were on the ground there, and from those who have been over it since.

“ALFRED H. TERRY,  
“*Brigadier-General.*”

R. C. DRUM,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE CALLED FOR BY RESOLUTION JULY 10, 1876,  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Official :

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *July 15, 1876.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, November 29, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated the 27th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with a copy of the special report, dated the 9th instant, from E. C. Watkins, United States Indian inspector, therein mentioned, in relation to the status and condition of certain wild and lawless bands of Sioux Indians, giving an expression of his views in reference to the future action of the Government toward them.

The subject is respectfully presented for the consideration and action of the honorable the Secretary of War.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., November 27, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith inclosed, a special report from E. C. Watkins, United States Indian inspector, dated the 9th instant, in relation to the status and condition of certain wild and lawless bands of Sioux Indians, giving an expression of his views in reference to the future action of the Government toward them.

Inspector Watkins refers to Sitting Bull's band and others who roam over Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers, and make war on the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinaboines, Blackfeet, Piegans, Crows, and other friendly tribes, and he suggests, for reasons stated by him, that one thousand men, under the command of an experienced officer, be sent into the country of these hostile Indians, numbering but a few hundred, during the winter season, and compel them to submit to the authority of the Government.

I respectfully recommend that this communication be referred to the War Department for consideration and such action as may be deemed best by Lieutenant-General Sheridan, who is personally conversant with the situation on the Upper Missouri, and with the relations of Sitting Bull's band to the other Sioux tribes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 9, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to address you in relation to the attitude and condition of certain wild and hostile bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota and Montana, that came under my observation during my recent tour through their country, and what I think should be the policy of the Government toward them.

I refer to "Sitting Bull's" band and other bands of the Sioux Nation, under chiefs or "head-men" of less note, but no less untamable and hostile. These Indians occupy the center, so to speak, and roam over Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder Rivers, and make war on the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinaboines, Blackfeet, Piegans, Crows, and other friendly tribes on the circumference.

Their country is probably the best hunting-ground in the United States, a "paradise" for Indians, affording game in such variety and abundance that the need of Government supplies is not felt. Perhaps for this reason they have never accepted aid or been brought under control. They openly set at defiance all law and authority, and boast that the United States authorities are not strong enough to conquer them. The United States troops are held in contempt, and surrounded by their native mountains, relying on their knowledge of the country and powers of endurance, they laugh at the futile efforts that have thus far been made to subjugate them, and scorn the idea of white civilization.

They are lofty and independent in their attitude and language to Government officials, as well as the whites generally, and claim to be the sovereign rulers of the land. They say they own the wood, the water, the ground, and the air, and that white men live in or pass through their country but by their sufferance.

They are rich in horses and robes, and are thoroughly armed. Nearly every warrior carries a breech-loading gun, a pistol, a bow and quiver of arrows.

From their central position they strike to the east, north, and west steal horses and plunder from all the surrounding tribes, as well as frontier settlers, and luckless white hunters or emigrants who are not in sufficient force to resist them; and fortunate, indeed, is the man who thus meets them if, after losing all his worldly possessions, he escapes with his scalp.

And yet these Indians number, all told, but a few hundred warriors, and these are never all together or under the control of one chief.

In my judgment, one thousand men, under the command of an experienced officer, sent into their country in the winter, when the Indians are nearly always in camp, and at which season of the year they are the most helpless, would be amply sufficient for their capture or punishment.



The Government has done everything that can be done peacefully to get control of these Indians, or induce them to respect its authority. Every effort has been made, but all to no purpose. They are still as wild and untamable, as uncivilized and savage, as when Lewis and Clarke first passed through their country.

The injurious effects of the repeated attacks made by these bands on the peaceful friendly tribes heretofore mentioned cannot be overestimated. No people can reasonably be expected to make progress in the arts of peace if they must be constantly armed and prepared to defend their homes and property. No Indians can be expected to "civilize," to learn to cultivate the soil, or the mechanic arts, if while they have the implement of labor in one hand they must carry the gun in the other for self-defense. Their natural instincts come to the surface at once, and the Indian agent or missionary who is zealously laboring for the advancement of the people under his care, or to carry out the humane policy of our Government, the *only* policy worthy an enlightened, Christian nation, finds his labors vastly increased and discouragements multiplied by this state of affairs.

These wild bands are but as a drop in the bucket in number, compared to the great body of Indians who have accepted the peaceful policy, made treaties with the Government, and are keeping them, or have been supplied with provisions, goods, and farming-implements without treaty-stipulations, are under the care of agents, friendly, and make fair progress in the road of civilization.

In interviews with the Indians along the Missouri River and through Montana, during my recent tour of inspection, they invariably spoke of this subject, and complained bitterly that the Government was not protecting them as it had promised, and frequently closed the case by saying they might just as well go out and kill white men as to try to be good Indians, for they got no protection or extra reward for being good. When I told them these Sioux would be punished, they said, "We have heard that before; we'll wait and see." While I am not disposed to be needlessly alarmed, and do not agree with the writers of articles published in numerous territorial papers of a sensational character on this subject, yet I think there is danger of some of the young warriors from friendly tribes falling off and joining with these hostile bands, until with these accessions they would be somewhat formidable, and might make a simultaneous attack on the white settlers in some localities, if they are thus allowed to gather head.

The true policy, in my judgment, is to send troops against them in the winter, the sooner the better, and *whip* them into subjection. They richly merit the punishment for their incessant warfare on friendly tribes, their continuous thieving, and their numerous murders of white settlers and their families, or white men wherever found unarmed.

The Government owes it, too, to these friendly tribes, in fulfillment of treaty-stipulations. It owes it to the agents and employés whom it has sent to labor among the Indians at remote and almost inaccessible places, beyond the reach of aid in time to save. It owes it to the frontier settlers who have, with their families, braved the dangers and hardships incident to pioneer life. It owes it to civilization and the common cause of humanity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. C. WATKINS,

*United States Indian Inspector.*

Hon. E. P. SMITH,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 3, 1875.*

SIR: Referring to my letter to you dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the status of certain hostile Sioux Indians residing outside of their reservations and remote from any agency, and requesting that steps be taken to compel them to go upon a reservation and cease their depredations, I have the honor to inform you that I have this day directed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to notify said Indians that they must remove to a reservation before the 31st day of January next; that if they neglect or refuse so to remove, they will be reported to the War Department as hostile Indians, and that a military force will be sent to compel them to obey the orders of the Indian Office.

You will be notified of the compliance or non-compliance of the Indians with this order; and if said Indians shall neglect or refuse to comply with said order, I have the honor to request that the proper military officer be directed to compel their removal to and residence within the bounds of their reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, December 7, 1875.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, and referring to your previous letter of the 29th ultimo, stating that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has been directed to notify the hostile Sioux Indians outside of their reservation that they must remove to a new reservation before the 31st day of January next, and that the War Department will be informed of their compliance or non-compliance with this order, I have the honor to inform you that copies of your two communications—November 29 and December 3—will be transmitted to the proper military officer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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*Indorsements on copy letters November 29 and December 3, 1875, from Interior Department.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, December 11, 1875.*

Official copies respectfully referred through headquarters of the Army to the commanding general of the Division of the Missouri.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, December 13, 1875.*

Respectfully referred to Lieut. General P. H. Sheridan, commanding Division of the Missouri, for report as to the feasibility of military operations against Sitting Bull and his tribe this winter.

By command of General Sherman:

A. McD. MCCOOK,  
*Colonel and A. D. C.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Saint Louis, Mo., January 5, 1876.*

Col. R. C. DRUM, *Chicago, Ill. :*

Please return papers covering reports of Indian Inspector Watkins. Letter of January 4th received.

WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, January 5, 1876.*

Respectfully returned to the headquarters of the Army, as requested by telegram of this date.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, January 7, 1876.*

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War, inviting attention to General Sheridan's letter, herewith inclosed. Midwinter is the best time to strike hostile Indians in the latitude of the Yellowstone, but we should have timely notice of the object to be accomplished, and the means for its attainment.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, Ill., January 3, 1876.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to reply to your requests as indorsed on certain papers forwarded from the Secretary of the Interior, requesting military operations against the Sioux Indians in case they refuse to occupy the reservation assigned them by the Indian Bureau, on or before the 31st day of January, 1876.

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As Generals Terry and Crook command the departments in which these hostile Indians are located, I respectfully forward their opinions on the subject:

General Terry is of the opinion that Sitting Bull's band of hostile Indians is encamped at or near the mouth of Little Missouri, and that it can be reached by a quick movement, which may be decisive at this season of the year, and that he has sufficient troops and means to make such a movement.

General Crook is of the opinion that operations can be undertaken in his department against bands of hostile Sioux Indians whenever, in the opinion of the Indian Bureau, such action becomes necessary.

As the commands of these two officers embrace all the Indians against whom military action was contemplated, it will be seen that the movement is considered practicable, and I earnestly request, should operations be determined upon, that directions to that effect be communicated to me as speedily as possible, so that the enemy may be taken at the greatest disadvantage.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Headquarters of the Army, Saint Louis, Mo.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, January 12, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to a previous correspondence with your Department on the subject of the appearance of hostile bands of Sioux outside of their reservation, I have now the honor to transmit copy of a report of the commanding general Division of the Missouri, concerning these Indians, and to invite your attention to the requests of General Sheridan, concurred in by the General of the Army, that should operations against them be determined upon, he may be so advised as speedily as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY,  
*Chief Clerk, for the Secretary of War in his absence.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, January 22, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the honorable the Secretary of War, a copy of a communication dated the 21st instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the movement contemplated against the hostile and lawless bands of Sioux Indians, which was the subject of the letter from the War Department of the 12th instant, transmitting copy of report of the commanding general Department of the Missouri, and calling attention to indorsement of General Sheridan, requesting to be informed of any action to be taken in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

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[Inclosure to above.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 21, 1876.*

SIR: By Department reference of the 13th instant, I am in receipt of communication from the honorable the Secretary of War inviting attention to the indorsement of Lieutenant-General Sheridan, (therewith inclosed,) that should operations against the hostile bands of Sioux outside their reservation be determined on, the military may be so advised as speedily as possible.

From this indorsement, it appears to be the opinion of the accomplished officers under whose immediate supervision any movement against these Indians would be conducted, an opinion in which the General and Lieutenant-General of the Army concur, that such a movement at this season of the year is entirely practicable.

I am disposed to believe, also, although the question is not specifically raised by these papers, that the officers whose opinions are thus given have no doubt as to their ability to restrain, with the troops at their command, any possible outbreak (by way of a diversion in favor of Sitting Bull and the Indians who will be the direct objects of the attack) of the bands of Sioux now at the several agencies.

In compliance with your direction, I have the honor to report that the indorsement of Lieutenant-General Sheridan, above mentioned, was called out by a communication from this office of November 27 last, in which the then Commissioner invited attention to the trouble which Sitting Bull and other lawless Sioux, ranging over certain parts of Dakota and Montana, were giving to friendly Indians, and to white settlers within their reach; this communication having been referred by you in compliance with his recommendation to the War Department.

Since the date of this communication, viz, on the 6th ultimo, my predecessor, acting under your instructions, directed the agents at the Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, Lower Brulé, Crow Creek, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Devil's Lake, and Fort Peck agencies to communicate, if practicable, to Sitting Bull and the other hostile Indians, the requirements of the Government that they return within the bounds of their reservation on or before the 31st instant. Agent Howard, of the Spotted Tail agency, reported, under date of 3d instant, his belief that their demands had by that time reached the northern camps, and that Sitting Bull is fully advised of the intentions of the Government.

Some of the agents named have not been heard from in regard to this matter, while no one has as yet clearly expressed a belief concurrent with that of Agent Howard. In my opinion, however, enough has been done to fully commit the Department to the policy of restraining by force of arms any further outbreak or insubordination on the part of these defiant and hostile bands should they refuse to comply before 31st instant with the demands there made upon them. Certainly I can conceive of nothing more damaging to the authority of the Government, not yet fully recognized by other bands of Sioux, than a failure to execute threats of military operations so clearly made.

In further execution of the policy thus determined upon, and with a desire to afford the fullest information to all officers interested, I directed, on the 19th instant, the agents at the Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, Standing Rock, and Cheyenne River agencies, who would in my view be most likely to obtain reliable and early news of Sitting Bull's intentions and movements, to keep me fully advised by letter and telegraph of his acceptance or rejection of the conditions imposed upon him, or of any other intelligence concerning him.

Any information which I may receive in compliance with these instructions will be forwarded without delay to you for transmission to the honorable the Secretary of War.

The communication of the honorable the Secretary of War is herewith returned.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[First indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the Adjutant-General to refer to the General and Lieutenant-General for their views, and for report as to whether the Department should now undertake an expedition against these refractory bands.

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

JANUARY 26, 1876.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, January 26, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, relative to the movements contemplated against the hostile and lawless bands of Indians, with inclosure of letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reporting that in his opinion enough has been done to commit the Department to the policy of restraining by force of arms any further outbreaks, should these Indians refuse to comply by the 31st instant with the demands of the Department for their return to their reservation, &c., and to state, in reply thereto, that your communication has been referred to the General and Lieutenant-General of the Army for their views, and report as to whether this Department should now undertake an expedition against these refractory bands.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Indorsements on copy letter January 22, 1876, from the Department of the Interior:]

[First indorsement.]

Official copy respectfully referred to the General and the Lieutenant-General of the Army for their views, and for report as to whether the Department should now undertake an expedition against these refractory bands.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

W. D., A. G. O., JANUARY 28, 1876.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, February 2, 1876.*

Respectfully referred to the Lieutenant-General for remark.

By command of General Sherman:

WM. D. WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, February 4, 1876.*

Respectfully returned. Generals Terry and Crook notified these headquarters on December 28th and 22d, respectively, that they could move against these Indians. I inclose copy of reports above referred to.

It is now for the Indian Bureau to make its decision on the subject. The matter of notifying the Indians to come in is perhaps well to put on paper, but it will in all probability be regarded as a good joke by the Indians. If it is intended that the military should operate against these Indians, I may safely say that every possibility of success will vanish unless directions are immediately given. I fully comprehend the difficulties of the country inhabited by these hostile bands, and unless they are caught before early spring, they cannot be caught at all. Generals Terry and Crook should be notified, one way or the other, without delay.

P. H. SHERIDAN.  
*Lieutenant-General.*

[Inclosures to above (third) indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., December 28, 1875.*

SIR: Referring to your indorsement of the 20th instant, upon a copy of correspondence between the War and Interior Departments, relative to operations against Sitting Bull and his band, in case they should refuse to obey the order of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, directing them to remove to the reservation which is set apart for them in common with the other bands of the Sioux Nation, I have the honor to report that information from various sources tends to show that these Indians are now encamped for the winter on the Little Missouri; it is believed that they are near the mouth. If this information is correct it will be possible in ordinary winter weather to reach their camp by a rapid march from Fort Abraham Lincoln. For such an operation there are available five well-mounted companies of cavalry at Lincoln and two at Fort Rice; a force which, I think, would be sufficient. Such an operation must, of course, be conducted with secrecy and rapidity, for it would not be possible for cavalry to follow the Indians for any considerable distance should they receive notice of the approach of troops and seek safety in dispersion and flight. It would be impracticable to carry supplies of food and forage for more than a very few days.

In view of the conversation which I had with the Lieutenant-General upon this subject when I was in Chicago week before last, I have not felt at liberty to communicate even to any of my staff that such operations have been contemplated, nor have I felt at liberty to take any steps to ascertain the precise position of Sitting Bull's camp.

I think that this information can be obtained by sending out scouts from Fort Stevenson without exciting suspicion. Sitting Bull doubtless knows that the garrison of that post consists entirely of infantry, and that he has nothing to fear from it. He would pay little attention to a movement from that quarter, even if it were discovered. If the Lieutenant-General shall approve of this suggestion, I will send confidential instructions to Lieutenant-Colonel Huston, the post commander, to obtain this information as if for his own purposes.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Division of Missouri, Chicago, Ill.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE,  
*Omaha, Nebr., December 22, 1875.*

GENERAL: Referring to your indorsement of the 20th instant, on communication from the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, relative to certain hostile bands of Sioux Indians, and requesting report as to the feasibility of military operations against them, I have the honor to state that military operations may be commenced against them whenever, in the opinion of the Department, such action becomes necessary.

I recommend that the Department communicate their decision at the earliest date practicable, in order that operations may be commenced before spring weather comes.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 GEORGE CROOK,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Department.*

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.*

[Fourth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Saint Louis, Mo., February 7, 1876.*

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War, whose instructions as contained in his indorsement of the 4th instant, on copy of letter from the Interior Department, (this day received,) have been referred to the Lieutenant-General for action.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, January 25, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to Department letter addressed to you under date of the 22d instant, in relation to the movements contemplated against the hostile and lawless bands of Sioux, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of communication dated 24th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with extract from letter of Agent Burke, Standing Rock agency, relative to the probable movements of Sitting Bull and his band.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 24, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to my communication of the 21st instant, I forward herewith, to be laid by you, if deemed advisable, before the honorable Secretary of War, copy of so much of a communication of the 31st ult., this day received from John Burke, esq., United States Indian agent at the Standing Rock agency, as relates to the probable movements of Sitting Bull and his band of hostile Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.



[Extract from letter of John Burke, United States Indian agent, Standing Rock agency, Dakota, December 31, 1875.]

"On the 22d of the month I received Department letter dated December 6, 1875, directing me to notify Sitting Bull's band, and other wild and lawless bands of Sioux Indians, who are outside of their reservation and making war on friendly tribes of Indians, to cease so doing and remove within the boundaries of their reservation on or before the 31st of January next, otherwise they will be deemed hostile and treated accordingly by the military force. Upon the receipt of said letter I took immediate measures for the carrying out of said orders, by sending some trustworthy, reliable, and friendly Indians to the several hostile camps to notify them of the orders, and will also in a few days send one of my agency employés to Fort Berthold, D. T., where I have directed any of the Indians so notified who may desire to come to this agency to meet and accompany him here, as a precautionary measure to guard against trouble that might arise should they encounter any military force on their journey here. I have no doubt but that a large number of these wild and lawless Indians will come to this agency and accept the conditions of the treaty of 1868. I am strengthened in this belief from the fact that many of them had already sent word to their Indian relations and friends now peaceably settled on this reservation of their intention to do so the present winter or early the coming spring, in view of which I respectfully invite the attention of the Department to the necessity of providing for their subsistence and maintenance."

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, January 29, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 25th instant, transmitting copy of communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and extract from letter of Agent Burke, Standing Rock agency, relative to the probable movements of Sitting Bull and his band, I have the honor to inform you that the papers have been referred to the proper military commander.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Copy Interior Department letter January 25, 1876, referred to General of the Army February 2, 1876.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 1, 1876.*

SIR: On the 3d December last I had the honor to address a communication to you relative to the hostile Sioux roaming in the Powder River country, under the leadership of Sitting Bull, informing you that I had directed couriers to be sent from each of the Sioux agencies, informing that chief that he must come in with his followers to one of the Sioux agencies before the 31st ultimo, prepared to remain in peace near the agency, or he would be turned over to the War Department, and

the Army be directed to compel him to comply with the orders of this Department.

The time given him in which to return to an agency having expired, and the advices received at the Indian Office being to the effect that Sitting Bull still refuses to comply with the directions of the Commissioner, the said Indians are hereby turned over to the War Department for such action on the part of the Army as you may deem proper under the circumstances.

I inclose copy of communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 31st ultimo, recommending that hostilities be commenced.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., 31st January, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith copy of telegram just received from Agent Burke, of Standing Rock agency, in which the agent desires an extension of the time limited for the submission of Sitting Bull to the demands of Government, and a postponement of the hostilities against him now in contemplation.

I also forward copy of so much of a communication this day received from Agent Bingham, at Cheyenne River, upon this matter as shows his action under previous instructions to notify Sitting Bull.

As the time limited by the Department has expired without the receipt of any news of Sitting Bull's submission, I see no reason why, in the discretion of the honorable the Secretary of War, military operations against him should not commence at once.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAK.,  
*January 24, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th instant, (G. W. S.,) instructing me to obey, if possible, the instructions contained in yours of 6th ultimo, relative to Sitting Bull's and other wild bands of Indians, and to use my best endeavors to subsist all Indians under my care up to the close of the present fiscal year from the supplies on hand, and the beef to be furnished, so that no deficiencies may exist.

In reply I will state that, in addition to publicly notifying the Indians of this agency of the intention of the Government, and thereby giving them an opportunity to convey the information to their friends at the hostile camps, I have sent special delegations of Indians to the camps of the wild band, inviting them to come to this reservation, and warning them that if such invitation was not accepted before the 31st instant

they will be treated as enemies of the Government, and receive the chastisement due those whose opposition is unreasonable and uncalled for.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. BINGHAM,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

[Telegram.]

STANDING ROCK, DAK.,  
*January 30, 1876.*

Honorable COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C. :*

Man I sent to Berthold to meet representative from hostile camp returned. Communication intercepted. About thirty Indians, composed, it is reported, of the Two Kettle, Minneconjoux, and Sans Arc bands of Sioux, on the night of the 11th, raided and stole horses from Gros Ventres, and were pursued by Berthold Indians and four of them killed. This circumstance prevented members of hostile bands from meeting representatives and delayed communication from the Indian couriers. I look for good results from movements I have inaugurated, and respectfully urge an extension of time on account of the trouble from this foray and the great length of the journey to hostile camp this inclement season.

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

[Indorsements.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, February 4, 1876.*

Official copy respectfully referred to the General of the Army, to take immediate steps to compel these Indians to return and remain upon their reservation, as requested by the Interior Department.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 3, 1876.*

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, stating that the time given Sitting Bull and his followers to repair to an agency having expired, and this chief still refuses to comply with the directions of the Commissioner, and turning the case over to the War Department, in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Bureau that hostilities be commenced against these Indians, I have the honor to inform you that the Adjutant-General has directed the General of the Army to take immediate measures to compel these Indians to return to and remain upon their reservation, as requested by your Department.

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, January 19, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter, dated the 18th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the action taken by the Indian Bureau, under instructions from this Department, concerning the sales of arms and ammunition to Indians at the following agencies: Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, in Nebraska; Standing Rock, Crow Creek, White River, and Cheyenne River, in Dakota; Fort Belknap and Fort Peck, in Montana; and, in accordance with the suggestion therein contained, invite the co-operation of the War Department in carrying into effect the instructions promulgated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

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[First inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 18, 1876.*

SIR: In accordance with your verbal instructions of yesterday, this office has telegraphed to the agents respectively in charge of the following agencies: Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, in Nebraska; Standing Rock, Crow Creek, White River, and Cheyenne River, in Dakota; and Fort Belknap and Fort Peck, in Montana, to stop all sales of arms and ammunition to the Indians of said agencies, and to seize any such articles likely to reach the Indians.

I beg leave to suggest the propriety of advising the War Department of the action taken in the matter; and also of inviting the co-operation of the military in carrying into effect the instructions given in the dispatches referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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[Second inclosure.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, January 22, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, transmitting copy of communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the action taken by the Indian Bureau concerning the sale of arms and ammunition to Indians at the following agencies: Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, Nebraska; Crow Creek, Standing Rock, White River, and Cheyenne River, Dakota; Fort Belknap and Fort Peck, Montana, and requesting the co-operation of the Department in carrying out the instructions promulgated, and in reply to inform you that the action of your Department in the matter

has been concurred in, and the Adjutant-General of the Army has been directed to issue the necessary instructions to the military commanders, as requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Indorsement on copy of communication of January 19, 1876, from the Interior Department.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 26, 1876.*

Approved, and official copy respectfully referred, through headquarters of the Army, to the commanding general, Military Division of the Missouri, to issue necessary instructions to military commanders.

By order of the Secretary of War :

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 10, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the honorable the Secretary of War, a copy of a report, dated the 9th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copies of accompanying letters from Agents Bingham and Darling, in relation to movements of Sitting Bull and his band.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

[First inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 9, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, to be furnished the War Department for information, if deemed advisable, a copy of a letter from A. W. Bingham, United States agent Cheyenne River agency, Dakota Territory, dated 26th ultimo, in which that agent says he apprehends no trouble from Sitting Bull; also, copy of two letters from C. W. Darling, United States agent Fort Berthold agency, Dakota Territory, dated, respectively, 24th and 15th ultimo, reporting the presence of Sitting Bull and his followers upon the reservation of the Fort Berthold agency Indians; the raiding by some of his people on the 11th or 12th ultimo upon the Gros Ventres' winter-quarters; the stealing of horses therefrom; the pursuit of the raiders by Indians from Fort Berthold agency, and fight between the parties.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Second inclosure.]

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY,  
January 26, 1876.

SIR: Referring to your telegram of the 21st instant, in which I am instructed to keep you constantly advised, by letter and telegram, of all news from "Sitting Bull," I have the honor to inform you that from such information as I can obtain from runners arriving at the agency, I have no reason to apprehend trouble from the Indian named. In this connection I will state that, so far as my information goes, the Indians have not been so quiet or friendly-disposed for a long time as they are now, and the intimation of a renewal of hostilities was a surprise, not only to me, but to all the Indians under my charge, who disclaim all knowledge of any such intention on the part of themselves, or their less civilized friends, called for the sake of distinction "hostile." They blame the newspapers for publishing sensational reports for which there is no foundation, but simply calculated to prejudice the Government and its officers against the Indians, who have no means of contradicting such statements, unless through their agents.

All news of "Sitting Bull," or any other wild bands that I can learn, will be promptly laid before you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. BINGHAM,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

[Third inclosure.]

FORT BERTHOLD, DAK., January 15, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to state that on the night of the 11th or early morning of the 12th instant a band of hostile Sioux Indians succeeded in stealing 25 horses from the Gros Ventres' winter-quarters, at the mouth of the Little Missouri River, about 25 miles above this agency. The theft was soon discovered, and a party of Gros Ventres and Mandans at once followed them, overtaking a small party who were on foot, (at the head of Beaver Creek, a small stream which flows into the Missouri River on the west side, about 8 miles above the agency,) killing one and wounding another at this point. The party of Gros Ventres and Mandans, being re-enforced, followed up the main trail, which led to Turtle Mountain, situated at the head of one of the forks of Big Knife River, about 40 miles from Fort Berthold, nearly west. The Sioux were evidently making for their camp on the Yellowstone River, and late in the night of the 12th the party of Fort Berthold Indians discovered about 30 of the raiders in the bad lands north of the Little Missouri River, and in the fight which ensued killed three, wounded several more, but recovering only two of the stolen horses.

That these Indians were from Sitting Bull's camp of Uncepapas I believe, as they were making direct for it on the Yellowstone River, and that so far the treaty of peace effected last summer at Fort Lincoln with the Sioux of Standing Rock and Cheyenne agencies has not been broken. Also Mr. Chas. Reynolds (an employé of the agency) reports, on his arrival to-day at the agency, that he was within 15 miles of Turtle Mountain, on the west side of the Missouri River, having gone from the mouth of Big Knife River to that point, and no Indians from below had crossed that stream on their way here, which they must have done had they been from Standing Rock or Cheyenne agencies. From the

best information possible to get here, Sitting Bull has about 500 lodges of lawless ruffians with him, in fact the home of the very worst Indians in the Northwest. This affair is very much to be regretted at this time, as this agency Indians, the Arickarees in particular, had begun to think that the long war waged against them by the Sioux had at last terminated, and were turning their attention to the pursuits of peace. All agree that never before has there been anything like the desire they now exhibit to work and adopt the customs of civilized life. But this raid has seemed to almost craze them; all can think of nothing but scalps and revenge for old and almost forgotten wrongs. I am convinced that, if these hostile bands of Indians could be kept away from this agency and not allowed to come on the reservation, it would not be but a short time before all, or nearly all, would be at work doing something for themselves. No doubt now but we shall soon receive a visit from a large war-party seeking revenge for the hair lost by the late raiders; shall keep a sharp lookout for and hope not to be troubled by them. I was in hopes the Government would put its strong and heavy hand upon this band of red rascals, who seem to defy and laugh at every effort made to compel good behavior. I think a good thrashing would do them good and save lives in the end.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

[Fourth inclosure.]

FORT BERTHOLD, UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY, D. T.,  
*January 24, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the large band of hostile Sioux, under the leadership of Sitting Bull, are still encamped on the reservation of the Indians of my agency. This is very injurious to the interests of the service. The close proximity of a large band of hostile Sioux exercises a demoralizing influence in furnishing a place of refuge for the lawless, and preventing, and almost stopping, the industry of the peaceable Indians. Besides it is a serious loss to the Government, as the Indians of this agency have been compelled to give up hunting, the only part of their reservation where game can be found being occupied by these hostile Sioux. Last winter it was quite usual for large parties of Rees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans to start out on a hunt, and be gone six weeks at a time, bringing home plenty of game, and I have no doubt were Sitting Bull's band driven off to their own reservation, and compelled to stay there, that at a moderate estimate 10,000 pounds of good, wholesome meat could be procured (at the point now occupied by Sitting Bull) within a short period, thereby saving the Government this amount of beef or other supplies.

I would respectfully but strongly urge on the Department the absolute necessity of driving Sitting Bull and his band of lawless Indians off the reservation of the Indians of my agency with as little delay as practicable.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 15, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 10th instant, and its inclosures, copies of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and of letters from Agents Bingham and Darling, relative to the movements of "Sitting Bull" and his band, I have now the honor to state that General Sheridan, who is now in the city, has seen these papers, and, in accordance with his request, copies of them will be forwarded to his headquarters, and also to General Terry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 17, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of communication, dated 16th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copy of letter from Agent Hastings, reporting that Crazy Horse and Black Twin, Ogallalla chiefs, and leaders of hostile Sioux, are now on their way to the Red Cloud agency with their people, and that the couriers sent to Cheyenne camp are daily expected.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

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[First inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 15, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for the information of the Department, copy of a letter dated the 28th ultimo, from James S. Hastings, United States agent for the Indians of Red Cloud agency, Nebraska, in which he says that it is reported that Crazy Horse and Black Twin, Ogallalla chiefs, and leaders of the hostile Sioux camp, are now on the way to the Red Cloud agency, with their people, and that the couriers sent to the Cheyenne camp are daily expected.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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[Second inclosure.]

RED CLOUD AGENCY, NEBRASKA,  
*January 28, 1876.*

SIR: Your telegram of the 20th instant, directing that you be advised as to the whereabouts of Sitting Bull, is received. In reply, I have to



inform you that last fall he separated from the hostile camp on Powder River and started for the Yellowstone; since then nothing has been heard from him. He is an Unepapa, and belongs at Standing Rock agency, from which point he could be reached with less difficulty than from here. It is reported here that Crazy Horse and Black Twin, Ogallalla chiefs, and leaders of the hostile Sioux camp, to whom I sent word that they must come into the agency, are now *en route* to this place with their people; their progress is somewhat retarded on account of deep snow; when heard from they were at Bear Buttes, about one hundred miles distant. It is said that these two chiefs did not participate in the treaty of 1868; have never been on any agency; hitherto refusing to accept the bounty of the Government, and persistently declared their intention to remain at war with the whites, which they have incessantly carried on for the past seven years.

The couriers who were sent to notify the Cheyenne camp, which is located about one hundred miles beyond the Sioux, have not yet been heard from, but are daily expected.

In connection with the above, I have to inform the Department that couriers could not be obtained to go north without the promise of a reward for their services, and would respectfully request that I be authorized to purchase on their return presents to the amount of one hundred and fifty dollars.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 JAS. S. HASTINGS,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

P. S.—There are supposed to be between three and four thousand in the party.

J. S. H.

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[Third inclosure.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 19, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, transmitting copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and a letter from Agent Hastings, relative to the report that Crazy Horse and Black Twin, Ogallalla chiefs, and leaders of hostile Sioux, are on their way to the Red Cloud agency with their people, &c., and to inform you that the information has been sent to the General of the Army.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

The honorable SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 21, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a communication of this date from the Commissioner of Indian

Affairs and inclosed copy of letter from Agent Bingham, Cheyenne River agency, reporting Sitting Bull and his band to be peaceably inclined.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

[First inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
 Washington, D. C., February 21, 1876.

SIR: Under date of the 12th instant, Agent Bingham, of the Cheyenne River agency, reports the return to his agency of one of the delegations sent out to communicate with Sitting Bull, with the report that his band of Indians appears to be peaceably inclined.

A copy of this communication, which has been this day received, is respectfully forwarded herewith for transmission to the honorable the Secretary of War.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Second inclosure.]

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, D. T.,  
 February 12, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to report the return on yesterday of one of the delegations sent from this agency some time ago to the camps of Sitting Bull and other wild bands, to invite them to come on the reservation or be considered enemies.

From the statements of these messengers, the "hostile" Indians received the above invitation and warning in good spirit, and without any exhibition of ill-feeling. They answered that, as they were now engaged in hunting buffalo, they could not conveniently accept my invitation at present, but that early in the spring they will visit this agency to dispose of their robes and skins, when the question as to their future movements can be thoroughly discussed. They are now camped on the Yellowstone River, and my informants say they are not only peaceably inclined, but deny the statements, so extensively circulated, that they intended to make war on the frontier on the approach of spring.

I cannot determine how much importance to attach to this information, but, until something transpires to convince me that hostile movements are intended, I must adhere to my present opinion that there is no danger to be apprehended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 H. W. BINGHAM,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

Copy referred from Adjutant-General's Office to General of the Army, February 29, 1876.

[Copy telegram.]

SAINT PAUL, MINN.,  
December 24, 1875.

TO ADJUTANT-GENERAL DIVISION MISSOURI,  
678 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.:

Captain Poland telegraphs that, though there is no game in that vicinity, the Indians at Standing Rock are selling all their hides for ammunition, These Indians are closely connected with Sitting Bull's band, and, having in view the recent conversation of the Lieutenant-General with me, and the communication from the Interior Department to the War Department, which was referred to me on the 20th instant, I have ordered Poland to put a stop to such sales. I suggest that the Interior Department be requested to give similar orders to the traders.

TERRY,  
Commanding Department.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
Chicago, December 26, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded through headquarters of the Army.  
P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-General Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Saint Louis, December 28, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War.  
W. T. SHERMAN,  
General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON CITY, January 6, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of telegram from the commanding general Department of Dakota, stating "that, though there is no game in that vicinity, the Indians at Standing Rock are selling all their hides for ammunition," and Captain Poland has been directed to stop such sales.

It is respectfully suggested that the Department of the Interior give similar orders to traders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
H. T. CROSBY, Chief Clerk,  
For the Secretary of War, in his absence.

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Copy telegram.]

STANDING ROCK, December 31, 1875.

TO ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.:

Trader refuses to stop the sale of ammunition entirely. Announces he will sell on orders of Indian agent. Agent has refused to say he will not issue orders for ammunition. Will place a guard over store to-morrow morning. Documents by mail. I await further instructions.

J. S. POLAND.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, January 3, 1876.*

Official copy respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division  
of the Missouri for the information of the Lieutenant-General.

ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General Commanding.*

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[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, January 5, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded through headquarters of the Army for the  
information of the Indian Bureau.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General Commanding.*

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[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, January 6, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, January 12, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a tel-  
egram dated the 21st ultimo, from the commanding officer of Standing  
Rock, stating the trader there refuses to stop the sale of ammunition  
entirely, and that the agent has refused to say he will not issue orders  
for ammunition, and that he, Captain Poland, will place a guard over  
the store.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY, *Chief Clerk,*  
*For the Secretary of War, in his absence.*

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, January 17, 1876.*

SIR: Referring to two letters, dated, respectively, the 6th and 12th  
instant, from the War Department, upon the subject of sale of ammu-  
nition to Indians at Standing Rock agency, Dakota, I have the honor  
to respectfully invite your attention to the inclosed copy of a letter,  
dated the 14th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to  
whom the subject was referred, showing the action taken by that officer  
in the premises.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

[First inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., January 14, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from the Department, of two letters from the War Department, dated, respectively, 6th and 12th instant, relative to the selling by Indians at Standing Rock agency of all their hides, for ammunition, and to the action of the military in ordering that such sales be stopped, and also in regard to the action of the United States agent and licensed trader at the agency concerning the selling of ammunition to the Indians.

Many of the Indians referred to are, doubtless, as stated in an inclosure in one of the communications from the War Department, closely connected with the hostile band under Sitting Bull, and the wisdom of the policy of selling to them ammunition, in view of that fact, is questionable. Being of the opinion that the sale of arms and ammunition to the Indians at Standing Rock agency should for the present be stopped, this office yesterday telegraphed to Agent Burke to that effect, and to-day, by letter, more fully instructed him on that point, and also in reference to the trader at his agency. A copy of that letter is herewith transmitted.

The letters from the War Department referred to are herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Second inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., January 14, 1876.

SIR: Yesterday a telegraphic dispatch was sent to you to "stop sales of arms and ammunition to your Indians." Quite a large number of Indians at your agency are, it is said, closely connected with Sitting Bull's band. It is not deemed prudent, in view of that chief's hostile disposition and course, to allow his people to be supplied with the means of making further trouble. The Department is advised, through the War Department, that the Indians at your agency are selling all their hides for ammunition, and that Captain Poland has been directed to stop such sales. It may be suspected that mischief is intended by the Indians, and as a precautionary measure the order of the military is doubtless a proper one.

In this connection, your attention is called to the fact that no trader can sell arms and ammunition to the Indians of your agency, without a permit from this office. A copy of the rules and regulations of the Department in regard to the matter were sent to your predecessor, and ought to be on file at the agency. There is but one licensed trader at Standing Rock agency, Z. R. Casselberry, the term of whose license has just expired; and if he has been trading, having no permit, in arms and ammunition, it has been in violation, unwittingly, perhaps, on his part, of the rules and regulations in question.

As you may not have found on file a copy of the rules and regulations referred to, one is herewith transmitted.

If Mr. Casselberry proposes to continue trading with your Indians, he should at once apply to you for a new license, or a renewal of the old one; and if the application be granted by you, the papers necessary in the case should be immediately forwarded to this office for proper action thereon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

JOHN BURKE, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Standing Rock, Dak.*

[Second indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 25, 1876.*

Respectfully referred, through headquarters of the Army, to the commanding general Department of Dakota, for his information. To be returned.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant General.*

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, January 29, 1876.*

Respectfully transmitted, through headquarters Division of the Missouri.

By command of General Sherman.

WM. D. WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Fourth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, February 2, 1876.*

Respectfully submitted to the commanding general, Department of Dakota.

By command of Lieutenant-General Sheridan.

R. C. DUNN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Fifth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., February 4, 1876.*

Respectfully referred to the commanding officer, Standing Rock agency, D. T., for his information.

Please note and return.

By command of Brigadier-General Terry.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Sixth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, D. T., February 18, 1876.*

Respectfully returned. Contents noted.

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

[Seventh indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., March 6, 1876.*

Respectfully returned, through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri. Contents noted.

ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

[Eighth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, March 10, 1876.*

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant-General through headquarters of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

[Ninth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, March 13, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded, by command of General Sherman.

W. D. WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 30, 1875.*

SIR: In compliance with your telegraphic order dated December 24, 1875, to forward by mail statements of facts and depositions of witnesses, I have the honor to submit the following: That my telegram was based on a notorious fact, and the hearsay evidence of Indians, which fact is not denied by the trader. (See his letter of December 29, 1875.)

Until the order stopping the sale of ammunition was received and communicated to the Indians, it was not difficult to obtain satisfactory information in regard to this trade. But now their suspicions are excited and they have become reticent. Some few prominent men have talked freely with me and their statements are here recorded.

On the 28th ultimo I had interviews with Bad Hand, a chief of the Uncpapas, and John Grass, a chief of the Blackfeet Sioux, to the probable truth of which my interpreter, Mr. E. H. Allison, has made affidavit.

Two Bears, one of the leading men is interpreted as saying that

"His young men had bought all the cartridges they wanted at the trader's, *i. e.*, Mr. J. R. Casselberry's; a number of Indians had bought cartridges to trade with the hostiles; his men had not; the hostile camp is about one hundred miles from here; some lodges had gone out to hostile camp to trade ammunition and annuity goods; an Uncpapa Indian only December 27th apologized to Mrs. Galpin, an Uncpapa woman, engaged in Indian trade, for not bringing his hides to her for sale, because he could buy cartridges at the trader's, which he wanted to take to the hostile camp and trade for furs."

Osica, Bad Wound, states he bought center-primed cartridges, caliber .50, at trader's by the box, 20 in a box, at \$1 per box. He has bought cartridges at different times, and has seen other Indians buy ammunition at the same place."

Bad Hand (a watchman at the agency, he calls himself) came to my office, seeking an interview in reference to a false report of an arrest by the military of an Indian. He stated, "four lodges left for the hostile camp about four weeks ago. He had received (from the winter killing of beeves) ten hides. They get from the trader four one-dollar tickets; for these they get anything they want in the store. They get fifty rounds of ammunition and one dollar in goods for four tickets. Until the order stopping the sale of ammunition, he bought for his tickets nothing but ammunition. Before they raised the price of hides, (NOTE.—Lately, as a special inducement, the trader promised to pay \$4 instead of \$3 and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per hide,) they got fifty cartridges for two dollars and a half; since they raised the price (of hides) they get fewer cartridges for the same money. Anybody can get cartridges. Cartridges are all the same price to chiefs and private individuals. The trader sells a great many. That is the reason why Mrs. Galpin, who does not sell ammunition, does not get more hides. The trader published it vigorously at the killing of beef that he would sell them ammunition; this is the inducement he offers to secure hides. The agent has been trying to get Indians to go out and invite (meaning induce) Sitting Bull to come into this agency, but has not succeeded yet. (NOTE.—This is true. (Signed) Poland.) He, Bad Hand, will go to bring Sitting Bull in, provided the whites will not make an expedition into that country in the spring or summer. In the trade with hostiles, ammunition is the grand thing; their trade is different from the white man's. Indians go out and make presents of annuity-goods, ammunition, and sugar and coffee to the hostiles, who load them down in return with furs. Indians from this agency make more or less trips to the hostile camp. The hostiles get in this way arms and ammunition from a number of points from agencies and traders above here."

Since this statement was made a soldier informed me that Bad Hand voluntarily told him he was coming to see me and tell me that he had overheard a party of young men, Uncpapas and Blackfeet, planning to leave for the hostile camp in four or five days, after having first stolen horses and mules from the Government corral at this post. That Bad Hand did not tell me may be explained. During the interview we were not alone at any one time, and he feared witnesses might tell his people whatever he communicated.

John Grass, a chief of the Blackfeet Sioux, in his interview with me on the 28th, said: "Hostile Indians coming to this agency are distributed among the Indians themselves, or attached to the several bands. Rations are divided among them after they are drawn from the agent; beef-hides are similarly divided. They sell them at the traders' and get what cartridges they want. The hostiles who came to this agency under Gaul,



last spring, have done this. (NOTE.—I know that Agent Palmer counted their lodges, and I believe thereafter issued rations to Gaul for eighteen to twenty lodges, and neither Gaul nor the majority of his band are now here. (Signed) Poland.) This party will all of them join Sitting Bull when the winter breaks up. Indians have been allowed to purchase cartridges at the store. Many are engaged in this trade or exchange of presents with the hostile camp. Were it not for the privilege of buying cartridges at the store (meaning J. R. Casselberry's) a great many more beef-hides would be sold at Mrs. Galpin's by Indians."

Respecting the probable truth of the foregoing statements, I invite attention to the affidavit of the interpreter, and will add that there are no more reliable men among the Sioux than the three chiefs named. It is only necessary to refer to the correspondence hereto attached (part original and part official copy) to discover evidence showing that this trade has been conducted under a general authority, and not under the close personal control of the agent. The agent chooses to say that the bulk of the cartridges sold by the trader to Indians was expended in killing their beef. It is impossible for me to obtain access to the trader-account with the agent, which I firmly believe will show that the agent bought, with contingent fund or Government funds, every cartridge so used; and I am confirmed in this belief by the fact that at one killing of beef which occurred here last summer, the agent's son, then acting agent, bought the cartridges himself, and took them in a sack to the beef-corral.

If such were the only sale of ammunition to Indians, the trader would certainly not get one-tenth of the hides he now purchases, and which are now sold to *him*, because from him *cartridges* can be obtained.

I here submit an item which will, perhaps, show how extensive this trade might be. Six thousand beeves are supposed to be sent to this agency annually, yielding 6,000 hides. The trader pays for each hide, say, 50 rounds of ammunition. Deduct, say, one-half for hides sold to Mrs. Galpin; then  $3,000 \times 50 = 150,000$  (one hundred and fifty thousand) rounds of ammunition would correctly represent the total sales. I am of the opinion, however, that 100,000 (one hundred thousand) rounds of ammunition is nearer the total of his annual sales. If we suppose that 25 per cent. of this amount is taken out to Sitting Bull for trade, and a proportional amount from other agencies, can we wonder how the hostiles procure arms and ammunition? Mrs. Galpin informed me that a chief, "Little Wound," left this agency about three weeks ago for the hostile camp, and boasted of the amount of ammunition he had to take out with him.

Respectfully inviting attention to the accompanying correspondence,  
I remain, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

N. B.—December 30, 9 o'clock p. m. I have not yet received an answer to my letter, (see Exhibit "N.") When received, if I find my request denied, I shall then deem it *necessary*, and place a guard over the store, and report the fact by telegraph immediately.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

## A.

Personally appeared before me E. H. Allison, this 30th day of December, 1875, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the statements of Two Bears, a chief of the Yanktonnais Sioux, Bad Hand, of the Uncpapa, John Grass, of the Blackfeet Sioux, and Osica, of Standing Rock Agency, as herein reported by Capt. J. S. Poland, Sixth Infantry, are and have been truly and correctly interpreted by him, and that he believes said statement to have been truthfully made, and with no intent to deceive either himself or Capt. J. S. Poland, Sixth Infantry, and to the best of his knowledge he believes the same to be true.

E. H. ALLISON.

Sworn and subscribed to this the 30th day of December, 1875, before me, S. S. Turner, a notary public for the Territory of Dakota, at Standing Rock Agency, Dak.

[SEAL.]

S. S. TURNER,  
*Notary Public.*

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## B.

[Correspondence with J. R. Casselberry.]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 26, 1875.*

SIR: Orders this day received from headquarters Department of Dakota direct me to "stop the sale of ammunition to Indians" by you or your agents at this agency. You are herein respectfully notified of this order, and that strict compliance with it will be demanded and enforced.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,

*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Messrs. J. R. CASSELBERRY & Co.,

*Traders.*

A true copy :

GEO. B. WALKER,

*Second Lieutenant Sixth Infantry, Post-Adjutant.*

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## C.

STANDING ROCK INDIAN AGENCY, DAK.,  
*December 27, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday, notifying me that you had that day received orders from headquarters Department of Dakota, directing you to stop the sale of ammunition to Indians by myself or agents at this agency, and notifying me that a strict compliance with it would be demanded and enforced. In reply, I would respectfully state that I am a licensed trader, holding my appointment from the United States Indian Department, and expect to receive orders concerning my business through said Department, the lawful orders and instructions of which I am at all times ready and willing to obey, on this or any other proper subject.

Relative to the sale of ammunition to Indians, by myself or agents, I respectfully refer you to the United States Indian agent at this agency for information.

I would also respectfully request an official copy of the order from department headquarters, to which your communication refers, fully recognizing the authority of the War Department (the Interior Department concurring) through the general commanding the Department of Dakota in all matters relating to my business as a licensed Indian trader.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. R. CASSELBERRY,  
*Trader,*  
 Per H. S. PARKIN.

Col. J. S. POLAND,  
*Commanding Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

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D.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 27, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and in connection therewith and to remove the doubts in my mind of your intention, originated by your letter, I respectfully request a specific answer to this question: Do you intend to stop selling ammunition to Indians, in compliance with the order contained in my communication of December 26, 1875?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Mr. J. R. CASSELBERRY, *Trader,*  
 Care of Mr. H. S. Parkins.

A true copy.

GEO. B. WALKER,  
*Second Lieutenant Sixth Infantry,*  
*Post-Adjutant.*

---

E.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 29, 1875.*

SIR: You were respectfully notified December 26, 1875, of the order received from headquarters, Department of Dakota, that day, to "stop the sale of ammunition to Indians," and that strict compliance with that order would be enforced. As a point of courtesy to you I submitted the inquiry, necessitated by your communication of December 27, for your determination: Do you intend to stop selling ammunition to Indians, in compliance with the orders contained in my communication of December 26, 1875?

I have received no reply to that question. If a specific answer is not returned to this headquarters by 1 o'clock, p. m., this day, I shall be forced to the conclusion that you do not intend to return an answer to the question, and that you do not intend to stop the sale of ammunition to

Indians; and further, by your action in this matter, I shall be compelled to execute the orders specially directed to me to secure obedience to that order.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,

*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Mr. J. R. CASSELBERRY, *Trader.*

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F.

STANDING ROCK INDIAN AGENCY, DAK.,

*December 29, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and also the communication to which it refers. In reply, I am under instructions to obey no orders relative to my business except such as emanates from the Interior Department, properly transmitted through the Indian agent in charge of this agency. I will say for your information that I have not sold any ammunition to Indians since the date of your first communication, (the 26th instant,) nor do I intend to do so except upon orders received over the signature of the United States Indian agent at this agency, whose authority alone I recognize, as paramount to that of all other authority on this reservation, so far as the same pertains to my business.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. CASSELBERRY,

*Trader,*

Per H. S. PARKIN.

Col. J. S. POLAND,

*Commanding Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

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Correspondence of the Indian agent in reference to the traders stopping the sale of ammunition:

G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,

*Standing Rock, Dak., December 26, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of a letter to Messrs. J. R. Casselberry & Co., traders, containing notification of order received from commanding general, Department of Dakota, to "stop the sale of ammunition to Indians."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,

*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Col. JOHN BURKE,

*United States Indian Agent.*

A true copy.

GEO. B. WALKER,

*Second Lieutenant Sixth Infantry, Post-Adjutant.*

## H.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 27, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 26th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from you, addressed to J. R. Casselberry, trader at this agency, relative to sale of ammunition to Indians.

In reply, I have to inform you that Mr. Casselberry is a licensed trader, holding his appointment under the United States Interior (Indian) Department, in pursuance of law and regulations, and, consequently, required to obey the proper orders of said Department, all orders emanating from any other Department of the Government pertaining to his business or conduct on this reservation to the contrary notwithstanding.

Relative to the sale of arms and ammunition to Indians, proper regulations and orders have long since been promulgated by the Interior Department, (the War Department concurring,) regulating the same within the jurisdiction of Indian reservations and otherwise, by licensed traders; all of which orders the trader at this agency is fully aware of and required to faithfully observe.

The orders and regulations above referred to were made in pursuance of acts of Congress, particularly the "acts of Congress making appropriations for the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with Indian tribes," approved February 14, 1873, to all of which your attention is respectfully invited for information as to the authority of one Department of the Government, its officers or agents, in any manner whatever interfering with the properly delegated authority and jurisdiction of another Department of the Government, or with its officers and agents.

In conclusion, say that I desire to co-operate with all proper authority for the enforcement of the intercourse laws of the United States, and any assistance that I can give in the premises will be promptly rendered.

In this connection I would respectfully inform you that I have reason to believe there is a trading establishment at Beaver Creek engaged in selling ammunition to Indians, and as I have no jurisdiction over the parties on account of their location being outside of the boundaries of this reservation, refer the matter to you, promising at the same time my cheerful co-operation for the suppression of such business.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Col. J. S. POLAND,  
*Commanding Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

## I.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 27, 1875.*

SIR: In a communication this day received from H. S. Parkins, business manager of J. R. Casselberry, trader, I am referred in words as follows: "Relative to the sale of ammunition to Indians by myself or agents, I respectfully refer you to the United States Indian agent at

this agency for information." Relative to the sale of ammunition, I respectfully request you to inform me if the trade has been authorized by a general permit to sell to Indians, and for any special article, as, for instance, the hides derived by them from the slaughter of beef-cattle, or whether the trader is prohibited from selling ammunition except upon individual orders or permits. This information is respectfully requested of you, since the trader's letter tends to shift the responsibility and authority for such sale to the United States Indian agent.

Under section 2136, Revised Statutes United States, it is supposed there are regulations prescribed governing such trade at this agency.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Col. JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent, Standing Rock, Dak.*

A true copy :

GEO. B. WALKER,  
*Second Lieutenant Sixth Infantry, Post-Adjutant.*

K.

STANDING ROCK, *Dak.*,  
 December 28, 1875.

SIR : In reply to your communication of yesterday relative to the sale of ammunition to Indians, I have to inform you that Mr. Casselberry was properly authorized to trade with the Indians of this agency by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, direct, on the 13th of January, 1875, and gave the required bonds for the faithful observance of the intercourse-laws of the United States, and the rules and regulations of the United States Interior Department.

Relative to the authority authorized to regulate the sale of arms or ammunition to Indians, I respectfully refer you to the following extract of General Orders No. 4, headquarters Middle District, (Department of Dakota,) dated Fort Sully, Dakota Ter., November 21, 1872, which reads :

"In accordance with instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, concurred in by the Secretary of War, General Orders from headquarters Middle District, Fort Rice, Dakota Ter., dated September 3, 1872, is hereby so modified as to place the responsibility for the sale of arms and ammunition to Indians, or whites living at agencies, upon the Indian agents.

"Agents are authorized to permit trade in ammunition and arms only to Indians known to be friendly, and in small quantities.

\* \* \* \* \*

"By order of Col. D. S. Stanley :

"H. H. KETCHUM,  
*First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-second Infantry,*  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

"INDIAN AGENT,  
*Grand River Agency."*

The several communications from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs of September 10, 1873, March 31, 1874, and May 11, 1874, to my predecessor are substantially the same as contained in the foregoing

orders, so far as pertains to regulating the sale of arms and ammunition is concerned, with the additional instructions as to the limit which to require traders to keep in selling the same to Indians.

On this point I refer you to the following extract from the Commissioner's letter of May 11, 1874, which reads as follows :

"You are instructed to advise the trader or traders \* \* \* that their sales of the same (meaning arms and ammunition) will be limited by you to such extent as shall be deemed sufficient for the necessities of the Indians."

He also makes reference to circular-letter of March 31, 1874, which is substantially the same.

I find that in pursuance of the several regulations and instructions above mentioned that my predecessor had regulated and restricted the sale of ammunition by J. R. Casselberry, trader, to the lowest possible limit, and required him to comply with the sixth section of the rules and regulations of the Department of the Interior by making monthly reports at the close of each month of his sales of arms and ammunition sold to Indians during the month.

Since assuming charge of this agency I have received no information that there has been any change in the orders and instructions herein referred to, and have accordingly permitted Mr. Casselberry to continue trading, as authorized by my predecessor, requiring him, however, to sell only to Indians residing permanently on this reservation and known positively to be friendly and peaceable. He is now trading in pursuance of said authority, without any reference as to what special articles he shall the same to Indians for, although I know that nearly all of the ammunition sold by him is now and has been expended in the slaughter of beef-cattle for this agency. His monthly reports of the sale of ammunition to Indians have been properly made and forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as required by regulations.

Relative to your orders to Mr. Casselberry, (copy of which I received inclosed in your communication of the 26th instant,) I have to respectfully inform you that his instructions and that of his agents are to receive no instructions or orders from any authority, pertaining to his business as trader, not emanating from or concurred in by the Department of the Interior, and transmitted through the United States Indian agent at this agency.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Col. J. S. POLAND,  
*Commanding Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

---

L.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 28, 1875.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of December 27, 1875, and to respectfully invite your attention to my note of same date asking for certain information therein indicated.

I further respectfully request you to furnish me, at your earliest convenience, with depositions or affidavits of credible witnesses, or any reliable testimony on which you base your belief that a trading establishment at Beaver Creek is engaged in selling ammunition to Indians.

Like information in relation to any parties at any ranch of having sold or of now selling ammunition will be thankfully received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry.*

Col. JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

True copy :

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry.*

M.

STANDING ROCK, DAK., *December 28, 1875.*

SIR: Your communication of this date received and contents noted. The information which your note of yesterday (5 p. m.) called for has been furnished this morning.

In this connection I have to inform you that all official communications received from your headquarters, or any other public source, shall receive attention from me at the earliest possible moment.

In compliance with your request, I inclose herewith complaint against parties at Beaver Creek, who are charged with selling ammunition to an Indian named White Horse without proper authority. These parties are now and have been engaged in this business for some time, and are, as I am informed, also engaged in selling liquor to Indians. This I am not able to prove.

M<sup>l</sup>.

*Complaint.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *3d district of Dakota, ss :*

The information and complaint of James Rourke, of Standing Rock, Dak., in said district, taken on his oath before John Burke, United States Indian agent, Standing Rock agency, Dakota, the 28th day of December, A. D. 1875, who, upon his said oath, says he has just and reasonable ground to suspect and believe that A. A. Dickey, Augustus Gelbraith, and — Archambault, on or about the 27th day of December, A. D. 1875, at Beaver Creek, Dak., within the 3d district of Dakota aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the United States district court for said district of Dakota, did, on the 27th day of December, A. D. 1875, sell ammunition to an Indian named White Horse, to wit, one hundred rounds of fixed ammunition, for the sum of five dollars in United States currency. All this at Beaver Creek, in said district, contrary to the statutes of the United States in such cases made and provided; and further saith not.

JAMES ROURKE,  
*Complainant.*

Subscribed in my presence, and sworn to before me, at Standing Rock, Dak., this 28th day of December, A. D. 1875.

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian agent, Standing Rock, Dak.*

The date charged in this complaint is only a matter of legal formality, but the facts stated are true; and further, as to the sale of ammunition



both prior and subsequent to the date charged, it is safe to say such can be proved beyond any possibility of doubt.

The witnesses to these charges are James Rourke, Lawrence Brown, White Horse, Medicine Man, Kill Eagle, and Caddy.

I remain, sir, very respectfully,

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Col. J. S. POLAND,  
*Commanding Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

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N.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 29, 1875.*

SIR: Mr. J. R. Casselberry having announced to me, this date, that he has not sold ammunition to the Indians since the receipt of the order to stop the sale, and that he will not sell except upon your orders, I therefore respectfully request that you will neither issue any general or special permits to Indians to buy, nor authorize the trader to sell or deliver ammunition to them, until further instructions are received. Please inform me as to what your action will be in reference to this request.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Bvt. Lieut. Col., U. S. A., Commanding.*  
Col. JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 31, 1875—1.30 p. m.*

SIR: Since forwarding by scout preceding correspondence in relation to the sale of ammunition, I have received the inclosed letter and returned reply, a copy of which is also inclosed. Having exhausted amicable measures, I shall place a guard over the store, and keep it there until the trader promises to "stop unconditionally," or until further orders are received from Department headquarters in reference to the sale of ammunition. I forward this by scout, to reach the mail to-morrow morning at Fort Rice, and by the same scout a telegram, of which the following is a true copy:

"STANDING ROCK, *Dak., December 31, 1875.*

"ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
" *Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn. :*

"Trader refuses to stop the sale of ammunition entirely. Announces he will sell on orders of Indian agent. Agent has refused to say he will not issue orders for ammunition.

"Will place a guard over store to-morrow morning. Documents by mail. I wait further instructions. "POLAND."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*  
The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

STANDING ROCK, DAK.,  
December 30, 1875.

SIR: Your communication of yesterday received, relative to Mr. Caselberry's action and intentions in the matter of the sale of ammunition to Indians, and requesting me not to issue any permits nor authorize the trader to sell or deliver ammunition to them until further instructions are received, and also wishing to be informed as to what my action will be in reference to this request.

In reply, I am entirely at a loss to divine what you are seeking to accomplish, and from what source you derive your pretended authority to question me as to what my action will be on this or any question touching my official duty.

There has been a great deal of unnecessary correspondence on this subject, all of which might have been avoided by a proper observance of the rules recognized by all Departments of the Government in transmitting official orders, instructions, and requests through the proper intermediate channels.

As to what my action will be in relation to your request, I have to inform you that such action will be taken by me as my instructions from my Department prescribe, and where any discretion is left me outside of such instructions, I shall be governed wholly by the requirements, customs, and exigencies of the Indian service, without allowing or permitting any intermeddling with me in the lawful discharge of my duties as an Indian agent.

I desire to say for your information, however, that the War Department, nor any authority subject to orders emanating therefrom, and have no fears that what little authority I possess as an Indian agent will be used to endanger the peace of the country, or to furnish arms or ammunition to public enemies, or those who are or may be suspected of being in league therewith.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Col. J. S. POLAND,  
*Comdg. Military Station, Standing Rock, Dak.*

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., December 31, 1875.*

SIR: Your communication of December 30, 1875, is received. I have the honor to reply that you were informed in my letter of December 26, 1875, of the object I sought to accomplish, and also very plainly from whom the order came, viz, the commanding general Department of Dakota.

You have not indicated to me in your letter that you will aid me in securing obedience to the department commander's order by refusing the permits or orders upon which the trader announces that he will continue the sale of ammunition to Indians, the orders of the commanding general of this department to the contrary notwithstanding.

My orders are peremptory, and shall not ask further assistance even to avoid a resort to the summary measures ordered by the general commanding.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

Col. JOHN BURKE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

*Indorsements forwarding communications of December 30 and 31, 1875,  
from Captain Poland.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., January 15, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the headquarters of the Military Division of the Missouri, in connection with my telegraphic report of the 24th ultimo, that I had directed Captain Poland to prevent the sale of cartridges at the Standing Rock agency.

ALFRÉD H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, January 25, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General through headquarters of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, January 26, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 7, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of correspondence between the commanding officer of the United States military station at Standing Rock Indian agency and the Indian agent at that point, relative to the suppression of the sale of arms and ammunition to the Indians of said agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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HEADQUARTERS FORT STEVENSON, DAK.,  
*January 15, 1876.*

SIR: In compliance with General Orders No. 19, headquarters Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn., March 6, 1875, I have the honor to inclose communications received from the Indian agent at Fort Berthold, D. T., under dates of January 12 and 13, in regard to the movements of supposed hostile Indians. From the fact that these Indians were poorly supplied with horses and ammunition, and that their arms were of a very old pattern, and also from the fact that when they withdrew they started in the direction of Turtle Mountain, I do not agree with Agent Darling that they were Uncapapa Sioux, but am of the

opinion that they were straggling Indians from near the northern boundary. It is well known that Sitting Bull is well supplied with ponies, and that he has, during the past year, given a great many to the Gros Ventres.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAN. HUSTON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel Sixth Infantry,  
Brevet Colonel U. S. A., Commanding.*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

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ARICKAREE, GROS VENTRE, AND MANDAN AGENCY,  
*Fort Berthold, Dak., January 12, 1878.*

COLONEL: I am just informed by Bloody Knife that a large band of hostile Sioux ran off all the Gros Ventre horses last night, and that the Rees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans have started in pursuit this morning. The Gros Ventre camp is opposite the mouth of the Little Missouri River, and the Sioux are traveling in the direction of Turtle Mountain at the head of one of the forks of Big Knife River.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent, &c.*

Lieut. Col. DANIEL HUSTON, Jr.,  
*Sixth Infantry, Commanding Fort Stevenson, Dak.*

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ARICKAREE, GROS VENTRE, AND MANDAN AGENCY,  
*Fort Berthold, Dak., January 13, 1876.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to state that I have this day visited the winter-quarters of some of the agency Indians, to get at the truth of the reports I wrote you about this morning. I learned that the party (twenty to thirty of hostile Indians) drove off from the Gros Ventre winter-quarters 25 ponies; were followed by a party of Gros Ventres and Mandans, they recapturing two ponies and killing four Sioux. (I saw the scalps.) I was unable to learn what band they belonged to, but all the signs point to the Uncapapas, under Sitting Bull. My reasons for thinking so are these: First. After taking the ponies they started up the river, and kept in that direction until overtaken. Second. Some of the party were on foot. Third. Had all old guns, or at least the four guns captured were old, and had not been fired lately; no ammunition, probably. The lower agency Indians would not have gone far up the river, would have been on their horses and had good guns and plenty of ammunition. In any event, think some one will have to pay for the four scalps before spring. Shall try and be prepared for the worst, as far as we are able, here. Will inform you of anything new.

In mean time I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Lieut. Col. DANIEL HUSTON, Jr.,  
*Sixth United States Infantry,  
Commanding Fort Stevenson, Dak.*

ARICKAREE, GROS VENTRE, AND MANDAN AGENCY,  
*Fort Berthold, Dak., January 13, 1876.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to state that the large party (as represented by Bloody Knife and sent you by Mr. C. yesterday) of hostile Sioux turned out to be some six or eight, who succeeded in running off some twenty or thirty ponies from the Gros Ventre winter-quarters. The report came in last night, and is confirmed this morning, that they were overtaken, one of them killed and one wounded, and most of the horses recaptured. Can't say how true this is. Will get at the facts in the case as soon as possible, and forward same to you.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Lieut. Col. DANIEL HUSTON, Jr.,  
*Sixth United States Infantry,*  
*Commanding Fort Stevenson, Dak.*

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HEADQUARTERS, FORT STEVENSON, DAK.,  
*January 15, 1876—8 o'clock p. m.*

SIR: Immediately after sending my letter of this date, inclosing communications from the Indian agent at Fort Berthold, Dak., I visited that agency, and in conversation with Major Darling I find that the Turtle Mountain referred to in his letter is near the head of one of the forks of Big Knife River, on the south side of the Missouri, about twenty-five miles from Fort Berthold, and not, as I supposed, the Turtle Mountain on the northern boundary. He informed me that the Indians engaged in the fight tell him *most positively* that these Sioux were a part of Sitting Bull's band, and when overtaken they had been and were traveling in the direction of the Yellowstone River, where he (Sitting Bull) generally camps during the winter.

Major Darling has promised to furnish me with a detailed account of the stealing of these horses, of the fight, who these Sioux were, and all the particulars he can obtain; which report, as soon as received, I will forward.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 DAN. HUSTON, JR.,  
*Lieutenant Colonel Sixth Infantry,*  
*Brevet Colonel, U. S. A., Commanding.*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

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HEADQUARTERS, FORT STEVENSON, DAK.,  
*January 16, 1876.*

GENERAL: I received your communication of the 5th instant last evening, on my return from a visit to Fort Berthold. I immediately sent back to the agent a note, asking him to send me, in writing, all the information concerning Indians he had given me verbally during the day. Inclosed please find his reply.

Sitting Bull and his band removed from the Little Missouri some time ago, and from Bloody Knife, an old and reliable scout, I learn that there are at present no regular camps of hostile or other Indians on that

stream, although there may be a party or two, from six to ten each, temporarily hunting on it high up, however. Although I believe the above information in regard to there being no hostile Indians at present on the Little Missouri reliable, I shall go myself to Berthold to-morrow, and if I find there be any doubt in the matter, will endeavor to send a party up that stream to obtain the information you desire.

Concerning the fight mentioned in the inclosed letter, I think it proper to state here that Running Antelope, head chief of the Uncapapas at Standing Rock, with four of his tribe, came into this post to-day *en route* to Fort Berthold, to make a friendly visit to the Rees, with whom they last summer formed a treaty of peace and amity. On telling him of the fight, of which he had not before heard, and asking his opinion as to who he thought the marauders were, he replied that he believed, in fact was almost certain, they were a party of ten or twelve of Spotted Tail's band who he knew had been out nearly all winter, and were most of them on foot.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANL. HUSTON, JR.,

*Lieut. Col. Sixth Infantry, Bvt. Col. U. S. A., Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. ALFRED H. TERRY,

*Commanding Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

FORT BERTHOLD, DAK.,

January 16, 1876.

Lieutenant-Colonel DANL. HUSTON, Jr.,

*Sixth United States Infantry, Commanding Fort Stevenson, Dak. :*

I have your communication of the 15th, in which you state that after the interview with myself yesterday you have come to the same conclusion as I did with regard to the Sioux who committed the recent depredation at this agency being from Sitting Bull's camp. From the best information I can obtain his camp is at present located at Calf's Ear Butte, on the Yellowstone River, in an air-line about ninety to one hundred miles from Fort Buford. The best information obtainable puts his strength about 500 lodges, (as reported last fall.) With regard to the late fight between the party of hostile Sioux and the Indians of my agency, I would state that on the night of the 11th or morning of the 12th instant, about thirty head of horses were stolen by this party from the Gros Ventres winter-camp, opposite the mouth of the Little Missouri River, about twenty-five miles from the agency. A number of Gros Ventres and Mandans at once followed the Sioux and overtook a small party, who were afoot, at the head of Beaver Creek, a small stream which flows into the Missouri on the west side about eight miles above the agency. One of the Sioux was killed and another wounded at this point. The party of Gros Ventres and Mandans, being re-enforced, followed up the trail, which led to Turtle Mountain, which, as stated in communication of 12th instant, is situated at the head of one of the forks of Big Knife River, of course west of the Missouri River. This mountain is well known to all hunters and trappers, and is a favorite hunting-ground of the Rees. It is situated close to the Little Missouri River, about forty miles from Fort Berthold. The Sioux were evidently making for their camp on the Yellowstone River, and late in the night of the 12th the party of Fort Berthold Indians discovered about thirty of the Sioux in the Bad Lands on the other side of the Little Missouri River, and in the fight which ensued killed three Sioux and wounded

several more, recovering two of their stolen horses. That these Indians came from Sitting Bull's camp I believe, from the fact that for so far the treaty of peace effected last summer at Fort Lincoln with the Sioux of Standing Rock and Cheyenne agencies has not been broken, and also that Mr. Charles Reynolds reports on his arrival yesterday at the agency that he was within fifteen miles of Turtle Mountain, on the west side of the Missouri, having gone from the mouth of Big Knife River to that point, and no Indians from below had crossed the river on their way here, which they must have done had they been from Standing Rock or Cheyenne agencies. I think it will be next to impossible to get any of our Indians to go near Sitting Bull's camp at present; still, will do all I can to do so, and will inform you of the result. In mean time, any new turning up, will keep you posted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. DARLING,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., January 25, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General commanding.

ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, January 29, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded through headquarters of the Army.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, January 31, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 8, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of report of the commanding officer at Fort Stevenson, Dak., dated January 15, 1876, relative to the stealing of ponies from the Gros Ventre Indians, by hostiles, with speculations as to the identity of the hostile Indians, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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CROW AGENCY, *Mont., January 10, 1876.*

SIR: I write a line in much haste to inform you that the reports that come to me make it evident that a considerable body of Sioux are in the

vicinity of the Big Horn. They seem to be scattered in small parties. Two white men have been killed by them near Fort Pease, lately, and another wounded.

A Crow who has just come in reports that they are moving in this direction.

The Crow Chief "Bear Wolf" tracked a party of eight to Fort Pease, came on to them as they were watching the place, and killed six or seven.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

DEXTER E. CLAPP,  
*Agent.*

Major BENHAM,  
*Commanding Post, Fort Ellis.*

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ELLIS, MONT.,  
*January 20, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters, Department of Dakota, (through headquarters District of Montana,) for the information of the Department and district commanders. A short time since I turned over to Agent Clapp a lot of arms and ammunition, by order of the Secretary of War, with which, in my opinion, they will be able to protect themselves at the agency.

D. W. BENHAM,  
*Captain Seventh Infantry, Commanding Post.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF MONTANA,  
*Fort Shaw, Mont., January 27, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Department of Dakota.

JOHN GIBBON,  
*Colonel Seventh Infantry, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., February 11, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General.

ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, February 15, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the General of the Army in the absence of the Lieutenant-General.

R. C. DRUM,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, February 21, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of the report of Dexter E. Clapp, Indian agent at the Crow agency, Montana Territory, dated January 10, 1876, stating that parties of Sioux



are in the vicinity of Big Horn, two men killed, and one wounded, and that they are moving in the direction of the agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Saint Louis, February 23, 1876.*

The following just received from General Sheridan :

"The small band of citizens of Montana who settled upon the north bank of the Yellowstone, opposite the mouth of the Big Horn, at a point known as Fort Pease, has been attacked by Sioux Indians. All but fourteen abandoned the fort. The latter are besieged. General Terry has ordered Colonel Brisbin, commanding at Fort Ellis, to go without delay to relief. One man has been killed and two wounded. Fort Pease is distant from Fort Ellis about one hundred and eighty miles."

By command of General Sherman :

WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. A.,  
*Washington, D. C.*

[Telegram.]

SAINT PAUL, MINN., *March 15, 1876.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Division Missouri, Chicago :*

Following just received :

"Mouth of Big Horn, March 6, 1876. Arrived at Fort Pease March 4, and relieved garrison. Fort was evacuated to-day at noon. Original garrison consisted of forty-six men, of whom six were killed and eight wounded. Thirteen had left and gone to settlements by night. I found in fort eighteen white men and a negro, and have brought them away. Saw no Indians, but found five war-lodges here of about sixty Sioux, who fled south; think they were watching fort to pick up men who ventured out. We start for home to-morrow.

"BRISBIN, *Commanding?*  
 TERRY,  
*Commanding Department.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, March 17, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the headquarters of the Army,  
 P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Saint Louis, March 20, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War.  
 W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, March 27, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information a copy of a telegram from Major Brisbin, Second Cavalry, reporting his arrival at Fort Pease, and the condition of things there.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALPHONSO TAFT,  
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS FORT ELLIS, MONT.,  
March 21, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in compliance with telegram from headquarters Department of Dakota, dated February 19, 1876, I left the post February 22, 1876, for Fort Pease, Montana Territory.

My command was composed of the four companies of the Second Cavalry (F, G, H, and L,) stationed at this post, a detachment of Company C, Seventh Infantry, under First Lieutenant William Quinton, Seventh Infantry, one assistant surgeon, one hospital steward, and fifteen citizens from Bozeman, Mont. Total strength, 14 officers, 192 enlisted men, and 15 citizens.

The detachment of infantry, 12 men, was placed in charge of one 12-pounder Napoleon gun and one Gatling gun; the train consisted of — wagons, and the command was supplied with rations and four pounds of grain for thirty days.

*February 22.*—The command marched over the divide between the post and Yellowstone River; distance, 14 miles.

*February 23.*—Marched to a point on Yellowstone River opposite Old Crow Agency; distance, 22 miles.

*February 24.*—Marched down river 15 miles, crossed to right bank, and camped 2 miles below crossing; distance, 17 miles.

*February 25.*—Marched to the "Bowler," 7 miles; thence to Big Deer Creek, 2 miles; thence to Little Deer Creek, 2 miles; thence to Point of Rocks, on Yellowstone, 4 miles; total distance, 20 miles.

*February 26.*—Marched to Bridger's Creek, 3 miles; thence down river 11 miles; total, 14 miles.

*February 27.*—Crossed to left bank of river and marched 9 miles; recrossed to right bank and camped 2 miles below crossing, near mouth of "Stillwater;" total, 11 miles. At this point the command was joined by Lieutenant Schofield, Second Cavalry, with twenty-five citizens and thirty Crow Indians, from the Crow agency, I having sent Lieutenant Schofield in advance of the command to that point to secure as many citizens and Indians as he could to accompany the expedition.

*February 28.*—Marched down river 5 miles; crossed to left bank, thence down 9 miles; total, 14 miles. At this camp the command was joined by twenty-four Crow Indians, making in all fifty-four.

*February 29.*—Marched down left bank 20 miles.

*March 1.*—Marched down left bank to Baker's battle-ground, 16 miles; thence 3 miles, and crossed to right bank, and camped one mile below crossing; total, 20 miles. Three cavalry-horses were drowned at this camp by the ice breaking in while watering.

*March 2.*—Marched down right bank to "Pompey's Pillar," 20 miles.

*March 3.*—Crossed river and marched on "Stanley's" road of 1873, 20 miles, and camped about 6 miles from the river.

*March 4.*—Marched to river, 6 miles; crossed to right bank; thence down 2 miles; crossed to left bank; thence down left bank 8 miles to Fort Pease; total, 16 miles.

*March 5.*—Remained in camp at Fort Pease. The original garrison consisted of forty-six men, of whom six were killed and eight wounded. Twenty-one men had left the fort and gone through to the settlements by night. I found in the fort eighteen white men and one negro.

*March 6.*—The fort was evacuated, and all the men started back with my command. I brought away all the valuable property belonging to the men at Pease and took it to the mouth of Stillwater, where there is no danger of hostile Indians at present, and unloaded it. I saw no Indians, and but small parties are about. My scouts report the Indians have removed their villages from the Big and Little Horn Rivers and are camped on the Rosebud. The command marched back 8 miles and crossed to right bank.

*March 7.*—Marched up right bank 12 miles; crossed, and marched up left bank 2 miles; crossed to right bank, and camped 4 miles above crossing; total, 18 miles. A scouting-party was sent out during the night to go across the country to where the mouth of the Little Horn could be seen, the Crows having reported that a camp of Sioux was probably located near that point. The party returned the afternoon of the 7th, having been in full view of the Valley of the Big Horn, both above and below the mouth of the Little Horn, but saw no sign of hostile Indians.

*March 8.*—Marched up river and camped near "Pompey's Pillar;" distance, 5 miles.

*March 9.*—Marched up river 16 miles; crossed, and camped on right bank 4 miles from Baker's battle-ground; distance, 18 miles.

*March 10.*—Marched up river and camped near mouth of Cañon Creek; 19 miles.

*March 11.*—Marched up river 16 miles.

*March 12.*—Marched up river 7 miles; crossed; thence 5 miles to Stillwater; thence 1 mile, and crossed to left bank; thence up river 1 mile to Countryman's Ranch; 14 miles.

*March 13.*—Marched up river 8 miles and crossed; thence 12 miles to Bridger's Creek; thence 2 miles to Point of Rocks; total, 22 miles.

*March 14.*—Marched up river to Little Deer Creek, 4 miles; thence to Big Deer Creek, 2 miles; thence 7 miles to the "Boulder;" thence 3 miles, and camped on right bank of Yellowstone; total, 16 miles.

*March 15.*—Marched up river 8 miles and crossed thence to Hot Spring Creek, 4 miles; thence to a point on river opposite "Old Agency," 8 miles; total, 20 miles.

*March 16.*—Marched to Shields River, near mouth, 7 miles; thence to Benson's Crossing of Yellowstone, 3 miles; thence on Bozeman Road to a point near Quinn's Ranch; total, 22 miles.

*March 17.*—Marched into Fort Ellis, distance 12 miles. Distance marched from Ellis to Fort Pease, 208 miles; distance marched from Pease to Ellis, 190 miles; total distance marched, 398 miles.

The crossings of the Yellowstone were all made upon the ice, except the first. One mule gave out, and had to be abandoned on the road.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BRISBIN,

*Major Second Cavalry, Commanding Post.*

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

Copy forwarded by department and division commanders.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, April 20, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of the report of Maj. J. S. Brisbin, commanding Fort Ellis, Mont., dated the 21st ultimo, of march with his command to Fort Pease to relieve the settlers at that point, who were attacked by hostile Indians.

Very respectfully,

ALPHONSO TAFT,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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[Telegram.]

SAINT LOUIS, Mo.,  
March 25, 1876.

General Sheridan telegraphs that he has received dispatch from General Crook, Fort Reno, March 22; cut loose from wagon-train on 7th instant; scouted Tongue and Rosebud Rivers until satisfied there were no Indians upon them, then struck across country toward Powder River. General Reynolds, with part of command, was pushed forward on a trail leading to village of Crazy Horse, near mouth of Little Powder River. This he attacked and destroyed on the morning of the 17th, finding it a perfect magazine of ammunition, war material, and general supplies. Crazy Horse had with him the Northern Cheyennes, and some of the Minneconjoux, probably in all one half of the Indians of the reservation. Every evidence was found to prove these Indians to be in copartnership with those at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, and that the proceeds of their raids upon the settlements have been taken into those agencies and supplies brought out in return. In this connection I would again urgently recommend the immediate transfer of the Indians of those agencies to the Missouri. Am satisfied that if Sitting Bull is on this side of the Yellowstone he is camped at mouth of Powder River, but did not go there for reasons to be given by letter. Had terrible severe weather during absence from wagon-train; snowed every day but one, and the mercurial thermometer on several occasions failed to register. Will be at Fetterman 26th instant, and if you desire me to move these Indians, please have instructions for me by this date, or else I shall return the cavalry to railroad at once for recuperation.

WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

General W. T. SHERMAN,  
Washington, D. C.

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[Telegram.]

FORT LINCOLN, DAKOTA TERRITORY,  
April 27, 1876.

To ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Saint Paul:*

Sioux scout from Standing Rock reports all young men are leaving reservation with best ponies. They report going to fight Crow Indians, but he says they are going to join Sitting Bull.

RENO,  
*Commanding.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, May 1, 1876.*Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General for the information  
of the General of the Army.P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, May 6, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of telegram from the commanding officer at Fort Lincoln, Dakota Territory, reporting that scout from Standing Rock states that all the young men are leaving the reservation with best ponies; that they say they are going to fight the Crows, but he thinks they are going to join Sitting Bull.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALPHONSO TAFT,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, Ill., May 29, 1876.*

GENERAL: Brigadier-General Terry moved out his command from Fort A. Lincoln in the direction of the mouth of the Powder River on the 17th instant. The total strength of his column is about nine hundred men, exclusive of the force of three companies of infantry in charge of supply-camp at Glendive Creek, the old supply-station on the Yellowstone River.

Brigadier-General Crook will move from Fort Fetterman with a column about the same size.

Col. John Gibbon is now moving down north of the Yellowstone and east of the mouth of the Big Horn, with a force of about four hundred, all but four companies of which are infantry.

As no very accurate information can be obtained as to the location of hostile Indians, and as there would be no telling how long they would stay at any one place, if it was known, I have given no instructions to Generals Crook or Terry, preferring that they should do the best they can under the circumstances, and under what they may develop, as I think it would be unwise to make any combinations in such a country as they will have to operate in. As hostile Indians, in any great numbers, cannot keep the field as a body for a week, or at most ten days, I therefore consider—and so do Terry and Crook—that each column will be able to take care of itself, and of chastising the Indians, should it have the opportunity.

The organization of these commands and what they expect to accomplish has been as yet left to the department commanders. I presume that the following will occur:

General Terry will drive the Indians toward the Big Horn Valley, and General Crook will drive them back toward Terry; Colonel Gibbon moving down on the north side of the Yellowstone to intercept, if possible, such as may want to go north of the Missouri to the Milk River.

The result of the movement of these three columns may force many of the hostile Indians back to the agencies on the Missouri River and to the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies on the northern line of Nebraska, where nearly every Indian, man, woman, and child, is at heart a friend.

It is easy to foresee the result of this condition, that as soon as the troops return in the fall, the Indians will go out again, and another campaign, with all its expenses, will be required, as was the case with the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Comanches, and Kiowas, of the Indian Territory.

To obviate this, I advise that the two posts recommended by me be established on the Yellowstone, and that the military be allowed to exercise control over the Indians at the agencies, to such an extent as to prevent any friendly Indians from leaving to join the hostile Indians, and the latter or any of their families from coming in, except by unconditional surrender, the ringleaders to be punished, as were the southern Indians, by having them sent to some distant point until they and their people are willing to behave themselves.

I hope that good results may be obtained by the troops in the field, but am not at all sanguine, unless what I have above suggested be carried out. We might just as well settle the Sioux matter now. It will be better for all concerned.

Yours, truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Headquarters of the Army, Washington, D. C.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, May 31, 1876.*

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War, inviting his special attention to General Sheridan's remarks on the operations just begun against the hostile Sioux outside their reservation, and asking instructions as to his inquiry about extending the authority of the military over the agencies of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail pending these movements.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*General.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, Ill., May 30, 1876.*

General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Washington, D. C.:*

I wrote you yesterday about the Sioux Indian troubles, making some suggestions. Since writing, the information from Crook goes to show that all the agency Indians capable of taking the field are now, or will be, on the war-path. And if this intelligence is confirmed, I will order eight companies of the Fifth Cavalry to Red Cloud agency, and will ask you to let the Indian Department give the military the same control as was done at Fort Sill and at Cheyenne agency in the Indian Territory during the troubles there.

Pope can spare the Fifth Cavalry in the present necessity for it.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill., May 31, 1876.

General E. D. TOWNSEND.

Washington, D. C.:

The following just received from the commanding officer, Fort Laramie:

"Egan returned from scout via Red Cloud night of 28th. On 7th, he met on Powder River trail about one hundred lodges of families and seven or eight hundred warriors, all going north. He did not think it prudent to attack, and they did not molest him, but had just before attacked a train; drew off as he approached. At Red Cloud, he learned that the agency is almost deserted.

"About eight hundred or one thousand warriors gone to mouth of Powder River; most of the families also gone, but some left. About fifty lodges from Spotted Tail also gone, some with families. Young men generally going on the war-path. I telegraphed this to General Crook this morning."

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, June 2, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, for your information, copy of letter from Lieutenant-General Sheridan, dated the 29th ultimo, in regard to the operations just begun against the hostile Sioux, and asking that the military be allowed to exercise authority over the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies.

I also inclose copy of telegram from General Sheridan, dated the 31st ultimo, reporting movements of hostile Indians.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Signed in Cabinet:) J. D. CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.]

OMAHA, NEBR., June 8, 1876.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
Headquarters Military Division Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

Commanding officer at Laramie reports: Hand, Indian courier from Red Cloud, brings report that just before he left an Indian arrived from the mouth of Tongue River; found there twelve hundred and seventy-three lodges under Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and others, on their way to Powder River to fight General Crook. On his return he met same band that Egan saw May 17. They told him that they had met Custer's troops, and had fought them all day; many killed on both sides. No result reported. This occurred about eight days ago. He also reports Spotted Tail at Laramie yesterday, who says his people are at home, and will not go out, and that many have left Red Cloud and other agencies on the Missouri River.

R. WILLIAMS,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, June 9, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army,  
P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, June 14, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of dispatch from the headquarters Department of the Platte, date June 8, 1876, communicating report of commanding officer Fort Laramie, relative to Indian hostilities, and rumored battle between Custer's command and Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY, *Chief Clerk,*  
*For the Secretary of War in his absence.*

THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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SAINT PAUL, MINN., 10.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Division of the Missouri, Chicago :*

Following just received :

"CAMP ON LITTLE MISSOURI,  
"May 30, (via Bismarck, June 10.)

"We reached this place yesterday; to-day has been employed in scouting up the valley and making a road through the bad lands west of river. Contrary to all the predictions of the guides and scouts, no Indians have been found here, and there are no signs that any have been in this neighborhood within six months or a year. I intend to push on about two marches, halt, and again push a party well to the south, hoping to find trails, and if none are found, I may halt once more for the same purpose before reaching the Yellowstone. We have had a great deal of hard work making a road yesterday and the day before; we built thirteen bridges over Davis Creek. Our progress has, therefore, been slower than I could have wished, but the force is in excellent condition; few are sick, and the animals have greatly improved since we left Fort Lincoln.

"ALFRED H. TERRY,  
"Brigadier-General."

Commanding officer at Lincoln reports scout will start on return Sunday morning; telegrams for expedition should go through to Lincoln to-night.

RUGGLES,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, June 12, 1876.*

Official copy, respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

In the absence of the Lieutenant-General,

M. V. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and A. D. C.*



WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, June 16, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of telegram from General Terry reporting progress of the expedition under his command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY, *Chief Clerk,*  
*For and in the absence of the Secretary of War.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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SAINT PAUL, MINN., 19.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL *Division Missouri, Chicago:*

The following just received:

"CAMP AT JUNCT. OF POWDER AND YELLOWSTONE RIVERS,  
"June 12, 1876.

"Reached Powder River at a point twenty-four miles above here, late on the 7th inst. No Indians east of Powder River. Reno with six companies Seventh Cavalry is now well up the river on his way to the Forks, whence he will cross to and come down Mispah Creek, and thence by Pumpkin Creek to Tongue River, where I expect to meet him with the rest of the cavalry and fresh supplies. I intend then, if nothing new is developed, to send Custer with nine companies of his regiment upon the Tongue, and thence across to and down the Rosebud, while the rest of the Seventh will join Gibbon, who will move up the Rosebud. Have met Gibbon and concerted movements with him. Troops and animals in fine condition.

"ALFRED H. TERRY,  
"Brigadier-General."

RUGGLES,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Official copy.

M. V. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-Colonel and A. D. C.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,  
Chicago, June 30, 1876.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of Army.

In the absence of the Lieutenant-General,

M. V. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-Colonel and A. D. C.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, June 26, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your information copy of telegram from General A. H. Terry, dated the 12th instant, reporting his arrival at the junction of the Powder and Yellowstone Rivers, and giving intended movements of troops of his column.

Very respectfully,

J. D. CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.—Dated Chicago, June 23, 1876.—Received 7.15 p. m., June 23, 1876.]

To General E. D. TOWNSEND,  
Washington, D. C.:

The following dispatch from General Crook is forwarded for the information of the General of the Army :

“CAMP ON SOUTH OF TONGUE RIVER, WYOMING,  
“June 19, (via Fort Fetterman, 23d.)

“Lieutenant-General SHERIDAN,  
Chicago, Ill. :

“Returned to camp to-day, having marched as indicated in my last telegram. When about forty miles from here, on Rosebud Creek, Montana, morning of 17th instant, scouts reported Indians in vicinity, and within a few minutes we were attacked in force, the fight lasting several hours. We were near the mouth of a deep cañon, through which the creek ran; the sides were very steep, covered with pine, and apparently impregnable; the village supposed to be at the other end, about eight miles off. They displayed strong force at all points, occupying so many and such covered places that it is impossible to correctly estimate their numbers. The attack, however, showed that they anticipated that they were strong enough to thoroughly defeat the command. During the engagement I tried to throw a strong force through the cañon, but I was obliged to use it elsewhere before it had gotten to the supposed location of the village. The command finally drove the Indians back in great confusion, following them several miles, the scouts killing a good many during the retreat. Our casualties were nine men killed and fifteen wounded of the Third Cavalry, two wounded Second Cavalry, three men wounded Fourth Infantry, and Captain Henry, Third Cavalry, severely wounded in the face. It is impossible to correctly estimate the loss of the Indians; many being killed in the rocks, others being gotten off before we got possession of that part of the field; thirteen dead bodies being left. We remained on the field that night, and having nothing but what each man carried himself, we were obliged to return to the train to properly care for our wounded, who were transported here on mule-litters, are comfortable, all doing well. I expect to find those Indians in rough places all the time, and so have ordered five companies of infantry, and shall not probably make any extended movement until they arrive. Officers and men behaved with marked gallantry during the engagement.

“CROOK,  
“Brigadier-General.”

The movements of General Terry indicated in his dispatch of 12th instant lead me to believe that he is at or near the Rosebud. About this time he has formed a junction with Gibbon, and will undoubtedly take up the fight which Crook discontinued for want of supplies and to take care of his wounded. I communicated to General Crook by courier from Fetterman the position and intentions of General Terry; he must have received it before this date.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
Standing Rock, Dak., June 4, 1876.

SIR: An Indian recently arrived from Cheyenne Indian agency reports that a large war party, composing Indians from Spotted Tail's and

Cheyenne River Indian agencies, left the latter place with the avowed intention of going to Fort Berthold agency to attack the Rees.

One of the party came into this agency last night, probably to obtain re-enforcements. He reports the war party seven days out, and at some distance below Standing Rock, awaiting other re-enforcements from Cheyenne.

The above information I have communicated by scout to the commanding officers of Forts Rice, Abraham Lincoln, and Stevenson, Dak.

I learn from reliable authority to-day that Kill Eagle, a prominent chief of the Blackfeet Sioux at this agency, who lately left with 20 lodges, ostensibly to hunt, has certainly joined the hostile Sitting Bull. Many of the young men belonging to this agency have left the agency; some on the pretext of hunting game, who are now probably with Sitting Bull. The principal chiefs remain here, and did they receive an adequate and proper supply of food would, I think, continue here, disposed upon every consideration to preserve the peace. But notwithstanding that the agent has officially reported and estimated for rations for over 7,000 Indians at this agency, and he is required by United States statutes to issue to and report the numbers actually present, and that there has not been to exceed a monthly average of 4,500, the rations are so diminished as to cause partial distress and dissatisfaction.

The following memorandum of issues June 3 was prepared on the statement of one of the most reliable Indians at this agency:

A diminished quantity of flour and corn, a little coffee, usual quantity of beans; but the corn is not ground, and beef has not been issued for three weeks. Bacon and pork have not been issued for three months. Sugar and tobacco have not been issued for two weeks. The corn is not available as food, yet an engine and mill are, but not used.

Other items go to show that there is, besides the deliberate falsehoods uttered by this agent in his official report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs as to the products of Indian labor, &c., last year, either gross maladministration or inefficiency, or both, as the supplies sent here for 7,000 certainly should be ample for 4,500 Indians. Last year these Indians starved for one month.

In consideration of the organized expeditions against the hostiles, their relatives, should these agency Indians generally join the hostile camp it ought to be charitably attributed to the want of food two years in succession, which they have been compelled to suffer, and which, if issued to them, would keep them, as no other bond or attraction can, at these reservation-homes, with confidence in the promises of their great father.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,

*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., June 9, 1876.*

Official copy respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, in the absence of the Dept. Commander.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, June 12, 1876.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.  
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General,

M. V. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and A. D. C.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, June 19, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of the report of the commanding officer at Standing Rock Indian agency, Dakota Territory, dated the 4th instant, stating that a large war party, composing Indians from Spotted Tail's and Cheyenne River agencies, had left the latter place with the avowed intention of going to Fort Berthold agency to attack the Rees; also, that Indians are joining Sitting Bull from Standing Rock agency, and attributing the cause of these movements to the insufficient supply of food, &c.

Very respectfully,

J. D. CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
Standing Rock, Dak., June 15, 1876.

SIR: I respectfully inform you that I have this day forwarded to commanding officers of Forts Rice, Lincoln, and Stevenson the following:

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"SIR: Since my letter of advice respecting a Sioux war-party *en route* to attack the Rees, I have learned (to-day) that through the decided and prompt action of the Indian agent, Mr. H. W. Bingham, Cheyenne River agency, and the influence of the head-men at that agency, the party has been induced to abandon its expedition and return to its (Spotted Tail's) agency. This information was received from Indians direct from Cheyenne River agency.

"Very respectfully, &c."

Which explains itself. I believe this information to be reliable, and do not apprehend trouble from that party at present. I learned that the agent furnished them with rations, and the Indians gave some horses, with which the hostiles expressed themselves content, and gave a promise to return to their own agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
Saint Paul, Minn., June 21, 1876.

Official copy respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, for the information of the Lieutenant-General, in con-

nection with Captain Poland's previous report on the subject of this war party, copy of which was forwarded on the 9th instant.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, in the absence of the Dept. Commander.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, June 23, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.  
P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, July 1, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of communication received at headquarters Department of Dakota, concerning the abandonment of the expedition by the war-party of Sioux from Spotted Tail agency, which recently left there to attack the Rees.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. D. CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MILITARY STATION,  
*Standing Rock, Dak., June 19, 1876.*

SIR: This morning Matto-un-pah, (Two Bears,) chief of the Yancton-nais, brought me information that another party, 300 strong, of Brulés and Ogalallas, from Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, six days ago, were west of this agency, on their way to attack the Rees at Fort Berthold; that they are a different party of Indians from those turned back from Cheyenne agency. I have sent the information to the commanding officers of Forts Rice, Lincoln, and Stevenson by scout. The party is reported across the North Fork of the Cannon Ball River. None of the Indians from this agency have joined this party as far as known.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Bvt. Lieut. Col. U. S. A., Commanding.*

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
*Saint Paul, Minn., June 23, 1876.*

Official copy respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for the information of the Lieutenant-General.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, in the absence of the Dept. Commander.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, June 26, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.  
P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, July 5, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of communication from the commanding officer, Standing Rock agency, stating that another party of Brulés and Ogalallas from Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies are on their way to attack the Rees at Fort Berthold, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CROSBY,  
*Chief Clerk, For the Secretary of War, in his absence.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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HEADQUARTERS MILITARY STATION,  
Standing Rock, Dak., June 21, 1876.

SIR: I obtained the following information to-day from two Indians just returned from the war party against the Rees: After crossing the South Fork of Cannon Ball River, a council of war was held, when it was determined to make an attack on Fort Abraham Lincoln. The party has dwindled down to seventy-odd, forty from Cheyenne River agency, including a petty chief named "The Yearling," and thirty from Spotted Tail's. They were to leave camp on South Fork direct for Lincoln Monday morning.

Have notified the commanding officer by scout.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. POLAND,  
*Captain Sixth Infantry, Commanding.*  
The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

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HEADQUARTERS FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, DAK.,  
June 27, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a party of Indians supposed to be a war party made their appearance in front the line at this post on the morning of 25th instant. The number of Indians variously estimated from twelve to forty. A few shells were thrown at them when they disappeared. Scouts followed them to Heart River, but nothing has since been seen or heard of the hostile party. The scouts report were unable to trail them.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. S. McCASKEY,  
*Captain Twentieth Infantry, Commanding Post.*  
The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
*Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
Saint Paul, Minn., June 30, 1876.

Official copies respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for the information of the Lieutenant-General.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, in the absence of the Dept. Commander.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, July 3, 1876.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.  
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General,

R. C. DRUM,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, July 12, 1876.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, for your information, copy of correspondence relative to a war party of Indians from Cheyenne and Spotted Tail agencies making their appearance at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dak., for the purpose of making an attack on that post.

Very respectfully,

J. D. CAMERON,  
*Secretary of War.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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