

LETTER  
OF  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,  
COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of December 14, 1868, information in relation to the late Indian battle on the Washita river.*

---

JANUARY 11, 1869.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

---

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*January 11, 1869.*

The Secretary of War, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the United States, dated December 14, 1868, has the honor to submit copies of all reports, papers, or other information in the War Department connected with the late Indian battle on the Washita river.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
*Secretary of War.*

---

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, September 19, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the following papers, transmitted through you, all of which shall have due attention:

1. Copy of letter dated September 12, from Charles E. Mix, acting Commissioner Indian Affairs, to Hon. W. F. Otto, acting Secretary of the Interior.
2. Copy of despatch of September 15, from General E. Schriver to me, original of which has been acknowledged.
3. Copy of letter of September 8, from Hon. W. F. Otto, acting Secretary of Interior, transmitting copies of the treaties with the Navajo, Crow, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians.
4. Copy of letter of September 8, from Hon. W. F. Otto, acting Secretary of the Interior, enclosing copies of letters from Superintendent Murphy and Agent Wynkoop, relating to outrages committed against the white settlers on Saline and Solomon.

I now regard the Cheyennes and Arapahoes at war, and that it will be impossible for our troops to discriminate between the well-disposed and the warlike parts of those bands, unless an absolute separation be made. I prefer that the agents collect all of the former and conduct them to their reservation within Indian territory south of Kansas, there to be provided for under their treaty, say about old Fort Cobb. I cannot consent to their being collected and held near Fort Larned. So long as Agent Wynkoop remains at Fort Larned the vagabond part of his Indians will

cluster about him for support and to beg of the military. The vital part of their tribes are committing murders and robberies from Kansas to Colorado, and it is an excess of generosity, on our part, to be feeding and supplying the old, young and feeble, whilst their young men are at war. I do not pretend to say what should be done with these, but it will simplify our game of war, already complicated enough, by removing them well away from the field of operations.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Lieutenant General Commanding.*

Brevet Brigadier General J. C. KELTON,  
*Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.*

Official copy:

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

---

[Telegram—sent 3 p. m.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington City, October 6, 1868.*

Lieutenant General SHERMAN, *St. Louis, Missouri:*

You are authorized by the President, if you deem it necessary to a successful prosecution of the present campaign against the Indians, to accept the services of one regiment of volunteer cavalry from the State of Kansas, to be mustered into service of the United States for six months, unless sooner discharged.

Please communicate with General Grant as to the remaining four companies of the 5th cavalry.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
*Secretary of War.*

True copy.

A. E. H. JOHNSON.

---

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*In the Field, Fort Hays, October 10, 1868.*

MY DEAR GENERAL: Enclosed is a copy of the call made on the governor of Kansas for the regiment ordered in your telegram. I saw the governor and have made all the arrangements to get it into the field speedily.—I hope by the 1st of November.

I presume from all the indications that it will operate south of the Arkansas, and propose to march it from Topeka to the mouth of the Little Arkansas, thence across to Beaver creek, at a point 110 miles south of Dodge, at which point I will make a large depot, supplying it from Dodge. I have already made arrangements to throw a large quantity of supplies to that point. Custer is now operating in the Medicine Lodge country, and I hope will draw after him the small parties of Indians now operating as guerrillas about Harker and on the line of the Arkansas from Harker to Dodge.

Royall went up on Beaver creek on Monday last. There are is that section 600 or 800 Indians and a large herd of stock. I hope he may accomplish something.

Bradley is operating on the headwaters of the Republican with cavalry towards Kiowa. Four companies of the 10th are operating on Pawnee. These companies I intended for Lyon, but General Sully got a

little worried at the interruption of his mails and sent them to scout that section.

Bankhead's force was pretty well used up, but will be on the move west towards Denver in two or three days. To make up these movable columns it has reduced the garrison of the posts to a very insignificant defensive force of infantry. General Penrose reports to me a large force of Indians in the vicinity of Lyon, and thinks there are some of them Sioux; this is, however, only an opinion.

Forsyth says that most of the Indians fighting him were northern Arapahoes, northern Cheyennes, and Sioux; some with no clothing. I think that Bradley's and Royall's operations will force out all of the Indians north of the railroad.

Depredations were committed near Ellsworth yesterday, I think by Kiowas. All troubles in that section have taken place since they have gone on the war path.

I cannot promise you much success until the cold weather comes on, as it is now much like chasing the Albama, but hope that so many troops moving may have some success.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

*Major General United States Army.*

Lieut. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,

*Commanding Military Division of the Missouri.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,

*In the Field, Fort Hays, Kansas, October 9, 1868.*

GOVERNOR: Under directions received through Lieutenant General Sherman from the honorable Secretary of War, I am authorized to call on you for one regiment of mounted volunteers to serve for a period of six months, unless sooner discharged, against hostile Indians on the plains. I therefore request that you furnish said regiment as speedily as possible, to be rendezvoused and mustered into the service of the United States at Topeka, Kansas.

The regiment to consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, three majors, twelve captains, twelve first lieutenants, twelve second lieutenants, and twelve companies of 100 men each, including the requisite number of non-commissioned officers specified in the United States Army Regulations of 1863. The pay, allowances, and emoluments of officers and men to be the same as that of United States troops. The men will be rationed from the time of their arrival at the rendezvous, and will be furnished with arms, equipments, horses, and clothing from the date of muster into the service of the United States.

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

P. H. SHERIDAN,

*Major General United States Army.*

His Excellency S. J. CRAWFORD,

*Governor of Kansas.*

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,

*St. Louis, Missouri, October 15, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have sent you by mail everything relating to the action of the Indian peace commissibners at Chicago, and of the Interior

Department, about the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, with whom you are now engaged at open war. I have all your despatches and letters up to date, and do not see wherein I can further assist you or relieve you of unpleasant responsibility. I am so conscious of the great difficulty of satisfying public clamor and of fighting small scattered bands of Indians, well mounted, armed, and equipped, that I want to leave you perfectly free to do what your judgment approves, and yet to assume as much responsibility as possible, to relieve you in case of any delay or temporary failure.

The establishment of General Hazen at Fort Cobb, with \$50,000, and with clothing and stores which the Indian bureau have agreed to supply, is the result of the action of the Indian peace commissioners, which aimed to hold out the olive branch with one hand and the sword in the other. But it is not thereby intended that any hostile Indians shall make use of that establishment as a refuge from a just punishment for acts already done. Your military control over that reservation is as perfect as over Kansas, and if hostile Indians retreat within that reservation they are by no means to escape a deserved punishment, but they may be followed even to Fort Cobb, captured, and punished; but, in any event, you need some place to put your captives and prisoners, and Fort Cobb can be used for that purpose, as well as a place of refuge for such Indians as, in good faith, want to keep out of the war. Therefore, I would deem it unwise to organize a force to go out in search of hostile Indians from that quarter until after it is known that hostile Indians are actually near by, and even then every appearance about Fort Cobb should be suggestive of an earnest desire to afford a place of refuge where the peaceable Indians may receive food and be safe against our troops, as well as against the hostile Indians who may try to involve them in the common war.

In all my correspondence with the Indian department, I have insisted on this Fort Cobb establishment in preference to embracing the whole reservation, because I saw how difficult it would be for your troops in the field to cease pursuit at its very boundary; but if the friendly Indians rendezvous about Fort Cobb, General Hazen can demand the surrender of all who have committed acts of outrage before issuing a pound of food, and these should be seized and held or placed in confinement at Fort Gibson or Fort Arbuckle, there to await your orders.

Of course, it is all-important that the Indians who do go to Fort Cobb should not be compelled by starvation to scatter. To avoid this you may give orders that the commissary department of the army shall furnish beef, corn, and salt to them, as "prisoners," after first having exhausted all the funds in General Hazen's hands applicable to the purpose, or such as may be provided by the Interior Department. I feel certain that this will be approved by the War Department, and that Congress will promptly appropriate the necessary money.

At the meeting of the Indian peace commission Colonel Tappan adhered to his long pre-conceived opinion, that in the present case, as well as in all the past, our troops and our people were the aggressors, and that the Indians had no alternative but war.

I think I met this with abundant testimony, at all events to the satisfaction of every member of the commission except himself, and he is so prejudiced that it were idle to offer him proof. He even rejected Indian proof, for General Augur told him that Spotted Tail openly declared that now the Indians had no justification, and he further advised General Augur in person that the Indians should receive the severest punishment.

Colonel Tappan stated that the officers of our army, instead of protecting the Indians against the infuriated whites, had joined the border people in their constant cry of "extermination," intimating that you and I had changed over to that creed from interested motives. I denounced this in terms so harsh that I feel assured it will not be repeated in my hearing, but he will not hesitate to carry his assertions to other ears, even in Congress, willing to hear anything to our disparagement.

As to "extermination" it is for the Indians themselves to determine. We don't want to exterminate or even to fight them. At best it is an inglorious war, not apt to add much to our fame or personal comfort; and for our soldiers, to whom we owe our first thoughts, it is all danger and extreme labor, without a single compensating advantage. To accuse us of inaugurating or wishing such a war, is to accuse us of a want of common sense, and of that regard for order and peace which has ever characterized our regular army. The settlement of Kansas and Colorado, the injustice and frauds heretofore practiced on the Indians as charged, are not of our making; and I know the present war did not result from any acts of ours.

It was begun and has been carried on by the Indians in spite of our entreaties and in spite of our warnings, and the only question to us is, whether we shall allow the progress of our western settlements to be checked, and leave the Indians free to pursue their bloody career, or accept their war and fight them. As brave men, and as the soldiers of a government which has exhausted its peace efforts, we, in the performance of a most unpleasant duty, accept the war begun by our enemies, and hereby resolve to make its end final. If it results in the utter annihilation of these Indians, it is but the result of what they have been warned again and again, and for which they seem fully prepared. I will say nothing and do nothing to restrain our troops from doing what they deem proper on the spot, and will allow no mere vague general charges of cruelty and inhumanity to tie their hands, but will use all the powers confided to me to the end that these Indians, the enemies of our race and of our civilization, shall not again be able to begin and carry on their barbarous warfare on any kind of pretext that they may choose to allege. I believe that this winter will afford us the opportunity, and that before the snow falls, these Indians will seek some sort of peace, to be broken next year at their option; but we will not accept their peace, or cease our efforts till all the past acts are both punished and avenged.

You may now go ahead in your own way, and I will back you with my whole authority, and stand between you and any efforts that may be attempted in your rear to restrain your purpose or check your troops.

I believe that all the departments of our government, civil and military, are now united in this conclusion, and I have no fears but that Congress and the people will always sustain us, provided we meet with reasonable success.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Lieutenant General Commanding.*

Official copy:

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

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Commanding Department of the Missouri,  
Fort Hays, Kansas.*

CAMP OLD FORT COBB, INDIAN TERRITORY,  
*Friday Night, October 30, 1868.*

MAJOR: The communication addressed to you by Colonel and Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen on the subject of Indian affairs, dated Abilene, Kansas, October 12, 1868, and by you referred to me under date at Fort Arbuckle, Cherokee Nation, October 26, 1868, with instructions to take the necessary steps to carry out the wishes of General Hazen, was received by me late on the 28th instant. I at once gave the matter my attention, and as I have an opportunity to send a letter so as to reach you before the departure of the mail north from Fort Arbuckle, will now give such information as I have been able thus far to obtain.

1st. It is certain that no Comanches nor Kiowas have joined the Cheyennes and Arapahoes as yet in the hostilities north of the Arkansas, unless it be a few of the unauthorized stragglers. The whole of both tribes, as such, are south of the Arkansas, within an hundred miles of this place at the present time, and prefer peace (with subsistence) to war. The Kiowas and the Yappariko band of the Comanches, together about 2,500 souls, were the Indians whom I understand were to meet General Hazen at Fort Larned and come here with him. For fear of some trick, and from a dislike to travelling with soldiers, as they state, they decided among themselves not to go to Larned, but to come directly here, and they did so accordingly, moving together on the direct trail from Fort Larned to this place, till they reached the Canadian, when they camped and sent here to ascertain whether General Hazen was on time. Finding he was not, and by keeping couriers out, knowing he was not en route, the Kiowas, hungry, moved west to the neighborhood of the Antelope Hills to hunt buffalo, and they are there now.

The Yappariko-Comanches remained on the Canadian, sending hunting parties west. I yesterday sent a courier to them, and their three principal chiefs are here to-night. There are now in this immediate vicinity: Essud-ow-a and his deputies, of the Wichitas; the chiefs Wacos, Kecchies, and Towoccaroes, associated with the Wichitas, Coffe, Tinah, and Washington chiefs, of the Caddos and Anadogheos; To-sa-in, (Silver Branch,) Esa-habbi, (Milkyway,) and Straight Feather, chiefs of the Perre Togh Kas band of Comanches; Padna-say-a-min, (Ten Bears,) Poche-we-toe-yoe, (Iron Mountain,) Tippenavoe, (Painted Lips,) and Harne-turp, (Black Beaver,) chiefs of the Yappariko band of the Comanches.

These chiefs I have seen and separately talked with them. To-morrow noon they hold a council, in which I will join them. They represent at least 3,000 Indians, (all ages and both sexes,) who are in this vicinity, and are certain for peace if fairly fed. From my conversation with them thus far I am led to believe it altogether *probable* that representatives of the Coschotghta and Qua-ha-de-dechutz-Kenna bands of the Comanches, with the small and insignificant bands associated with them, all now on the head-waters of the Washita, south of Antelope Hills, and being the only Comanches not represented here now, will be here in ten or fifteen days to agree to peace; also all the chiefs of the Kiowas, representing the whole tribe. For this I have the word of old Ten Bears, of the Yapparikos, who has just left Queenstoevit, (Black Eagle,) a war chief of the Cheyennes, and he assures me he will bring Black Kettle and other influential chiefs of the Cheyennes soon to arrange for moving a large portion of the Cheyennes south for lasting peace. Black Kettle and Black Eagle, with their people, are now just north of the Antelope Hills. Of the rest of the Cheyennes I hear nothing, and but little from the Arapahoes. A young chief of the latter tribe, said to have many followers, has deputed a Comanche chief to say

for him that he is anxious for peace, and whether his whole tribe remain hostile or not, will bring in his people and settle down, if his surrender is accepted in good faith. To sum up, therefore :

Tribes or bands.	Proportion for peace.			Present location.
	Certain.	Probable.	Possible.	
Wichitas .....	All .....	.....	.....	Near Fort Cobb.
Wacos .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Keechies .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Towaccaras .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Caddoes .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Penetoghkos .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Anadaghcoes .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Noconoes .....	All .....	.....	.....	Thirty-five miles north of Fort Cobb.
Yapparikos .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Cos-tche-tegh-kas .....	.....	All .....	.....	Near Antelope Hills.
Quah-a-dede-chutz-Kenna and smaller bands .....	.....	All .....	.....	.....
Kiowas .....	.....	All .....	.....	Near Antelope Hills.
Apaches .....	.....	All .....	.....	Do.
Cheyennes .....	.....	A band .....	.....	Do.
Arapahoes .....	All .....	.....	.....	Do.
Total number of souls .....	3, 500	5, 000	Unknown .	

This I consider a pretty accurate statement for this date. Should the council to-morrow result in a change of opinion I will communicate the information, or, in any event, any further definite intelligence will be reported without delay.

Those now classed as "probable" and "possible" will be reported as positively for peace or war just as soon as I can confer with their chiefs.

The Indians have not understood the non-arrival of General Hazen and the receipt by them of no supplies. Fortunately, buffalo are within reach at present, but they alone will not satisfy the Indians, and to keep those here who are now in the neighborhood, particularly the Yappariko and No-con-ee Comanches, there must be issues of breadstuffs, with a little coffee and sugar to the chiefs, now and then. This I consider absolutely necessary to keep those here now from going away, (for once any distance off it is impossible to tell where they will go or what they will do,) and to induce others to come in.

The supplies now here are, unfortunately, beef cattle—not meal and flour—which it is impolitic to issue now as a regular ration, if it is intended to ultimately issue corn and meal.

The Indians want flour and the chiefs must have it to keep them contented. If, as I fear, no more flour can be had at present from any source, the very small amount here should be husbanded. Nor can the whole amount here, which would be but a few days' food for the Indians now within reach, be issued at once, because of the great importance of having food on hand, flour, coffee, and sugar, particularly, for the representative delegations whom I hope to get in from the more doubtful bands and tribes; and yet, as there are 2,000 mouths open around us calling loudly for the flour they know is here, it is hard to give nothing.

I wish to present the importance of pushing forward supplies to this place for the Indians as rapidly as possible. There are 3,000 hungry persons within 30 miles requiring daily food, and more coming every day.

While a supply of meal and corn may do to appease the masses, with fresh beef at hand in case of need, there must be more flour, sugar, and coffee sent here if success in the undertaking is expected.

I cannot hope to deal favorably with hungry men, to keep hungry hundreds around me, nor succeed in securing the influence of important chiefs and delegations (whom I have every reason to expect here next week) in bringing in their people, unless they are well entertained while here and go back to their camps provided for. I want a good supply of corn and meal and also flour, especially some coffee, some sugar, and some salt.

The Indians look with more or less suspicion upon all the soldiers in their country. They don't like the occupation of this place, nor the movements of troops between the Arkansas and Canadian. The latter, especially, tends to keep them on the plains. It is my belief that the force here and the public property is safer now than if more troops were sent here, and that the principle will hold good that the more soldiers you send here the fewer will be the Indians who remain.

I think, too, that it is important to success to have General Hazen here, personally, as soon as practicable, both because the Indians want to know he is here and that arrangements can be perfected for regular and sufficient supplies.

The Kiowas and Comanches have heard of their new agent, Colonel Boone; and want to see him, also with his promised presents; his non-appearance has an effect equally unfavorable with General Hazen's delay. It is certain that the surest means of success is the keeping, on time, of all promises to the Indians as to annuities, presents, and regular sufficient supplies. If that is done, I judge at present there is a fair prospect of entire success within a reasonable period. Just now, however, the government seems to be behind time. The military superintendent and the agent are both looked for, but not here; the Indians, to a great extent, are on the ground, have been or will be at a few days' notice, but the promised subsistence is not here. This has doubtless been unavoidable, but unless soon remedied it must be injurious to the desired end. I find it impossible to hurry or drive the chiefs with whom I have to deal, they must have time to think and talk among themselves before they will talk to me. The matter, therefore, requires time; it will be several days before I can meet the delegations of the rest of the Comanches, the Kiowas, and the Cheyennes.

I feel my duties to be delicate and difficult, and know myself to be inexperienced in dealing with these people, but I shall apply myself closely to the subject and allow nothing to remain undone which it is possible to do, and will tend to bring about the wishes of General Hazen.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY E. ALVORD,

*Captain 10th Regiment Cavalry, Acting Ass't Insp'r Gen'l,  
District Indian Territory.*

Major JAMES P. RAY,

*6th Infantry, commanding District of the Indian Territory.*

A true copy:

W. B. HAZEN,

*Brevet Major General.*

There has been no lack of supplies, and timely steps have been taken to prevent any lack in future.

W. B. H.

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*



CAMP AT OLD FORT COBB, INDIAN TERRITORY,  
November 5, 1868.

MAJOR: On Saturday last I sent to you by Captain Rife a report written the evening previous, October 30, which contained such information as I had been able to gather during the 48 hours intervening between the receipt of the instructions from you regarding Indian matters and the time of my writing.

The council I mentioned was held on Saturday, October 31, at my quarters, and resulted only in a confirmation of my statement of the status of the several bands and tribes as given in the table embodied in my report. The Caddoes and Anndggho's, the Wichitas, Wacos, Keechees and Towaccaras, and the Peneteghka, Noconee and Yappariko bands of the Comanches were fully represented at the council by their chiefs and headmen, and, as before stated, they may be all counted upon as certainly friendly so long as their necessities are provided for by the government. I took particular care to have no misunderstanding on any point. All present declared themselves satisfied with the explanation of General Hazen's delay, and promised to remain in this vicinity and content themselves with whatever might be furnished them here until his arrival. Subsequent to the council, Lieutenant Lee, commanding officer and acting commissary of subsistence of the troops here, issued, at my request, to the tribes and bands above named, ten days' rations of flour and two days' rations of sugar, coffee and rice, with a very little salt. I procured a small quantity of fresh beef and issued to some of the reserve Indians, (Caddoes, Wichitas, &c.,) who had not been able to procure buffalo recently.

As the Yappariko Comanches expressed a desire to remain at their present camp on the Canadian, from 30 to 40 miles north of this place, on account of the better facilities for hunting, until the arrival of General Hazen, I did not consider them as properly entitled to full subsistence under the terms of General Hazen's letter, but for the use of the delegation which came in, to encourage them and prevent the removal of the camp to a more distant point, Lieutenant Lee, at my request, issued two days' rations to the band, and I at the same time told them that they must not expect further supplies of any amount until they moved nearer to the Washita.

Since the council I have been visited by Queen-a-toe-a-vit, (Black Eagle,) one of the most influential chiefs of the Kiowas. He came direct from the Antelope Hills and brought considerable information. He asserts that the whole tribe of Kiowas, and Poor Bear's band of Apaches, together nearly 2,000 Indians, may be counted as certainly friendly, and that they are now on the way in. But he has returned to bring in large delegations to represent those tribes more correctly, and I prefer to class them yet "probable" as in my previous report. Black Eagle had but a small party with him; to those, however, at my request, Lieutenant Lee issued rations which would amount to one day's supply for the tribe.

I informed the chief that to be entitled to regular subsistence he must bring all his people near to this place. I am daily expecting Ma-o-wi and Padua-comb, with other representatives of the Costche-teghka and Quaha-dede-chatz-Kenna bands of Comanches, the wildest and most powerful, and still think that they can be classed as "probably friendly."

I have additional assurance that a party of chiefs and headmen from the Cheyennes and Arapahoes will be here on a friendly mission during next week.

I have had no reason for changing the table embodied in my previous report in any particular, since I prepared it.

From various sources I have obtained a good deal of Indian news, more or less definite, since my previous report. I have memoranda of the authorities for the various items, corroborative reports, &c., which I do not deem it necessary to send you, but will merely state the facts as I have learned them.

1st. The Comanches and Kiowas have constantly declined the offers from the Cheyennes and Arapahoes to join them in war.

2d. The only band of Comanches not within a few miles of this place are the Yapparika, known to be on the Canadian, and friendly, as here-inbefore stated; the Costche-teghkas, about 60 miles up the Washita, hunting the buffalo, and the Quahades, still further up the Washita; the Tanewahs and other small insignificant bands being with the latter.

3d. The main Kiowa camp was, on the first of November, between the upper Washita and the Canadian, near the 100th meridian west; but on the 2d November commenced moving down the Washita this way.

4th. The only Kiowas in any number, absent from the main camp on the 1st of November, were Satanta and Toneento, (White Bear and Kicking Bird,) who with a large war party started about the 23d October (perhaps a few days earlier) upon an expedition to Texas, the objective point being understood to be Camp Griffin.

5th. With the main body and camp of the Kiowas, there is a band of Apaches numbering from 400 to 500 under Poor Bear and Wolfsleeve, who will remain friendly.

6th. On November 1st the main camp of the Cheyennes, with their women and children, stock, &c., was on the Canadian near the 100th meridian and Antelope Hills. A large party of Sioux were with the Cheyennes at that point. The principal camp of the Arapahoes was near by.

7th. On November 2d a number of Mexican traders were at the previously mentioned camp of the Cheyennes with provisions and ammunition exchanging for captured stock, &c.

8th. The Osages, who early last spring sent a pipe of peace to the Comanches and Kiowas, have since attacked some Kiowas, killing two men and driving off 20 horses. They have recently threatened and driven home from near the Salt plains a hunting party of Indians, (Wichitas,) sending word by them that they would soon send a war party in this direction, especially against the Kiowas. All the Indians consequently have apprehensions as to the safety of their stock, and request that the agent of the Osages be notified that he may keep them at home.

9th. The Kiowas and Yapparikos unite in stating that one John Smith, an interpreter, first led them to break their appointment with General Hazen, by telling them that the general would not come as he had promised, through fear of an attack from the Cheyennes; that the same Smith afterwards told them they had better move south and west rapidly, not going to either Larned or Cobb, as the military had set traps for them at both places.

All the Indians certainly friendly and remaining quiet in this neighborhood are now supplied to the 10th instant, inclusive, and of flour and sugar (contrary to my expectations, as there was a mistake in the figures furnished me regarding these two articles when I last wrote) there remains enough for another 10 days' issue to them, if it has to be made, leaving some still for other bands that may come in. It should be borne in mind that whenever the Indians now classed as "probable" arrive and become "certain," entitling themselves to subsistence, the supply of stores will soon be exhausted.

There now remain on hand, in charge of Lieutenant Lee, acting commissary of subsistence, the following subsistence stores, held for issue to friendly Indians:

	Pounds.
Pork, (3 bbls).....	600
Rice, (20 sacks).....	2,000
Sugar, (30 sacks).....	3,000
Flour, (170 bbls).....	33,000
Coffee, Rio, (1 bbl).....	100
Salt, (6 sacks).....	800

It will be seen that coffee, one of the most important items in dealing with the chiefs, is particularly wanted. The supply will be entirely exhausted by the time this reaches you.

The chiefs are inquiring for tobacco; unless Colonel Boone brings some with his annuity goods a box could be used with good advantage; and its money value retained from other articles of the ration issued. Salt seems to be needed only by the few reserve Indians.

In all my communication with the Indians I have been obliged to depend upon the assistance of Mr. P. McCusker, interpreter, as he is an employé of and subject to orders from the Indian bureau of the Department of the Interior. I have not felt authorized to claim his services, but he has kindly remained with me, and has been constantly employed. His presence has been fortunate, as no other competent interpreter is within reach. McCusker has excellent command of language, and seems to be a favorite with the Kiowas and Comanches.

I understand my instructions to be to remain here until I can report positively, as friendly or hostile, all of the different tribes and bands of Indians within reach with whom it is practicable to communicate within a reasonable time.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY E. ALVORD,

*Captain 10th Cav., A. A. I. G. Dist. Indian Ter.*

Major J. P. ROY,

*6th Infantry, Commanding District Indian Territory.*

THURSDAY, EVENING, *November 5th.*

General Hazen's letter, dated Americus, Kansas, the 18th of October, referred to me for my information, has just been received. It appears that issues of beef only are authorized.

At the present time the reserve Indians only need meat, and but a part of them. To all the friendly Indians in the neighborhood I have promised another issue besides beef, on some day of next week.

General Hazen, representing so much more authority, might, if here, be able to keep the Indians contented and here without breadstuffs, but I cannot; and in case he does not arrive before the days fixed for the next issues to the several tribes, I shall take the responsibility of making small issues rather than break faith with them.

From the date of his letter, I think General Hazen must be between Fort Gibson and Fort Arbuckle, now, and shall hope for his arrival here next week.

H. E. A.

A true copy:

W. B. HAZEN, *Bvt. Major General.*

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS, *A. A. G.*

CHEROKEE TOWN, CHEROKEE NATION,  
October 11, 1868.

SIR: Under instructions from Superintendent L. N. Robinson I was directed to await your arrival at Fort Arbuckle and present to your kind consideration the circumstances in which the Wichitas and affiliated tribes of Indians will be placed the coming winter, unless provided for by the military.

Learning that you were expected at Fort Cobb at an early day, I started yesterday for that point, but was forced to return on account of an attack of fever with which I had been threatened for several days past. I hope to be at Fort Cobb at an early day.

I will state their condition briefly as possible.

The Wichitas, Wacoos, Keechies, and Towaccaras, numbering about 700 in all, and located in the leased district, were supplied with rations by contract until July last; since that time have been furnished beef, corn-meal, and salt—except for this month beef only—there being no provision for furnishing even these. The superintendent, expecting to have met you at Fort Gibson last month, and present their condition in person, directed me to furnish them as sparingly as possible until such time as you could be communicated with.

The Caddoes, numbering 480, are in the same condition.

The Shawnees, 650, are located in the old Seminole country. They have raised some corn this season and with a little assistance could get through the winter without suffering. Their treaty is now awaiting confirmation by the Senate, and I have no doubt will be acted on at an early day, when they will be in a condition to provide for themselves.

The Delawares number 76. They are poor, having been compelled to abandon their fields on account of the trouble caused by the wild Indians this summer.

The Wichitas, &c., made commendable progress in cultivation of crops, but had the greater part destroyed by fences being broken down by the stock of the wild Indians. They have saved some corn, beans, and pumpkins, but will require assistance to prevent suffering.

I am expecting daily to learn of the shipment of their supply of clothing for the winter; no time shall be lost in forwarding, as I am well aware of their being nearly naked.

These people have no treaty stipulation, no annuities, being helpless dependents upon the bounty of the government. This they cannot be made to understand. They are under the impression that the whole of the leased country belongs to them, and that the government is taking their lands and giving it to other Indians without even consulting them. This is the cause of great discontent and complaint.

Yours with respect,

H. SHANKLIN,  
*United States Agent.*

General W. B. HAZEN,  
*Fort Cobb, Indian Territory.*

[Endorsement on the foregoing.]

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
November 7, 1868.

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General Sherman for his information. The Indians of this agency are in a destitute condition, and think they have a claim upon this country. Their agent, Shanklin, has not been with them for some time, and has never had much control over

them. I have written him to come here and place his Indians on their own lands, wherever that may be, and I will endeavor to assist them to keep them from starvation this winter.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Official copy:

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

---

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 7, 1868.*

I arrived here to-day, and enclose herewith reports of Captain Alvord, 10th cavalry, upon the subjects upon which information was requested to be gathered in my letter from Abilene, which are so full and specific as to call for little in addition from me. They explain the reason of the Kiowas and Comanches not coming in at Larned for their rations, which I know from collateral information to be correct.

This man John Smith, referred to, and others about Larned, seem to be self-constituted authorities on all Indian matters. He was an interpreter in the employ of Agent Wynkoop. The fear now is that General Sheridan, acting under the impression of hostilities, may attack bands of Comanches and Kiowas before they reach this point. I have sent scouts to them to come in, also copies of these reports to the general by express.

The ration here I will get for about six cents, and there will be not less than 5,000 mouths to feed. The funds in my hands at present will last at that rate till about the 15th of February, 1869. I find the "affiliated bands," Caddoes, Wakos, Wichitas, &c., amounting to about 1,000, in a destitute condition, and here for rations. I see at present no other way than to feed them. I will enclose a letter from their agent, Shanklin, stating their condition.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Lieut. General W. T. SHERMAN, *U. S. A.,*  
*Commanding Military Division of the Missouri.*

My duties will preclude my taking an active command, as before requested.

Official copy:

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

---

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, November 10, 1868.*

I have the honor to submit the following summary of my duties with Indians of the southern district up to the present time.

I received General Order No. 4, from the headquarters military division of the Missouri, assigning me to this duty, about the 1st of September, and my verbal instructions the 13th of the same month. After the promulgation of that order the Cheyennes and Arapahoes included in my district became hostile, and I have considered them since that time as beyond my authority till they shall be turned over by Major General Sheridan, who is now dealing with them. On the 19th and 20th of September that officer and myself held a conference with all the principal

chiefs of the Kiowas and one chief, Ten Bears, of the Comanches—then on the Arkansas with their families, near Fort Larned—with a view to their coming to their own reservation, near this point, and keeping them out of the war. They at first refused to come, but afterwards consented, and it was arranged that they should hunt buffalo for 10 days, giving us time to procure sufficient rations for them to live upon while on their journey, when they were to return to Larned, and then come to this point. At the time appointed, the rations being ready, the Indians did not come for them, nor did they at all afterwards. On the day they were to have come in Fort Zarah was attacked by Indians, and daily for a week after some party or train near there was attacked and more or less damaged, making it so dangerous that no communication could be had with the Indian country. This gave the impression to every one that the Kiowas and Comanches had gone to war, yet there was no evidence of that fact.

On the 12th of October I set out for this point to meet the Indians, as I had promised to do, in case they had come direct, and from any good reason chosen not to go to Larned. I arrived here the 7th instant, having previously had an efficient officer detailed to learn the status of these Indians from this point. I found Captain Alvord, 10th cavalry, the officer so detailed, here on my arrival, with very full information of the Kiowas and Comanches, representatives from both having been in and arranged with him for all their people to come here, which I am daily expecting. They have had no part in any hostilities this season, but have steadily refused to join the Cheyennes and Arapahoes in war, when invited to do so. They give as a reason for breaking their agreement to come in at Larned, that one John Smith, an interpreter at that point; who has great influence with them, told them not to do so, nor to come here, for the troops were laying traps for them at both points, but to move south and west rapidly to keep out of the war. They are now encamped within reach of this point, on the Canadian and Washita rivers, except a war party of the Kiowas under Satanta, that has gone to Texas.

I apprehend no trouble whatever in managing all these people this winter, except it be in breaking off this old and pernicious habit of marauding in Texas. They say that country was originally theirs; that Texas never negotiated for it, and that they have a right to it still.

General Sheridan, still under the impression that these people are at war, may possibly attack them before I can collect them at this point; but I have sent swift runners to prevent this.

The subject of raiding in Texas is a very serious one, and will have to be checked at whatever cost. During the months of June, July, August, and September, there have been no less than five parties going there from the Comanches, known as the most peaceable, and who have for many years received regularly the bounty of the government. They have returned with from one to seven scalps, some children, and many horses. This has been going on since the first settlement of that State, and I am told there are parties besides the Kiowas there now. Agents and others, from motives of humanity, have paid large ransoms for captives, and traders have paid liberally for the stolen stock, thus encouraging this rascality, while no one has been held responsible for these acts.

It is questionable how closely responsible so large a force of Indians can be held by the very small garrison of troops (two companies) now here.

It is further worthy of notice that the government has regularly made issues of arms and ammunition to these people for many years, while this marauding was known to be going on.

I find here also the Caddoes, about 400, probably the best-disposed Indians in this neighborhood, and the Wichitas and affiliated bands of Wacoos, Keechies, and Towaccaras; in all, 700 souls, of all ages and both sexes. They are entirely destitute; their agent absent since last May, and, although not coming under the letter of my instructions, will require my care this winter. These people appear like lost sheep, having been put here and left almost without attention. They are asking me daily for a fixed habitation, where they can build their houses. I have sent for their civil agent, and if two good farmers can be given to instruct them, and a few implements, with seed, they will soon become self-sustaining.

Colonel Leavenworth, late agent of the Kiowas and Comanches, left his agency last spring, and there has been no agent with these people since. Soon after, many of them went to the Arkansas, as I am told, by the invitation of persons interested in trade, and were awaiting their annuities at that point when I first met them. The agency, since that time, has been in charge of a Mr. Walkley, who, without any instructions or resources whatever, or any compensation, has acted judiciously, remaining here the entire season, when others ran away through fear. The superintendent of these people, Mr. Murphy, resides at Atchison, Kansas, and appears to have even less to do with them than the agents. There can be no proper influence or control of Indians in this way.

Had there been an agent here, with good and active assistants, as provided by law, the Indians would probably never have left their reservation. They do not yet know the limits of their country or the plan for their ultimate self-maintenance in it.

Colonel Leavenworth established himself at a place singularly unsuited for their permanent home, and seemed to do nothing looking towards establishing the government scheme of colonization.

I would call attention also to the fact that these remarks are equally applicable to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and their agent. He establishes himself at Fort Larned, 100 miles north of their reservation, and the Indians were invited there, most of them going against their will. Had they been placed where they belonged, or had their agent, with the assistance provided by government, gone and remained there, the Indians would have remained, and the present war, probably, would not have taken place.

The Indians here account for the present war as follows: Being about Larned, where abundant access was had to whiskey, a war party went to attack the Pawnees, their old foe, and were beaten. When returning, and on the Saline, in the settlements, one of them rode to a house for something to eat, without any intention of doing harm. A man came to the door and ordered him away. The Indian, not knowing what was said to him, continued to ride towards the house, when the citizen came out with a shot-gun and fired on him. At that the fracas commenced, and war followed. It is evident that it was not premeditated, as the Cheyennes were trading away their arms, just issued by their agent, in large numbers, up to the day of the outbreak.

This clearly illustrates the paramount importance of keeping these people at home, and to accomplish this the agents and other functionaries so liberally provided must go with them, and stay with them there.

It is proper that I should here remark that the great lock in the plan is the want of any organization or fixed system. The superintendents and agents being appointed for limited periods, act spasmodically, each in his own way; and when their experience might be useful, they are succeeded. The fact of their short term of office seems to prevent any

plans whatever reaching beyond their own limited term, and they appear to think of little but issuing the goods that may be due the Indians, and assisting the trader, who is often a partner in business.

The army, with its organization equally as efficient for Indian administration, if charged with these duties, would not be liable to these objections. With fixed and stable plans, which the Indians would soon learn, and the constant presence of officers whose influence would control them, the whole Indian service would be speedily changed for the better.

An Indian agent having no power to enforce authority, the Indians soon learn to dictate their own wishes, and the agent yields till he is finally forced to quit his agency. This is alleged as the cause of both the agents leaving this vicinity last spring. The government should dictate its own just terms, and it can only do so properly with these people by a military force behind its mandates. Old, gray-headed men here laugh when told the government will punish, and say they have been told that since they were children.

I think there is no doubt of a great economic advantage in placing the bureau in charge of the army. I will get the ration here for about one-half what was paid for it last year by the Indian bureau, and I think the same has been true in New Mexico whenever the army has fed the Navajoes. The unfortunate part of this business is that the Indian bureau seems to be kept for party purposes. The Indian always respects actual power which he can see and understand, and invariably appeals from his civil agent to a military commander whenever there is one present, as is always necessary with wild ones.

There will no longer be trouble with these people when the government recognizes them as wards, subject to its undisputed authority, and takes suitable and just steps to exercise and make that authority respected. The presence of power will usually be sufficient, but power and authority must be associated.

Before closing this report I desire to call attention to a published paper by Colonel Tappan, of the peace commission, evidently prepared for its use and embraced by the Indian bureau in its annual report, in which he endeavors to show Indians always right and our own people always wrong. His evidence is principally that of Kit Carson and Father de Smet, two rare and renowned instances of Indian adoption, who were treated by them like their own people. He has failed to enter the testimony of the graves of 20,000 defenceless men, women and children, murdered in cold blood by these people between the Mississippi and the Pacific. He parades our aggressiveness, but fails to state that every acre of ground reclaimed between Massachusetts bay and Oregon has been gained by aggression, and that in accordance with an invariable natural law. Granting all, our duties to the innocent are not altered by the acts of the wicked. Such reports are fraught with mischief, and mislead those who read them.

I desire to call attention to the accompanying estimate of the number of Indians whom it is probable will require food here this winter—8,000 in round numbers; also of funds required to feed them, from which it will be seen that about \$77,000 will be necessary, in addition to what has been already placed to my credit.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*United States Army.*



*Estimated number of persons, of all ages and both sexes, in the various tribes and bands of Indians located in or near the Washita valley; Indian territory.*

Tribe or band.	No. in tribe or associated bands.	No. in each band or distinct tribe.	Opinion as to the correctness of this estimate.
Wichitas and affiliated bands .....	700		.....
Viz: Wichitas .....		330	Accurate.
Wacoos .....		135	Accurate.
Keechies .....		100	Accurate.
Towaccaras .....		135	Accurate.
Cañdoes .....	400	400	Accurate.
Comanches .....	5,000		.....
Viz: Pene-tegh-kas .....		500	Fair.
No-co-nees .....		500	Fair.
Yappa-ri-kos .....		750	Fair.
Costche-tegh-kas .....		600	Uncertain.
Quaha-de-de-chatz-Kennas .....		2,000	Uncertain.
Tenewas, Moochas, and other small scattered bands .....		650	Quite doubtful.
Kiowas .....	1,500	1,500	Fair.
Apaches, (Poor Bear's band).....	500	500	Uncertain.
Total .....	8,100	8,100	.....

W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, November 10, 1868.

*Estimate of funds required to feed the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, and small parties of wild Indians at Fort Cobb, Indian territory, for six months, commencing November 15, 1868, and ending May 15, 1869, say, 180 days.*

Whole number of rations, $8,000 \times 180 = 1,440,000$ , at 8 cents per ration .....	\$115,200
Pay of two clerks .....	1,500
Pay of one storekeeper .....	750
Pay of one interpreter .....	600
Pay of four scouts .....	600
Pay of one butcher and one teamster .....	600
Cost of roofing old storehouse at Fort Cobb .....	2,000
For stationery and postage .....	300
For travelling expenses .....	1,000
Incidental expenses .....	5,000
Total .....	127,700
Cash on hand .....	50,000
Required .....	77,700

W. B. HAZEN, *Brevet Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, November 10, 1868.

COMANCHE AND KIOWA AGENCY,  
*Eureka Valley, L. D., October 10, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report as acting Indian agent for the Comanche and Kiowa tribes of Indians.

Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian agent, left me in charge of this agency on the 26th day of May last, since which time I have not received any word from him or any one else in reference to this agency.

Colonel Leavenworth left me no written instructions, except in signing receipts for supplies received for the Indians. He told me verbally to stay here if I could, and do that which I might think best, and that I should hear from him soon. Very soon after he left there was a general stampede of the traders and whites from this immediate vicinity. I was advised by those who had been long with the Indians to abandon the agency and leave. I could not do so without leaving an amount of government property to be destroyed; but as some of the Indians assured me that there was no reason to be afraid, I have remained.

Colonel Leavenworth, prior to his leaving the agency, made arrangements with Mr. J. C. D. Blackburn to furnish supplies to me for his Indians for the months of June and July, at or before which time I should receive instructions from him as to the future. I have received, receipted for, and issued those supplies to the Indians up to the 1st of September last, at which time Mr. Blackburn declined furnishing any more supplies for this agency. By the kindness of Mr. Blackburn I received a St. Louis paper on the 1st of September, containing Order No. 4, of General W. T. Sherman, (the first and only official information I have had of matters connected with the Indians,) by which I learned that you have command of this Indian district. Mr. Blackburn also informed me that you were expected here about the middle of September, and deeming it important that the Indians should be kept near the agency until your arrival here, I assumed the responsibility of making arrangements with Mr. J. T. Holmes for what fresh beef I might need until your arrival; also with Mr. Griffenstein to furnish some flour, sugar, and coffee.

The Indians were well fed during the months of June, July, and August, and had no reason for leaving their reservation. From the 1st of September to date I have used as few supplies as possible and prevent suffering. I have fed the reserve Indians from time to time every month, as it was absolutely necessary to prevent their starving.

There has been more or less raiding done on the border of Texas since Colonel Leavenworth left this agency, but the chiefs and headmen say they are doing and will do all they can to stop and prevent it. All the different bands have bad men among them.

On or about June 10, 1868, a party, consisting of Cochetekas and Noconees, returned from a raid in Montgomery county, Texas, bringing one scalp, (that of a young man about 18 years of age,) and the three McElroy children; also a number of horses.

On July 14, 1868, a party of Noconees returned from a raid on the Brazos river, bringing four scalps, (those of an entire family whom they murdered,) and a few horses.

On September 2, 1868, a party consisting of Noconees, Pennetekas, Wichitas, and others, came in from a raid on Red river, near a place called Spanish Fort, bringing eight scalps, (being those of one woman and seven men whom they killed;) they also brought in a good many horses and mules.

On September 20, 1868, a party of 13 Wichitas came in from a raid, bringing 10 horses. They report having had a fight with the citizens.

There is a party of Pennetekas now absent on a raid.

The chiefs talk freely with me about these raids, and appear to feel bad that they have happened. I have told and continue to tell them that the government will most certainly punish those who commit these acts most severely, and I have done all that I could, by word, action, and deed, to keep all from committing any depredations whatever.

I have recovered five captives from the Comanche Indians since Colonel Leavenworth left this agency.

July 8, 1868, Tom Bailey, who was captured in Grayson county, Texas, in November last, recovered of the Yampiricas, and sent to his home with C. C. Tulling, esq., a citizen of Grayson county, Texas.

July 24, 1868, the three McElroy children, who were captured in the fore part of June, 1868, recovered of the Cochetekas, and sent to Fort Arbuckle with their father, who arrived here on the eve of the 23d in search of his children.

July 25, 1868, Dick Freeman, who was captured with Tom Bailey in Grayson county, Texas, November last, recovered of the Quarrydechocos and given up to his father, who arrived here on the eve of the 24th in search of his son.

There is but one captive now with the Comanches that I can learn of, a boy about 14 years of age; he is with the Denavi band. I understand that he does not wish to leave the Indians; his parents are dead and he has no relations that he knows of.

Mohwee, chief of the Cocheteka, and Tahayerquoip, chief of the Noconee band of Comanches, are true friends to the government and the whites, doing all they can to keep not only their own bands but all the wild Indians from committing depredations, and on their own reservations; and when their young men have stolen away in the night to go on marauding expeditions to Texas, they have sent after them and brought them back in the morning; they also used every exertion to have the captives given up, giving their own horses and blankets to the persons holding the captives to induce them to give them up.

Too much cannot be said in praise of Cheyenne Jennie, wife of William Griffenstein, for the interest she took, and exertions she made, in recovering the captive children from the Comanches visiting their camps, invalid as she was, riding in her ambulance when she was not able to sit up, giving her own horses for the captive McElroy children that they might go home with their father. She also had great influence with all the wild Indians, which she used in trying to have them keep in the straight road.

“Her work is done; she has gone to her happy hunting grounds.”

About the time that Colonel Leavenworth left this agency there was more or less whiskey that found its way among the Indians. I made every effort I could to stop and find out who was bringing it here. On the night of the 23d of July last I was informed that there was whiskey in an ox wagon which was hauling goods for a Mr. Shirley, a trader with the Indians. The next morning I went for it. The wagon arrived at Shirley's and was unloaded before my arrival there, but I found the package in the wagon which I was satisfied had contained the whiskey. The wagon belonged to a Caddo Indian named George Washington, who, after being interrogated for some time, admitted that he had brought up 15 bottles of whiskey for, and belonging to, a white man living near Smith Paul's, Cherokee Nation, by the name of Stern. George Washington was instructed to trade the whiskey to the Indians for two ponies, of which he was to have one, and the owner of the whiskey the other, but that he had sold part of the whiskey for a good horse, which he thought would suit Stern better than an ordinary pony. I inquired for the horse

and took possession of it as deputy United States marshal; the balance of the whiskey went to the trading house of and was bought by Shirley.

I have property in my possession belonging (as I suppose) to the Indian bureau, consisting of one United States army medical pannier, with a small stock of medicines; a lot of agricultural, carpenter, and blacksmith tools, nails, iron, &c.

There are two six-mule wagons, twelve mules, and harness for the same, which left the agency for Topeka, Kansas, on June 1, 1868, in compliance with Colonel Leavenworth's instructions.

There is also a herd of cows and stock cattle, (number at this time about 150,) which were turned over to the Indian bureau (on contract) for the use of the Comanche and Kiowa tribes of Indians. About the middle of August, 1867, the stock was received by George Ransom, colored, under written instructions from J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian agent, on the Canadian river at the Shawnee crossing, since which time he has had charge of the stock, hiring help, provisioning himself and hands with his own money, having never received but \$105 as compensation for his services or money advanced.

There were four large wagons and 10 yoke of work-oxen which were private property; I had sent them to Elm Springs with the herd for safety. One wagon was loaded with agricultural tools; the other three were used by the two men and their families who were taking care of the stock, to live in. On the 8th instant I understand that Lieutenant Lee, commanding detachment for Fort Cobb, took possession of three of the wagons and six yoke of the oxen, sending them back to Fort Arbuckle, also ordering the men who were taking care of the stock and tools to leave and go into the employ of a Mr. Wilkinson, which they did, abandoning the stock and tools.

Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, United States Indian agent, at the time he left this agency for Washington, D. C., took all the papers, instructions, and documents pertaining to Indian matters and this agency, leaving me no instructions whatever; and having had no experience or knowledge in Indian matters, or the wishes and designs of the government, I was left without any guide as to the course I should pursue, except my own judgment, and in all my transactions I have endeavored to do that which was best for the government and the Indians.

Many of the Indians from the Staked Plains have visited the agency this summer. There were at one time 297 lodges of these Indians encamped near here. The Comanches have spent the summer in this part of their reservation, except the Yam-pa-rie-ca band, who with the Kiowas have been further north, making occasional visits to the agency. I have used every exertion to keep them all upon their reservation, and have been very successful, contrary to the wishes of certain persons who have tried hard, promising them full rations of flour, sugar, and coffee, to induce not only the reserve but the Comanche Indians to move into the Chickasaw country, near Cherokee Town.

I have assumed the responsibility of feeding the Indians, believing it to be right and best that I should, and finding parties who were willing to advance the supplies, I have done so. I hope that they will receive their pay for all supplies furnished, as it has been honestly applied.

About the middle of September last, Captain Gray, United States army, came here with a detachment from Fort Arbuckle, to make an investigation of and demand the horses and mules taken in the raid made on Red river, near Spanish Fort, Texas; he fully endorsed my action in feeding the Indians, and advised me to continue to do so until your arrival, which he thought would be within 10 days.

On the 25th of September I sent a communication to the officer commanding Fort Arbuckle, asking for definite instructions in reference to feeding the Indians, thereby keeping them here until your arrival.

An extract from his answer says: "I would suggest that you impress upon their minds the necessity of their remaining at home, as General Hazen is expected here daily, and will doubtless come prepared to feed, clothe, and care for them. I am daily expecting him, and as soon as I hear from him will inform you. If you can feed them I would suggest that you do so."

I have heard that various charges have been made against me with reference to the course I have pursued with the Indians.

I do most respectfully and earnestly demand at your hands an investigation of all charges made against me officially or otherwise, for any word spoken, action or transaction done since I have been in the Indian country, which you may deem worthy of notice.

One of which is, I have bought of the Caddo Indians cows and stock cattle, which have been issued to them by the government, and that I have encouraged and permitted them to drive cattle from the border of Texas, buying the same from them.

I have neither bought, sold nor been interested in any beef or stock cattle with the Caddo or any other Indians, or any one else, (with but one exception, which I can explain to you if desired to do so,) since I have been in the leased district, but I have heard that the Caddo, Delawares and Shawnees have been in the habit of driving cattle from the Wichita mountains and vicinity, selling them to Shirley Jackson, White and others, Indian traders.

There is no cause for these kind of charges and complaints against me. I am not, neither have I acted as agent for these Indians, and am in no wise responsible for their acts. "Where is their agent?" Busy with other men's matters, instead of attending to his Indians.

These complaints and charges, like all others against me, are made only through malice, with a determination to carry out the assertion and threats of certain parties, i. e., that no one should stay in the Indian country but such as they choose to have in it, and that no one should live here except they had their foot upon their necks.

In conclusion permit me to say, that I arrived in the leased district on the 20th of February last, and I have worked hard from that time until now, filling, or endeavoring to do so since the 26th of May last, the position of Indian agent, physician, commissary, mechanic and farmer. How well I have succeeded in filling these several positions I will leave it to the Indians to say; and if I could draw the pay allowed by government to each of these officers, should feel well remunerated so far as my services are concerned; but money can hardly pay me for the privations and anxiety I have gone through the last four months.

I have not had even the promise of pay as yet, but I hope that part will not be forgotten or overlooked. Government had three years of my service during the late war for a mere pittance, as it were, and I do feel as though I ought to be well paid for what time I have been with the Indians. I have a family to support and children to educate.

In all my transactions here I have been actuated only by the purest motives, with a desire to do right to all.

Most respectfully submitted.

S. T. WALKLEY,  
*Acting Indian Agent.*

General W. B. HAZEN,  
*United States Army.*

[Endorsements on the foregoing.]

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 9, 1868.*

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, United States army, for his information, inviting attention to marauding in Texas. The report also illustrates the irregular manner in which Indian affairs are administered. The report also alludes to inducements held out to the Kiowas and Comanches to go up to the Arkansas last spring. I think there is no doubt but such inducements were held out to them by parties interested in trade, but as yet know nothing definite about it.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, December 4, 1868.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General of the army to be laid before the Secretary of War, containing information as to Indian reservations, &c., &c.

W. T. SHERMAN, *Lieutenant General.*

Official copy :

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

---

*Record of a conversation held between Colonel and Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, United States army, on special service, and chiefs of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Indians, at Fort Cobb, Indian territory, November 20, 1868.*

BLACK KETTLE, Cheyenne chief. I always feel well while I am among these Indians—the Caddoes, Wichitas, Wacoes, Keechies, &c.—as I know they are all my friends; and I do not feel afraid to go among the white men, because I feel them to be my friends also. The Cheyennes, when south of the Arkansas, did not wish to return to the north side because they feared trouble there, but were continually told that they had better go there, as they would be rewarded for so doing. The Cheyennes do not fight at all this side of the Arkansas; they do not trouble Texas, but north of the Arkansas they are almost always at war. When lately north of the Arkansas, some young Cheyennes were fired upon and then the fight began. I have always done my best to keep my young men quiet, but some will not listen, and since the fighting began I have not been able to keep them all at home. But we all want peace, and I would be glad to move all my people down this way; I could then keep them all quietly near camp. My camp is now on the Washita, 40 miles east of the Antelope Hills, and I have there about 180 lodges.

I speak only for my own people; I cannot speak nor control the Cheyennes north of the Arkansas.

BIG MOUTH, Arapaho chief. I have come down here, a long distance, to this country in which I was born, to these prairies between the Wichita mountains and the mountains on the Arkansas, over which I roamed when a boy, to see all these Indians, my friends, and the white men, who are my brothers, and to have a talk. I look upon you [General Hazen] as the representative of the Great Father at Washington, and I came to you because I wish to do right; had I wished to do any wrong I never would have come near you. I never would have gone north of the

Arkansas again, but my father there [the agent] sent for me time after time, saying it was the place for my people, and finally I went. No sooner had we got there than there was trouble. I do not want war, and my people do not, but although we have come back south of the Arkansas, the soldiers follow us and continue fighting, and we want you to send out and stop these soldiers from coming against us. I want you to send a letter to the Great Father at Washington at once, to tell him to have this fighting stopped; that we want no more of it. Although a chief, a kinsman of mine, has been killed, with others, we will forget it, for we wish for peace.

GENERAL HAZEN. The Great Father at Washington sent for me when I was away out in New Mexico, because I had been much with the Indians and like them, to come here and take care of all the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowas; to look after them and their agents and their traders; to get them on to the reservations agreed upon a year ago at Medicine Lodge, and see that they were treated aright. Before I could come from New Mexico the Arapahoes and Cheyennes had gone to war, so that I could not see them, but I saw the Kiowas, Apaches, and Tapparies Comanches at Fort Larned, and I have come here as I promised them. I am sent here as a peace chief; all here is to be peace; but north of the Arkansas is General Sheridan, the great war chief, and I do not control him; and he has all the soldiers who are fighting the Arapahoes and Cheyennes. Therefore, you must go back to your country, and if the soldiers come to fight, you must remember they are not from me, but from that great war chief, and with him you must make peace. I am glad to see you, and glad to hear that you want peace and not war; I cannot stop the war, but will send your talk to the Great Father, and if he sends me orders to treat you like the friendly Indians I will send out to you to come in. But you must not come in again unless I send for you, and you must keep well out beyond the friendly Kiowas and Comanches. I am satisfied that you want peace; that it has not been you, but your bad men, that have made the war, and I will do all I can for you to bring peace; *then* I will go with you and your agent on to your reservation and care for you there. I hope you understand how and why it is that I cannot make peace with you.

All the chiefs present replied that they did.

Recorded by order of Colonel and Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen.  
Correct:

HENRY E. ALVORD,  
*Captain 10th Cav., A. A. I. G., District Indian Territory.*

These people can be reached from this point in three days if it is desired. The agents en route may bring instructions about these people.

Official:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

ANTELOPE VALLEY, November 13, 1868.

MY FRIENDS: I won't come in until the goods have arrived. I have to see the general first. I am not angry nor do I want to fight. I have been fooled too much by the whites. They sent for me five times and told me there was goods for me, but there wasn't; it was a lie. I am coming as soon as Colonel Leavenworth and his agents come. Tell General Hazen not to feel bad about it; that I have made my promise

not to fight against the whites. We fighting at present the buffaloes, which are the only ones. The whites have a woman belonging to this tribe and holding her as a prisoner this long time. I wish General Hazen will see that we get her back again, for we give the whites their prisoners up and I think it hard that the whites don't give up that woman. I like to see Colonel Leavenworth badly, as wish to hold council about the Indians, Cheyennes and Arapahoes. All our brothers are the same. I like to make peace. I have been chased from the Arkansas way down here. The general has to do his best to keep the soldiers away from our camp and hunting ground. I am not scared myself, but the children and women are. At night I can go to sleep without fear, for I have never done the government any harm and never fought against her. I don't like to move in close, for some of my young men ran in with the soldiers, which will cause trouble, and if I do move in I am very apt to lose some of my ponies. I rather stay where I am. I don't like to use corn-meal, as I have been using it all last summer, but which was spoiled.

Before I close I must say, once more to the general, not to feel bad about it, for I am not angry nor do I want to fight.

MOH-WEE,

*Chief of the Curtz e-Ticker.*

[Endorsement on the above.]

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 20, 1868.*

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General Sherman for his information. This is the reply as written out by the scout of the chief of the Curtz-e-Ticker Comanches, camped on the Washita, near Antelope Hills. There are about 500 of his people. There is still a band living on the Pecos that I have not been able to reach, and who would probably not come in if I did. They are now trading with the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Official copy:

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

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 22, 1868.*

GENERAL: The Cheyenne chief, Black Kettle, and Arapaho chief, Big Mouth, came here to ask for peace for their bands. I enclose their talk.

Black Kettle represents a large portion of the Cheyennes known as the Southern Cheyennes, or those who were at Larned when war commenced, and Big Mouth speaks for all or the southern Arapahoes. He was accompanied by Spotted Wolf, and Black Kettle by Little Robe. They started in of their own accord, but met one of my scouts who told them to come on. To have made peace with them would have brought to my camp most of those now on the war path south of the Arkansas; and as General Sheridan is to punish those at war and might follow them in afterwards, a second Chivington affair might occur, which I could not prevent. I do not understand that I am to treat for peace, but would like definite instruction in this and like cases. To make peace with these people would probably close the war, but perhaps not permanently. I would prefer that General Sheridan should make peace with these par-



ties. The chiefs of the Kiowas, all of whom are here and friendly, say the Cheyennes and Arapahoes have tried all summer to get them to join in war against us.

As before reported, all the Kiowas and Comanches are at peace, excepting their old habit of thieving and murdering in Texas; but this can be prevented when the Cheyenne war is closed by locating a strong post in this vicinity and another on the Cheyenne reservation with a close enough surveillance over them to know of all departures and follow them up. I think all the 10th cavalry could be profitably employed at these two posts.

Neither Boone nor Wynkoop have yet arrived.

I have great trouble in making these people at all contented with their ration. It has been customary to make the ration so large that much of it could be commuted into coffee and sugar, and by overestimating their numbers they have received large amounts of these articles, and now it is almost impossible to correct the abuse.

As soon as the annuities arrive I will have all the Kiowas and Comanches here except the large band of the latter on the Pecos.

I at this moment have received a report through Indian sources that a large force of Navajoes are moving this way, and have already struck this band, which is now coming in rapidly.

The Kiowas and Comanches are all of the opinion that the suit for peace by the Cheyennes and Arapahoes is not sincere beyond the chiefs who spoke, who were without doubt in earnest. If General Sheridan's force was in this vicinity and these chiefs could be received with their distinct bands, while the remainder could be warred against, it might be of advantage. The young men who accompanied these chiefs expressed pleasure that no peace was made, as they would get more mules, and that next spring the Sioux and other northern bands were coming down and would clean out this entire country. A large force displayed in this vicinity would be very advantageous. The three companies of cavalry at Arbuckle are not specially needed there. If speed is thought necessary in any of my instructions, messengers could be sent through by the mouth of the Little Arkansas. I cannot leave to open the road in that direction for the present.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*United States Army.*

In the absence of any agent, the wants of these fellows are infinite and persistent. To gratify a tithe of them would exhaust all my means in a week.

W. B. H.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, December 11, 1868.*

Official copy respectfully forwarded for the information of the Adjutant General of the army.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman :

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official copy :

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

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, December 12, 1868.*

GENERAL: The copies of the papers from General W. B. Hazen, at Fort Cobb, of date November 22, mailed yesterday, should have been accompanied with a letter, explaining why I thought them of sufficient importance to send them to you. I know the Senate of the United States, by its Committee on Indian Affairs, will demand strong proof on the point that the camp of Black Kettle, attacked by General Custer, on the 27th of November, was composed of hostile Indians.

By General Hazen's letter of the 22d, and the talk held by him at Fort Cobb on the 20th with Black Kettle and Big Mouth, you will observe that though Black Kettle himself claimed to be at peace, still he did not deny that some of his people had been at war north of the Arkansas, and that General Hazen refused to give him protection till he had made peace with General Sheridan. My belief is that Black Kettle himself did not wish to be at war, but he had lost all control over his younger warriors, that he had made his camp on the upper Washita, whence he went to General Hazen to consult. He must have got back by the 27th, when he is reported to have been killed in the attack made by Custer. The fresh trail that General Custer followed must have been made by some war party coming from the north into Black Kettle's camp, because he had reported having found the trail in fresh snow near where the Canadian river crosses the boundary of the Pan-handle of Texas, whereas Black Kettle describes his camp to have been 40 miles east of the Antelope hills. Agent Wynkoop publishes in our morning papers his letter of resignation as agent for the Cheyennes, assigning as a reason that this attack of General Custer was like that on Sand creek made by Chivington, some years ago. The cases are widely different, as in the former case Black Kettle's camp was under the protection of the commanding officer of Fort Lyon, whereas in this Black Kettle was informed by General Hazen in person, only a week before his camp was attacked, that his tribe was considered to be at war, and that he must make terms with General Sheridan before even claiming protection from him, (General Hazen.) General Sheridan's report was emphatic that General Custer had recovered two captive white children in the camp attacked, and that two others, one a woman and the other a boy, were murdered by the squaws during the fight—a simple fact, conclusive to my mind that General Custer did strike a hostile camp.

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

W. T. SHERMAN,

*Lieutenant General Commanding.*

Brevet Major General E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.*

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, November 23, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to send you herewith a copy of a letter from General W. B. Hazen, enclosing others bearing on the condition of Indian affairs about Fort Cobb. I regard the information herein con-

tained as demonstrating conclusively the utter inability of Indian agents, unsupported by troops, and provided only with annuity goods, to deal with the wild Indians. I beg you will lay these papers before the honorable the Secretary of War, that he may use the contents as to him may seem best, and that he may urge the appropriation asked for in my annual report of November 1, 1868.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,

*Lieutenant General Commanding.*

Brevet Major General E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.*

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS 7TH UNITED STATES CAVALRY,  
IN THE FIELD, ON WASHITA RIVER,  
November 28, 1868.

GENERAL: On the morning of the 26th instant, this command, comprising 11 troops of the 7th cavalry, struck a trail of an Indian war party, numbering about 100 warriors. The trail was not quite 24 hours old, and was first discovered near the point where the Texas boundary line crosses the Canadian river. The direction was towards the south-east.

The ground being covered by over 12 inches of snow, no difficulty was to be experienced in following the trail. A vigorous pursuit was at once instituted; wagons, tents, and all other impediments to a rapid march were abandoned.

From daylight until nine o'clock at night the pursuit was unchecked; horses and men were then allowed one hour for refreshment, and then at 10 p. m. the march was resumed and continued until 1.30 a. m., when our Osage trailers reported a village within less than a mile from our advance. The column was countermarched and withdrawn to a retired point to prevent discovery.

After reconnoitring, with all the officers of the command, the location of the village, which was situated in a strip of heavy timber, I divided the command into four columns of nearly equal strength; the first consisting of three companies, under Major Elliott, was to attack in the timber from below the village; the second column, under Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Myers, was to move down the Washita and attack in the timber from above; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, in command of the third column, was to attack from the crest north of the village; while the fourth column was to charge the village from the crest overlooking it on the west bank of the Washita.

The hour at which the four columns were to charge simultaneously was the first dawn of day, and notwithstanding the fact that two of the columns were compelled to march several miles to reach their positions, three of them made the attack so near together as to appear like one charge—the other column was only a few moments late. There never was a more complete surprise. My men charged the village and reached the lodges before the Indians were aware of our presence. The moment the charge was ordered the band struck up "Garry Owen," and with cheers that strongly reminded me of scenes during the war, every trooper, led by his officer, rushed towards the village.

The Indians were caught napping for once. The warriors rushed from their lodges and posted themselves behind trees, and in the deep ravines, from which they began a most determined defence.

The lodges and all their contents were in our possession within 10 minutes after the charge was ordered, but the real fighting, such as has rarely if ever been equalled in Indian warfare, began when attempting to clear out or kill the warriors posted in ravines or underbrush; charge after charge was made, and most gallantly, too, but the Indians had resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible. After a desperate conflict of several hours, our efforts were crowned by a most complete and gratifying success. The entire village, numbering 47 lodges of Black Kettle's band of Cheyennes, two lodges of Arapahoes, and two lodges of Sioux—51 lodges in all—under command of their principal chief, Black Kettle, fell into our hands. By actual and careful examination after the battle, the following figures give some of the fruits of our victory: The Indians left on the ground and in our possession the bodies of 103 of their warriors, including Black Kettle himself, whose scalp is now in the possession of our Osage guides. We captured in good condition 875 horses, ponies, and mules, 241 saddles, some of very fine and costly workmanship; 573 buffalo robes, 390 buffalo skins for lodges, 160 untanned robes, 210 axes, 140 hatchets, 35 revolvers, 47 rifles, 535 pounds of powder, 1,050 pounds of lead, 4,000 arrows and arrow-heads, 75 spears, 90 bullet moulds, 35 bows and quivers, 12 shields, 300 pounds of bullets, 775 lariats, 940 buckskin saddle-bags, 470 blankets, 93 coats, 700 pounds of tobacco. In addition, we captured all their winter supply of buffalo meat, all their meal, flour, and other provisions, and, in fact, everything they possessed, even driving the warriors from the village with little or no clothing.

We destroyed everything of value to the Indians, and have now in our possession, as prisoners of war, 53 squaws and their children. Among the prisoners are the survivors of Black Kettle and the family of Little Rock. We also secured two white children, held captive by the Indians. One white woman who was in their possession was murdered by her captors the moment we attacked. A white boy held captive, about 10 years old, when about to be rescued, was brutally murdered by a squaw, who ripped out his entrails with a knife.

The Kiowas, under Satanta, and Arapahoes, under Little Raven, were encamped six miles below Black Kettle's village; the warriors from these two villages came to attempt the rescue of the Cheyennes. They attacked my command from all sides about noon, hoping to recover the squaws and head of the Cheyennes.

In their attack they displayed great boldness, and compelled me to use all my force to repel them, but the counter-charges of the cavalry was more than they could stand; by 3 o'clock we drove them in all directions, pursuing them several miles. I then moved my entire command in search of the villages of the Kiowas and Arapahoes, but after a march of eight miles discovered they had taken alarm at the fate of the Cheyenne village, and had fled.

I was then three days' march from where I had left my train of supplies, and knew that wagons could not follow me, as the trail had led me over a section of country so cut up by ravines and other obstructions that cavalry could with difficulty move over it. The supplies carried from the train on the persons of the men were exhausted; my men, from loss of sleep and hard service, were wearied out; my horses were in the same condition for want of forage; I therefore began my return march about 8 p. m., and found my train of supplies at this point, (it only having accomplished 16 miles since I left it.)

In the excitement of the fight, as well as in self-defence, it so happened that some of the squaws and a few of the children were killed and wounded; the latter I have brought with us, and they receive all the medical attendance the circumstances of the case permit. Many of the squaws were taken with arms in their hands, and several of my command are known to have been wounded by them.

The desperate character of the combat may be inferred from the fact that, after the battle, the bodies of 38 dead warriors were found in a small ravine near the village in which they had posted themselves.

I now have to report the loss suffered by my command. I regret to mention among the killed Major Joel H. Elliott and Captain Louis M. Hamilton, and 19 enlisted men; the wounded includes three officers and 11 enlisted men—in all, 35. Of the officers, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Albert Barnitz, captain 7th cavalry, is seriously, if not mortally, wounded; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Custer, and Second Lieutenant T. J. March, 7th cavalry, are slightly wounded. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel F. W. Benteen had his horse shot under him by a son of Black Kettle, whom he afterwards killed. Colonel Barnitz, before receiving his wound, killed two warriors.

I cannot sufficiently commend the admirable conduct of the officers and men.

This command has marched five days amidst terrible snow storms, and over a rough country covered by more than 12 inches of snow. Officers and men have slept in the snow without tents. The night preceding the attack, officers and men stood at their horses' heads for hours, awaiting the moment of attack; this, too, when the temperature was far below the freezing point. They have endured every privation, and fought with unsurpassed gallantry against a powerful and well-armed foe, and from first to last I have not heard a single murmur; but, on the contrary, the officers and men of the several squadrons and companies seemed to vie with each other in their attention to duty, and their patience and perseverance under difficulties.

Every officer, man, scout, and Indian guide, did their full duty. I only regret the loss of the gallant spirits who fell in the "battle of the Washita." Those whose loss we are called upon to deplore were among our bravest and best.

Respectfully submitted:

G. A. CUSTER,

*Lieutenant Colonel 7th Cavalry, Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A.*

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN,

*Commanding Department of the Missouri.*

A true copy respectfully furnished Brevet Major General W. A. Nichols, for the information of the Lieutenant General commanding.

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,

*Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. D. C., A. A. A. G.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,

*St. Louis, Missouri, December 5, 1868.*

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of the Adjutant General of the army.

W. A. NICHOLS,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

[General Field Orders, No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*In the Field, (Depot on the North Canadian River,  
 at the junction of Beaver Creek, Indian  
 Territory,) November 29, 1868.*

The major general commanding announces to this command the defeat by the 7th regiment of cavalry of a large band of Cheyenne Indians under the celebrated chief Black Kettle, re-enforced by the Arapahoes under Little Raven, and Kiowas under Satanta, on the evening of the 27th instant, on the Washita river, near the Antelope Hills, Indian territory, resulting in a loss to the savages of 103 warriors killed, including Black Kettle; the capture of 53 squaws and children; 875 ponies; 1,123 buffalo robes and skins; 535 pounds of powder; 1,050 pounds of lead; 4,000 arrows; 700 pounds of tobacco, besides rifles, pistols, saddles, bows, lariats, and immense quantities of dried meat and other winter provisions; the complete destruction of their village, and almost total annihilation of this Indian band.

The loss to the 7th cavalry was 2 officers killed, Major Joel H. Elliott and Captain Louis M. Hamilton, and 19 enlisted men; 3 officers wounded, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Barnitz, (badly,) Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Custer and Second Lieutenant T. J. March, (slightly,) and 11 enlisted men.

The energy and rapidity shown during one of the heaviest snow-storms that has visited this section of the country, with the temperature below the freezing point; and the gallantry and bravery displayed, resulting in such signal success, reflects the highest credit upon both the officers and men of the 7th cavalry; and the major general commanding, while regretting the loss of such gallant soldiers as Major Elliott and Captain Hamilton, who fell while gallantly leading their men, desires to express his thanks to the officers and men engaged in the "battle of the Washita," and his special congratulations are tendered to their distinguished commander, Brevet Major General George A. Custer, for the efficient and gallant services rendered, which have characterized the opening of the campaign against hostile Indians south of the Arkansas.

By command of Major General Sheridan :

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,  
*Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. D. C., and A. A. G.*

Official copy :

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

---

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 30, 1868.*

GENERAL: Since my last report various rumors come through Indian sources of Sheridan's troops, but nothing definite. The report of this evening is, that a fight had taken place on the Washita, beginning before day yesterday morning. Many of the friendly Indians are so located as to possibly invite an attack, and they seem so confident of their friendly relations as to make it difficult to persuade them that any troops would attack them. I have sent out many scouts, and am now sending more to endeavor to communicate.

Their supposed presence has made matters here as quiet and easy as could be wished. Everybody taking rations, little or much, without question. Before it was sometimes different. The Indians are now located as described in the diagram accompanying this report, (not printed.)

The Kiowas and Apaches are now moving down to about K, and the Curtoze-to-gah Comanches, (Mow-was,) H, are moving to a point near Cobb, on the south side of the river.

I have pretty reliable information of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes almost daily. They are now all together at the point indicated, having moved also about forty miles this way since they were in. Since that time a war party of Cheyennes, that was on the road between Larned and Lyon, returned with six scalps, and the Arapahoes, who were on the road east of Larned, also returned, having taken no scalps, but losing one man, probably at Plum creek.

Until they became scared it was quite out of the question to hurry these people. They certainly respect power, respecting us before just the value of two companies of troops. When I shall have communicated with the troops outside I will be relieved of considerable anxiety and shall probably have no further trouble.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,

*Colonel 38th Infantry, Brevet Major General.*

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,

*United States Army.*

9 O'CLOCK P. M.

A scout is just in from up the Washita, reporting that on the morning of Thursday last (this is Monday) a camp of Cheyennes of 30 lodges, Black Kettle's, was surrounded, attacked, and everything in it killed and destroyed but three persons. Black Kettle was himself killed. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes then rallied, drove back our people to the Canadian, killing 30 soldiers and one Osage scout. This is, without doubt, reliable.

They (Cheyennes and Arapahoes) also say they will attack this place. The Indians about us are greatly alarmed and expect an attack. They are all up to-night and will be ready for morning. I have already sent out to all friendly camps near, and can rely on some 200 warriors for defence in case they are needed. We have 160 soldiers and there is nothing to fear. We will make a small work in the morning to give greater security. I have also sent out to all the more distant friendly bands to come in close to the post. The two companies from Arbuckle, sent for by last mail, should be here in a couple of days.

W. B. H.

Official:

E. D. TOWNSEND.

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

[By telegraph from St. Louis, Missouri, December 2, 1868.]

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH,  
December 2, 1868—1.30 p. m.

General E. D. TOWNSEND, *Assistant Adjutant General* :

The following despatch is just received and is sent for the information of the department.

This gives General Sheridan a good initiation. I understand his supply depot to be on Rabbit Ear creek, a little west of south from Fort Dodge, whence he can direct operations, and his very presence there will give assurance that the troops will act with energy and that nothing will be done but what is right.

The bands of Black Kettle, Little Raven, and Satanta are well known to us, and are the same that have been along the Smoky Hill the past five years, and, as General Sheridan reports, embrace the very same men who first began this war on the Saline and Solomon.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Lieutenant General.*

---

IN THE FIELD, DEPOT ON THE NORTH CANADIAN RIVER,  
*At the junction of Beaver creek, Indian territory,*  
*November 29, 1868, via Hays.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant General the following operations of General Custer's command. On November 23d I ordered him to proceed, with 11 companies of his regiment of 7th cavalry, in a southerly direction towards the Antelope Hills in search of hostile Indians. On the 26th he struck the trail of a war party of Black Kettle's band, returning from the north, near where the eastern line of the Pan-handle of Texas crosses the main Canadian. He at once corralled his wagons and followed in pursuit over to the headwaters of the Washita, thence down that stream, and in the morning of the 27th surprised the camp of Black Kettle, and after a desperate fight, in which Black Kettle was assisted by the Arapahoes under Little Raven, and the Kiowas under Satanta, captured the entire camp, killing the chief, Black Kettle, and 102 Indian warriors, whose bodies were left on the field, all their stock, ammunition, arms, lodges, robes, and 53 women and 3 children.

Our loss was Major Elliott, Captain Hamilton and 19 enlisted men killed; Brevet Colonel Barnitz badly wounded, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. W. Custer, Second Lieutenant E. J. March and 11 enlisted men wounded.

Little Raven's band of Arapahoes and Satanta's band of Kiowas were encamped six miles below Black Kettle's camp. About eight or nine hundred animals captured were shot, the balance kept for military purposes.

The highest credit is due General Custer and his command. They started in a furious snow-storm and travelled all the while in snow about 12 inches deep.

Black Kettle's and Little Raven's families are among the prisoners. It was Black Kettle's band who committed the first depredations on the Saline and Solomon rivers in Kansas. The Kansas regiment has just come in. They missed the trail and had to struggle in the snow-storm; the horses suffering much in flesh and the men living on buffalo meat and other game for eight days. We will soon have them in good condition. If we can get one or two more good blows there will be no more Indian troubles in my department. We will be pinched in our ability to supply, and nature will present many difficulties in our winter operations; but we have stout hearts and will do our best.

Two white children were recaptured; one white woman and one boy 10 years old were brutally murdered by the Indian women when the attack commenced.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Major General Commanding.*

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,  
*A. A. G. Military Division of the Missouri.*

Official copy:

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



FORT COBB, D. T., *December 3, 1868.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the following statement of Black Eagle, chief of the Kiowas, concerning an action that recently occurred on the Washita river, near the Antelope hills, between a column of the United States troops and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes and a small party of Kiowas and Comanche Indians.

On the night of the 25th of November a party of Kiowa Indians, returning from an expedition against the Utes, saw, on nearing Antelope hills, on the Canadian river, a trail going south towards the Washita. On their arrival at the Cheyenne camp they told the Cheyennes about the trail they had seen, but the Cheyennes only laughed at them. One of the Kiowas concluded to stay all night at the Cheyenne camp, and the rest of them went on to their own camps, which were but a short distance off.

About daylight on the morning of the 26th of November Black Kettle's camp of Cheyennes, containing about thirty-five lodges, was attacked by the United States troops. The Indians all fled towards some other camps of the Cheyennes, closely pursued by the troops. After the Indians had run a short distance they separated in two parties, the braves and young women, who were fleet of foot, taking to the right, and the old and infirm taking to the left and running into the brush, where they were soon surrounded by the soldiers; the other party of Indians, who ran to the right, (and among them was one Kiowa,) were hotly pursued by a party of eighteen soldiers, who were all riding gray horses. They overtook and killed some Indians, when they were met by a large party of Indians who had rallied from the other camps. Here a sharp action took place, both parties fighting desperately, when one Arapaho brave rushed in, and with his own hands struck down three soldiers, when he was shot through the head and instantly killed. Here the soldiers all dismounted and tied their horses. About this time a Cheyenne brave rushed in and struck down two soldiers, when he was shot through the leg, breaking it and knocking him off his horse. The Indians then made a desperate charge, and succeeded in killing the whole of the party of eighteen men. They then rushed down to the rescue of the party that the troops had surrounded at first, but found that they were all killed or taken prisoners. By this time the soldiers had collected together a large number of the Cheyenne horses, which they shot. The Indians then attacked the troops, who dismounted and commenced retreating slowly, The Indians also dismounted and took every advantage of cover, getting ahead of the troops and ambushing them whenever possible. They continued fighting in this way until near night, the soldiers slowly retreating, until they met their wagon train, when the Indians retired.

The troops did not commence the retreat until the second day, both parties holding the battle-ground.

The Indians report having counted 28 soldiers killed, and acknowledge a loss of 11 Cheyennes (men) killed, including Black Kettle; the Arapahoes had three men killed, they also had a great many women and children killed in both tribes, as well as a great many taken prisoners. One Comanche boy was badly wounded. The Kiowas report one Osage Indian killed; supposed to have been a guide for the troops. Black Eagle says that he does not vouch for the correctness of this report, but that the above statement is just as he has heard it.

The above statement is respectfully submitted for your information.

PHILIP McCUSKY,

*U. S. Interpreter for Kiowas and Comanches.*

Colonel THOMAS MURPHY,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Atchison, Kansas.*

Ex Doc 18—3

P. S.—Since writing the above I learn from a runner, who has just got in, that the Cheyenne loss is much greater than at first reported; they also report a loss of 37 prisoners, probably women and children.

I forward Black Eagle's account of the fight as a sample of 50 or more accounts, all current in camp, and all coming from Indian sources.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Official:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official:

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

---

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*In the field, (depot on the North Canadian, at the  
junction of Beaver Creek,) December 3, 1868.*

GENERAL: I had an interview to-day, through the interpreter, Mr. Curtis, with the sister of Black Kettle, from whom I learn as follows, and which seems to be, after close questioning, a correct statement of the Indians who were located in the vicinity of where Custer had his fight on the 27th ultimo, on the Washita river, about 75 or 80 miles northwest of Fort Cobb, and immediately south of the Antelope hills. The Indians there were encamped on the Washita as follows: First, Black Kettle and other chiefs of the Cheyennes and a small party of Sioux, in all numbering 51 lodges. Eight miles down the stream were all the Arapahoes and 70 additional lodges of Cheyennes; also the Kiowas; then the Apaches and Comanches. While thus encamped three war parties were sent out north. One, composed of Cheyennes, Kiowas and Arapahoes, went north in the direction of Larned, and the trail of which we crossed in coming down; it was still out. Another party, composed of Cheyennes and Arapahoes, which party returned, and the trail of which led General Custer into Black Kettle's village. This party brought back three scalps, one of which was the expressman killed and horribly mutilated just before I had left Fort Dodge; the mail on his person was found in Black Kettle's camp. The other party was a mixed party and went out on foot in the direction of Lyon, and is still out.

About the time the first of these parties left, Black Kettle and a representation of one sub-chief from each of the bands visited Fort Cobb, and all brought back provisions from General Hazen or some one else there, and while they were gone, or about the time of their return, the last war party was sent out, which is the one first alluded to as going in the direction of Fort Larned, and whose trail we crossed.

The women are of the opinion that they will all sue for peace at Cobb, since the blow received by them on the 27th. They would have come here had the opening there not been held out to them.

I will start for Fort Cobb as soon as the trains from Dodge arrive; if it had not been for the misfortune to the Kansas regiment of getting lost from the trail while en route from the Little Arkansas to this place, and the heavy snow storm which reduced and jaded their horses so as to render them on arrival unfit for duty, we would have closed up this job before this time. As it is I think the fight is pretty well knocked out of the Cheyennes. Thirteen Cheyenne, two Sioux, and one Arapaho, chiefs were killed, making 16 in all.

The government makes a great mistake in giving these Indians any considerable amount of food under the supposition of necessity. The whole country is literally covered with game. There are more buffalo than will last the Indians for 20 years; the turkeys are so numerous that flocks as large as from 1,000 to 2,000 have been seen; and the country is full of grouse, quails, and rabbits; herds of antelope and deer are seen everywhere, and even ran through the wagon trains of General Custer on his march.

The buffalo here are a separate band from those ranging during the fall north of the Union Pacific railroad, where I have seen myself not less than 200,000 in one day.

The reservation laid off for the Arapahoes and Cheyennes, by the treaty of 1867, is full of game and the most luxuriant natural grasses, as reported by Colonel Crawford of the 19th Kansas, who just passed through this reservation in coming here. Others familiar with the reservation report the same.

Black Kettle's sister reports three white women in the lodges below Black Kettle's camp.

Very respectfully, yours,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Major General United States Army.*

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Ass't Adj. Gen., Military Division of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.*

Official copy:

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

---

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REGARDING HOSTILE INDIANS.

*Semi-weekly report No. 5.*

CAMP AT OLD FORT COBB, INDIAN TERRITORY,  
*Monday, December 7, 1868.*

The action on the 27th of November, near the Antelope Hills, seems to have caused the line between the friendly and hostile Indians now in this territory to be distinctly drawn. There has been no doubt as to the status of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and the Quahade-Comanches went westward out of reach some time ago, so that they have not been communicated with by General Hazen. But the Kiowas and Apaches, the Castcheteghka-Comanches, and smaller bands, while professing the greatest friendship and frequently visiting this place, have kept their camps well up the Washita, and were, until the recent engagement, really "on the fence." Besides the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, a small band of Quahade-Kiowas and a few Castcheteghka-Comanches undoubtedly participated in the fight, one of the latter being killed. Other Kiowas, chiefs among them, admit that they at least lent the moral influence of their presence during the latter part of the action, and probably acted with the hostile tribes. The latter supposition appears substantiated by the fact that when the fighting ceased, and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes breaking camp on the Washita, moved south, Satanta, Sitank, and Timbered Mountain, with a full half of the Kiowas, joined and accompanied them. The death of one of his young warriors decided Maowi and his band; the Castcheteghkas also moved their camp south-

ward from the Washita. A small band of Comanches called the Teahatzkennas, (Sewers,) Sienadaker chief, and a very few of the most wandering of the Noconees, (Wanderers,) who have been with Maowi's people during the summer, accompanied his band. On Monday, November 30, all these Indians, moving south, established their camps near together on the North Fork of the Red river, at the mouth of Sweet Water creek, a point nearly south from Antelope hills. Tuesday, December 1, a grand council of all the chiefs and headmen of the Indians in the vicinity was held at that place.

Kicking Bird and Little Heart, Kiowa chiefs, *not* of the disaffected half, but who witnessed the fight, visited the hostile camp, apparently from curiosity, and were present at the council referred to. By those two, at the request of the principal hostile chiefs, the "talk" of that council was transmitted to Lone Wolf, Black Eagle, and the other Kiowas remaining on the Washita in a friendly attitude. The voice of the council was in substance as follows:

Towards the remaining half of the Kiowas, the Apaches, the Comanches in this vicinity, the Wichitas, Caddoes, Chickasaws, &c., and the white people, soldiers included, as well as towards all people south of them, the hostile Indians entertain still only friendly feelings; and while the friendship will not be so close as to lead them to expect any of the substantial benefits received by the Indians hereabout, or to induce them to move their camps this way, all people to the east and south of them need have no fears of being molested or in any way disturbed by them, unless those people take the initiative in the hostilities. But against all the people of the west and north, the Navajoes, Utes, and Osages, as well as the soldiers, they will continue to wage war to the last extremity. So far they feel the contest to be about equal, but they are determined to soon make a balance in their favor. They feel themselves secure in their present position, and not in need of re-enforcements. They advise the Indians still quietly encamped in this vicinity to preserve their friendly relations with all, and especially to do nothing to cut themselves off from the benefits of those relations; and they suggest that, as their position of hostility towards the people north will cut them off from all supplies from the government during the winter, so that they will need sundry articles of which the Indians here will receive an abundance, the latter will exhibit a proper appreciation of their professions of friendship by sending to them such surplus stores and goods as they may have. Black Eagle was requested to come in here with Kicking Bird and Little Heart, to communicate that portion of the above affecting the troops and the friendly Indians in the immediate vicinity. (They are expected here to-morrow.) Maowi spoke at the council. He said that, although early in the fall he had intended to bring his people here when sent for, he felt misgivings as to the sincerity of the message he received, and as to the status of his band, as the season advanced, and that now, although he remained fond of his white brothers, and would not go on the war path against them, he had concluded to remain on the prairie until spring at least. This disappoints some firm friends to the Maowi who are here; they assert that his followers, the Castcheteghkas, will not join the Cheyennes and Arapahoes in offensive operations, but may be considered their allies in defending their homes.

Black Eagle and Lone Wolf sent word that they feel better since hearing this talk from the hostile camp. They assure General Hazen that they will hold fast to him and will continue to control the half of the Kiowas still on the Washita. One of Black Eagle's men happened to be at Black Kettle's camp at the time of the attack, but escaped and

came to his own lodge very destitute. Black Eagle refitted him entirely, and loading him with presents sent him to the hostile camp. By him he sent word that he was pleased with the talk brought to him, and that he would remain on the Washita and use all his influence to prevent hostile operations towards them so long as they would not move this way to molest any one and not go to Texas, thereby bringing trouble upon his people. Black Eagle hopes that when this "good talk" reaches the Sweetwater camps the seceding Kiowas will rejoin the friendly party.

At the same time that the hostile camp was established on the North Red and Sweetwater the friendly Kiowas, Apaches, and the Tanewacomanches moved down the Washita, and are now located on the north side of that stream at the mouth of a small creek, half a day's ride from this place.

These two camps of Indians are the only ones now known to be west of this place and east of the Staked plains. Beyond the camp of the friendly Kiowas, &c., the valley of the Washita is not occupied by any Indians.

The mouth of Sweetwater creek, on the north fork of Red river, was on the morning of Wednesday, December 2, the centre of a congregation of camps estimated as follows: 180 lodges of Arapahoes, 150 lodges of Cheyennes, 80 lodges of Kiowas, and 75 lodges of Comanches, mostly Caskhetgekas, about 475 lodges. The fighting men of the various camps were mostly at home at that time, averaging very nearly one to each lodge.

The latest accounts of the fight by eye-witnesses and persons who have been over the field since, confirm the reports heretofore rendered. The camp surprised was that of Black Kettle, Cheyenne chief, rather isolated and of about 30 lodges. The bodies of 29 soldiers (including three officers) and one Osage Indian were found dead upon the field. The Indians lost five chiefs and distinguished braves, Black Kettle among them, and about 75 of their ordinary fighting men were killed. Thirty-seven Cheyennes, boys, women, and girls are missing, supposed to have been taken prisoners.

The last heard of the troops, they had crossed to the north side of the Canadian, followed only by two well-known braves of the Cheyennes whose relations were among the missing, and who announced their determination of rescuing their people or dying in the attempt.

Respectfully forwarded in accordance with orders from the commanding officer, district Indian territory, based upon instructions from headquarters Department of the Missouri in the field, dated Fort Hays, Kansas, October 28, 1868.

HENRY E. ALVORD,  
*Capt. 10th Cav., A. A. I. G. District Indian Territory.*

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General Sherman for his information.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official copy:

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

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, I. T., December 7, 1868.*

GENERAL: Since my last report there has been some changes in positions of Indians. I enclose a copy of Captain Alvord's report, covering nearly everything. This is the officer who has assisted me, and now under department orders continues to gather the same line of information, which I find equally useful to myself and the department commander. The fight before has assisted me more than anything in learning the status of the people. About half the Kiowas, under Satanta, go with the hostile party, while the remainder, under Black Eagle, remain here, or rather about 20 miles up the Washita, promising to come this way as the grass is eaten by their horses. I have never had faith in Satanta, and if he finally gets a drubbing with the rest, it will be better for everybody. I think by large presents of sugar and coffee he might have been bought for peace, but not for a valuable or lasting one. Black Eagle is probably sincere, and when he moves close in, as he promises to do, and I can keep them from communicating with the outside bands, about all will have been done that can be hoped for, until the military power has done its work thoroughly. The prevailing sentiment of the people who have gone out to the hostile camp is no doubt warlike, and although they profess passive peace, will likely be found in the next fight. I am more strongly of the opinion than ever that General Sheridan should do his work thoroughly this winter, and that it will then be lasting. If he could throw a sub-depot of supplies directly south to the Antelope Hills operating from there with cavalry without wagons, by quickly succeeding expeditions, there can be little doubt of the result. To suppose the late battle decisive and cease offensive operations would be very unfortunate. The Indians are now as below: [Diagram not printed.]

At H are the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, about one-third of the Kiowas, and Mo-a-coa's band of the Comanches, with a few others, probably in all about 400 warriors. The Qua-ho-dahs or Staked Plains Omaions are still on the Pecos. A Kiowa just in from their camp reports Satanta not gone; that four inferior chiefs went with about one-third of the Kiowas, having been stampeded by the battle, and would probably all come back and all come in. I find the Indians very sensational and the exact facts hard to get at. I am well satisfied with what I have already accomplished, and can now send to Big Mouth, (Arapaho,) who was in with Black Kettle, that he can now come in with his immediate family or band, some 20 lodges, and remain at peace without the fear of making a boarding house for the winter; only to turn out fighters for the summer. The Kiowas all say and repeat that one Bent, a half-breed guide with the troops, in communicating with the Indians, told them (the Kiowas) that this (Cobb) was only a trap to get them together, when they would be made prisoners and dealt with in bad faith; this is a part of the advice given them by John Smith, another Indian man; the influence of the man is always bad.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*United States Army.*

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official:

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

FORT COBB, *December 7, 1868.*

MY DEAR GENERAL: I now thoroughly agree with you that there should be no hostile movements from this point. I think I have succeeded in gaining to a great degree the confidence of all the Indians down here, and they have been given to understand from the first that this is to be a point where everything shall be at peace, and where the hostile ones even can come and find peace and friends when the war shall cease. They have sent me word from the hostile camps to fear nothing from them; that they understand my mission here, were pleased with the talk I sent them by Black Kettle, although he was killed the night after his return, and that they will neither molest my animals nor the peaceful people gathered here.

The Kiowas are all (or nearly all) coming in, and my confidence that but a few irresponsible men have been near the Arapahoes and Cheyennes is increasing. I am taking measures to have a responsible trader with them who will know positively all their movements.

Very respectfully,

W. B. HAZEN.

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official copy:

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

---

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, December 7, 1868.*

GENERAL: Colonel A. G. Boone, agent of the Kiowas and Comanches, is at Arbuckle, without any of his annuities.

I have recommended that he do not come among his people without them, so many promises having already been made about these goods and not carried out. He writes me that he has no knowledge of their having been forwarded from Lawrence at all. It is very important that these goods be on the spot and issued. If they are still in Kansas they ought to come at once by the mouth of the Little Arkansas.

Very respectfully,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Commanding Military Division of the Missouri,  
St. Louis, Missouri.*

Official copy:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*In the field, Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, December 19, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report, for the information of the Lieutenant General, my arrival at this place yesterday evening, with the command of Brevet Major General George A. Custer, composed of the 7th cavalry, and 10 companies of the 19th Kansas, the Osage and Kaw scouts, numbering about 1,500.

We crossed the North Canadian from Camp Supply, proceeding in a southerly direction across the main Canadian, striking the Washita about eight miles south of Custer's battle-ground, and distant from Fort Cobb 113 miles.

Here we rested one day and searched for the body of Major Elliott, which we found, and 16 soldiers killed in the battle. They followed in pursuit of some fleeing Indians, and warriors coming up from the river below surrounded them in large numbers, and killed them, and mutilated them in the most horrible manner. We also found the body of Mrs. Blinn and her child in one of the camps about six miles down the river; Mrs. Blinn shot through the forehead, and the child with its head crushed by a blow against a tree.

All the Indians heretofore enumerated were encamped from a point about three miles below the battle-ground, for a distance of about six or eight miles. They abandoned their camps and fled in the greatest consternation, leaving their cooking utensils, mats, axes, lodge poles, and provisions. As much of this property as we could spare time to destroy was burned.

We then took up the trail of the Indians, and followed it down the Washita for a distance of 76 miles and 36 from Fort Cobb, when we came near the camp of the Kiowas, who were unconscious of our presence, but discovered it late in the evening, and hastened to Fort Cobb, and next morning presented a letter from General Hazen declaring them friendly. I hesitated to attack them, but directed them to proceed with their families to Fort Cobb. This they assented to, and nearly all the warriors came over and accompanied the column, for the purpose of deceiving me while their families were being hurried towards the Washita mountains, but suspecting that they were attempting to deceive me, as they commenced slipping away one by one, I arrested the head chiefs, Lone Wolf and Satanta, and on my arrival at Fort Cobb, as I suspected, there was not a Kiowa; so I notified Lone Wolf and Satanta that I would hang them to-morrow if their families were not brought in to-day, and I will do so. They have been engaged in the war all the time, and have been playing fast and loose. There are over 50 lodges with the Cheyennes now. They have attempted to browbeat General Hazen since he came here, and went out and ordered the two companies from Arbuckle for protection to General Hazen to return. I will take some of the starch out of them before I get through with them.

The Cheyennes, Arapahoes, one band of Comanches, and the 50 lodges of the Kiowas, are at the western base of the Washita mountains.

The following is what I propose to do, and I have submitted it to General Hazen, who approves. I will first punish the Kiowas, if they come in; if not I will hang Lone Wolf and Satanta. I will send out Black Kettle's sister to-morrow, ordering the Cheyennes and Arapahoes to come in and receive their punishment, which will be severe. She says they will come in, as they are now willing to beg for peace, and have done so already since Custer's fight. If they do not come in I will employ the Caddoes, the Washitas, and Asahabet's band of Comanches against them, with my own forces, and will compel the other Comanches to go out against them, or will declare them hostile. They have all been working together as one man, encamping together, and holding intercourse and trading in captured stock, and they must assist in driving them out of the country, or compel their surrender. I will then leave a sufficient force with General Hazen to keep him from being browbeaten; he is helpless as he is.

The Comanches are now under my thumb, and the Kiowas will be, I



hope; and I hope that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes may soon be in the same condition. In the trip down here the distance was 187 miles; snow was on the ground most of the way, and the cold on the high table-lands and the crossing the rivers was intense. The country travelled over was terrible, the surface of the earth was defaced by cañons, humocks, scooped-out basins, making constant labor for the men. I lost some horses, but in this beautiful valley, with splendid grass, will soon have the command in good trim. The Indians for the first time begin to realize that winter will not compel us to make a truce with them. I am a little sorry that I did not hit the Kiowas, but I did not like to disregard General Hazen's letter, and perhaps we can do as well by other modes. Only two men are sick in the 7th cavalry, and six in the 19th Kansas. The whole command is in shelter-tents, as we could not spare transportation for others, but the men now prefer the "shelter," even at this season of the year. Everybody is feeling well and enthusiastic.

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

P. H. SHERIDAN,

*Major General United States Army.*

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,

*Assistant Adjutant General, St. Louis, Missouri.*

Official copy, respectfully furnished for the information of the Adjutant General of the army, by order of Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman.

W. A. NICHOLS,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Official :

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

[Telegram.]

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, *December 21, 1868.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL *United States Army:*

By direction of Lieutenant General Sherman I notify you that interesting papers, four in number, pertaining to General Sheridan's Indian operations, have this day been mailed to your address.

W. A. NICHOLS,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

---

SATURDAY, *November 7, 1868.*

KIND FRIENDS, whoever you may be: I thank you for your kindness to me and my child. You want me to let you know my wishes. If you could only buy us of the Indians with ponies or anything and let me come and stay with you until I could get word to my friends, they would pay you, and I would work and do all I could for you. If it is not too far to their camp, and you are not afraid to come, I pray that you will try. They tell me, as near as I can understand, they expect traders to come, and they will sell us to them. Can you find out by this man and let me know if it is white men? If it is Mexicans I am afraid they would sell us into slavery in Mexico. If you can do nothing for me, write to W. T. Harrington, Ottawa, Franklin county, Kansas, my father; tell him

we are with the Cheyennes, and they say when the white men make peace we can go home. Tell him to write to the governor of Kansas about it, and for them to make peace. Send this to him. We were taken on the 9th of October, on the Arkansas, below Fort Lyon. I cannot tell whether they killed my husband or not.

My name is Mrs. Clara Blinn; my little boy, Willie Blinn, is two years old. Do all you can for me. Write to the peace commissioners to make peace this fall. For our sakes do all you can and God will bless you. If you can, let me hear from you again; let me know what you think about it. Write to my father; send him this.

Good bye.

Mrs. R. F. BLINN.

I am as well as can be expected, but my baby is very weak.

I certify this to be a correct copy of the original.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

[Endorsement on the foregoing.]

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, November 25, 1868.*

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, United States army, for his information.

The letter tells its own story. I have given a Mr. Griffensten, who first communicated with the writer, full care of this case, with permission to trade with the friendly Indians nearest the Cheyennes, with direction to spare no trouble nor expense in his efforts to reclaim these parties.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Colonel 38th Infantry, Brevet Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, November 26, 1868.*

The Kiowas and Apaches have all been in, taken 10 days' rations, and to-day have gone back to their camps some 30 miles up the Washita, some of them, particularly Satanta, grumbling because they could not have everything there is at the post.

The Cheyennes and Arapahoes, on their way out, talked badly of fight at the various camps they passed. There is but the smallest possibility of their doing anything of the kind, but I learn this evening that all of the two latter tribes are now encamped together about 20 miles beyond Antelope Hills, on the Washita, and, to meet this small possibility, I would be glad if you would move Captain Walsh, with two companies 10th cavalry, up in this neighborhood, remaining a week or two, during which time General Sheridan's movements from above will probably develop, when Captain Walsh can return.

The grass is good a few miles below here, where he could encamp.

Please send me two howitzers, with, say, 100 rounds ammunition each.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

Major J. P. ROY,  
*Commanding District Indian Territory, Fort Arbuckle.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*In the field, (Depot on the North Canadian,  
 At the Junction of Beaver Creek,) December 2, 1868.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant General the arrival of the 7th cavalry, with 57 squaws as prisoners, and a number of small children.

The victory was complete, and the punishment just. The trail of the war party which led General Custer to the Indian camp was that of a party returning with the scalps of three white men. Among them was that of our courier, killed between Dodge and Larned, and the mail he was carrying was found in the Indian camp; also the mules of Clark's train; also photographs and other articles taken from houses robbed on the Saline and Solomon.

I had a long talk with two of the women. The war party whose trail we crossed in coming down here was of this band and the Arapahoes, and were issued to by General Hazen, at Fort Cobb, before starting out. Flour, sugar, and coffee, found in Black Kettle's village, was furnished by General Hazen.

Something should be done to stop this anomaly. I am ordered to fight these Indians, and General Hazen is permitted to feed them. All the Arapahoes were in the vicinity of the fight, and took part in it, and the women prisoners tell me that most of the depredations along the line of the Arkansas were committed by them; still they are now having flour, sugar and coffee issued to them, and even to war parties going out to depredate and kill.

I simply wish to call the attention of the Lieutenant General to this complicated condition of affairs, so that he may at once see all the evils resulting from it.

I am yours, &c.,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Major General United States Army.*

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,  
*Ass't Adj't General, Military Division of the Missouri,  
 St. Louis, Missouri.*

---

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Camp North Canadian, December 7, 1868.*

MY DEAR GENERAL SHERMAN: We start south this morning for Fort Cobb. If the Indians have gone in there I will demand of them the murderers of our people, or at least the ringleaders, and the captured stock. If these things are complied with, war will be over, and I will do all I can to aid and assist General Hazen in providing for them during the winter.

If they do not comply with the conditions, I will compel them, if I can. I judge from your instructions to me that it is not intended to make peace and feed these Indians without holding them responsible for the murders and thefts they have committed.

All their war parties have been drawn in since the fight on the 27th ultimo. They attacked Fort Dodge, and trains along the Arkansas, but killing only one man, and lost five themselves. The party Custer followed to Black Kettle's camp killed three of my couriers—one between

Larned and Dodge, the other two between Bluff creek and Dodge. I think this war party was nearly all killed on the 27th ultimo.

Yours, truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
*Major General.*

P. S.—We have had fearful storms for a day or two, with snow. The command is in high spirits and enthusiastic.

Official copy :

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

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*St. Louis, Missouri, January 4, 1869.*

GENERAL: I enclose a copy of a letter of December 17, received from General Hazen, enclosing copies of contracts made by him for beef, corn, &c., to feed the Indians of his reservation.

The prices of beef on the hoof, and corn, or its equivalent, corn-meal, are, as they ought to be, cheaper than at any other point of our frontier. These constitute the bulk of the provisions which ought to be furnished the Indians. General Hazen's assertion that he only provides for such as he *knows* to be there, accounts for the other assertion that the subsistence of the Indians costs only one-tenth of former years. I hope that the Secretary of War will be careful to have these papers, as also others of a similar kind, sent heretofore, carefully laid before the Committee of Indian Affairs of the Senate.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, truly, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Lieutenant General.*

Brevet Major General E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.*

Official copy :

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

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN INDIAN DISTRICT,  
*Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, December 1, 1868.*

I herewith enelose copies of the contracts for such articles of Indian supplies as I procure otherwise than in open market.

You will notice that beef costs but three cents, and corn-meal four cents per pound. I am surprised how little money I am getting on with, and I am informed that my expenses are only about one-tenth monthly what it has usually cost to care for the Indians here. I only feed the actual number of Indians present with a ration, all of which they require, while it has been the custom to bear upon the returns a vastly larger number, all of whom a ration was counted against, and so composed that most of the articles could either be neglected or commuted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General.*

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Lieutenant General U. S. Army.*

Copies of the bonds will be sent as soon as they can be procured.

*Articles of agreement entered into this 15th day of November, 1868, between Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, an officer in the service of the United States of America, of the one part, and J. C. D. Blackburn, of the county of Grayson, in the State of Texas, of the other part.*

This agreement witnesseth that the said Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, for and on behalf of the United States of America, and the said J. C. D. Blackburn, for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, (or for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators, as the case may be,) have mutually agreed, and by these presents do mutually agree and covenant to and with each other as follows, viz:

*First.* That the said J. C. D. Blackburn shall deliver at Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, corn of a good marketable quality, put up in good merchantable sacks, in such quantities as may be from time to time required, and on such days as may be designated by the commanding officer of southern Indian district. This contract to be in force for six (6) months, or such less time as the commanding general may direct, commencing on the 15th day of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight (1868.)

*Second.* The said J. C. D. Blackburn shall receive four (4) cents per pound for all corn accepted under this contract.

*Third.* Payment shall be made monthly for the quantity of corn accepted, and in the funds furnished by the United States for public disbursement; but in the event of the officer who receives the corn being without funds to pay for it, then payment to be made as soon after as funds may be received for that purpose.

*Fourth.* Whenever the corn to be issued by this contract shall, in the opinion of the commanding officer, be unfit for issue, or of a quality inferior to that required by the contract, a survey shall be held thereon by two officers to be designated by the commanding officer, and in the case of disagreement a third person shall be chosen by those two officers. The three thus appointed and chosen shall have power to reject such parts (or the whole) of the corn as to them appear unfit for issue, or of a quality inferior to that contracted for.

*Fifth.* In case of failure or deficiency in the quality or quantity of corn stipulated to be delivered, then the officer at Fort Cobb shall have power to supply the deficiency by purchase, and the said J. C. D. Blackburn will be charged with the difference of cost.

*Sixth.* No member of Congress, officer or agent of the government, or any person employed in the public service, shall be admitted to any share herein, or to any benefit which may arise herefrom.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have hereunto placed their hands and seals, the day and date first above written.

Witnesses:

JOHN SHIRLEY.

PHILIP McCUSKER.

JAMES N. DUNHAM.

J. C. D. BLACKBURN.

The supplies called for in the foregoing contract are for rationing peaceably disposed wild Indians, called to rendezvous at Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, during the pending war with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and for such time hereafter as it may be deemed necessary.

W. B. HAZEN,

*Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com'dg Southern Indian District.*

*Articles of agreement entered into this 15th day of November, 1868, between Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, an officer in the service of the United States of America, of the one part, and J. C. D. Blackburn, of the county of Grayson, in the State of Texas, of the other part.*

This agreement witnesseth that the said Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, for and on behalf of the United States of America, and the said J. C. D. Blackburn, for and on behalf of himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, (or for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, as the case may be,) have mutually agreed, and by these presents do mutually covenant and agree, to and with each other, as follows, viz:

*First.* That the said J. C. D. Blackburn shall deliver at Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, fresh beef, of a good and marketable quality, in equal proportions of fore and hind quarters, meat (shanks to be excluded,) in such quantities as may be from time to time required, and on such days as the commanding officer of the southern Indian district may designate.

This contract to be in force for six months, or such less time as the commanding officer of the southern Indian district may direct, commencing on the 15th day of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

*Second.* The said J. C. D. Blackburn shall receive three cents per pound for the fresh beef received on this contract.

*Third.* Payment shall be made monthly for the quantity of fresh beef accepted, and in the funds furnished by the United States for public disbursements; but in the event of the officer who receives the beef being without funds to pay for it, the payment to be made as soon after as funds may be received for that purpose.

*Fourth.* Whenever the beef to be issued by the contract shall, in the opinion of the commanding officer of southern Indian district, be unfit for issue, or of a quality inferior to that required by the contract, a survey shall be had thereon by two officers to be designated by the commanding officer of southern Indian district, and in case of disagreement a third person shall be chosen by these two officers; the three thus appointed and chosen shall have power to reject such parts (or the whole) of the fresh beef as to them appear unfit for issue, or of a quality inferior to that contracted for.

*Fifth.* In case of failure or deficiency in the quality or quantity of the fresh beef stipulated to be delivered, then the officer shall have power to supply the deficiency by purchase, and the said J. C. D. Blackburn will be charged with the difference of cost.

*Sixth.* No member of Congress, officer or agent of the government, or any person employed in the public service, shall be admitted to any share herein, or to any benefit which may arise therefrom.

In witness whereof the undersigned have hereunto placed their hands and seals the day and date first above written.

J. C. D. BLACKBURN.

Witnesses:

JOHN SHIRLEY.  
PHILIP McCUSKER.  
JAMES N. DUNHAM.

The supplies called for in the foregoing contract are for rationing peaceably disposed wild Indians called to rendezvous at Fort Cobb, Indian territory, during the pending war with Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and for such time thereafter as it may be deemed necessary.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brev. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com'g Southern Indian District.*

*Articles of agreement entered into this 15th day of November, 1868, between Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, an officer in the service of the United States of America, of the one part, and J. Shirley, of the Cherokee village, Chickasaw nation, Indian territory, of the other part.*

This agreement witnesseth that the said Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, for and on behalf of the United States of America, and the said J. Shirley, for and on behalf of himself, heirs, executors and administrators, (or for themselves, heirs, executors and administrators, as the case may be,) have mutually agreed, and by these presents do mutually covenant and agree, to and with each other as follows, viz:

*First.* That the said J. Shirley shall deliver at Fort Cobb, Indian territory, corn meal and flour, of a good and merchantable quality, in such quantities as may from time to time be required and on such days as shall be designated by the commanding officer of the southern Indian district. The contract to be in force for six months, or such less time as the commanding officer of the southern Indian district may direct, commencing on the 15th day of November, 1868.

*Second.* Corn meal and flour to be put up in good merchantable sacks of 100 pounds each.

*Third.* The said J. Shirley shall receive four cents per pound for corn-meal, and thirteen cents per pound for flour, accepted under this contract.

*Fourth.* Payment shall be made monthly for the quantity of meal and flour accepted, and in the funds furnished by the United States for public disbursement; but in the event of the officer who receives the meal and flour being without funds to pay for it, then the payment to be made as soon thereafter as funds may be received for that purpose.

*Fifth.* Whenever the meal and flour to be issued by this contract shall, in the opinion of the commanding officer of the southern Indian district, be unfit for issue, or of a quality inferior to that required by the contract, a survey shall be held thereon by two officers, to be designated by the commanding officer of the southern Indian district; and in the case of a disagreement a third person shall be chosen by these two officers. The three thus appointed and chosen shall have power to reject such quantity (or the whole) of the meal and flour as to them appears unfit for issue or of a quality inferior to that contracted for.

*Sixth.* In case of failure and deficiency in the quality or quantity of the meal and flour stipulated to be delivered, then the commanding officer of the southern Indian district shall have power to supply the deficiency by purchase, and the said J. Shirley will be charged with the difference of cost.

*Seventh.* No member of Congress, officer or agent of the government, or any person employed in the public service, shall be admitted to any share herein, or to any benefit which may arise herefrom.

In witness whereof the undersigned have hereunto placed their hands and seals, the day and date first above written.

JOHN SHIRLEY. [SEAL.]

Witnesses:

WM. R. HARMON.

J. C. D. BLACKBURN.

H. P. JONES.

The supplies called for in the foregoing contract are for rationing peaceably disposed wild Indians, called to rendezvous at Fort Cobb, Indian territory, during the pending war with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and for such time thereafter as it may be deemed necessary.

W. B. HAZEN,  
*Brevet Major General United States Army,  
Commanding Southern Indian District.*

Official copy:

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