

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING

A tabular statement of campaigns, expeditions, and scouts in the Department of Dakota in the third quarter of 1877.

APRIL 15, 1878.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 13, 1878.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate a tabular statement of campaigns, expeditions, and scouts made in the Department of Dakota during the third quarter of the year 1877.

The commanding general Military Division of the Missouri (General Sheridan) asks that this statement be submitted to Congress, as showing "in a condensed form a portion of the hard labor that the troops in this division are constantly engaged in."

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT *United States Senate.*

Tabular statement of campaigns, expeditions, and scouts in

| Posts from which parties were sent out. | Commanding officers of forces sent out. | Troops composing command. | Strength. | | | | Date of— | |
|---|---|--|-----------|------|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | Citizens. | Departure. | Return. |
| <i>Independent posts.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Fort Snelling, Minn | Capt. J. C. Bates, 20th Inf. | Company B, 20th Inf. | 3 | 26 | ..... | ..... | 1877. Sept. 26 | Still absent. |
| Fort Totten, Dak .. | Capt. Henry Jackson, 7th Cav. | Company C, 7th Cav. | 3 | 61 | ..... | ..... | Aug. 14 | ...do |
| <i>Middle district.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Standing Rock agency, Dak. | Capt. Kinzie Bates, 1st Inf. | Companies G and K, 1st Inf. | 4 | 87 | ..... | ..... | Apr. 30 | ...do |
| Do | Capt. Joseph Conrad, 11th Inf. | Companies A, B, and H, 11th Inf. | 8 | 106 | ..... | ..... | Apr. 30 | ...do |
| Fort Rice, Dak | Lieut.-Col. Elmer Otis, 7th Cav. | Companies A, D, H, and M, 7th Cav. | 12 | 310 | ..... | ..... | Apr. 19 | ...do |
| Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dak | Col. S. D. Sturgis, 7th Cav. | Companies A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, and M, 7th Cav. | 32 | 779 | 12 | ..... | May 1 | ...do |
| | Maj. H. M. Lazelle, 1st Inf. | Companies B, G, H, and K, 1st Inf. | 8 | 172 | ..... | ..... | May 1 | ...do |
| | Lieut.-Col. G. P. Buell, 11th Inf. | Companies A, B, C, F, G, and H, 11th Inf. | 14 | 247 | 10 | ..... | May 1 | ...do |
| <i>Southern district.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Cheyenne agency, Dak. | Lieut.-Col. G. P. Buell, 11th Inf. | Companies C, F, and G, 11th Inf. | 6 | 141 | 10 | ..... | Apr. 23 | ...do |
| Fort Sully, Dak .. | Maj. H. M. Lazelle, 1st Inf. | Companies B and H, 1st Inf. | 4 | 85 | ..... | ..... | Apr. 24 | ...do |
| Do | 2d Lieut. J. G. Gates, 20th Inf. | Detachment 1st and 20th Inf. | 1 | 20 | 1 | ..... | Sept. 22 | ...do |

the Department of Dakota in the third quarter of 1877.

| Country passed through. | Distance traveled (miles.) | Tribes operated against. | Results. | | | | | | | | | | | | Remarks. | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|
| | | | Indians killed. | Indians wounded. | Prisoners. | | | Property captured. | Property destroyed. | Our loss. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Men. | Women. | Children. | | | Killed. | | | Wounded. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Officers. | Indians. | Citizens. | Officers. | Indians. | | Citizens. |
| Minn.... | Unkn. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To White Earth Indian agency, Minn., to preserve peace and order on reservation. |
| Dak.... | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To southwestern portion of stage-road between Bismarck and Black Hills, to afford protection to travel on said road. |
| do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Fort Lincoln, prepared for field service, and to report at that point to Maj. H. M. Lazelle, 1st Infantry. (See Fort Abraham Lincoln.) |
| do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Fort A. Lincoln, prepared for field service, and to report at that point to Lieut. Col. George P. Buell, 11th Infantry. (See Fort Abraham Lincoln.) |
| do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Fort A. Lincoln, prepared for field service, and to report at that point to Col. S. D. Sturgis, 7th Cavalry. In July Lieutenant-Colonel Otis was relieved from duty with this command and returned to Fort Rice. (See Fort Abraham Lincoln.) |
| Dak. and Mont. | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To cantonment on Tongue River to form part of command of Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Infantry, in operations against hostile Indians. |
| do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Do. |
| do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Lieutenant-Colonel Buell with four companies to proceed and begin construction of buildings for post on Little Big Horn River, and Major Bartlett with two companies to report to Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Infantry, at cantonment, on Tongue River, for service against hostile Indians. In July Major Bartlett was relieved from duty with this command and directed to proceed to Cheyenne agency, and the two companies under him were sent for duty at the Big Horn post. |
| do | do | Sioux | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Fort A. Lincoln, prepared for field service, and to receive further orders at that point. (See Fort Abraham Lincoln.) |
| do | do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Do. |
| Dak.... | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Rapid City, in the Black Hills, assisting United States marshal to conduct Indians to that point for trial. |

CAMPAIGNS IN DAKOTA.

Tabular statement of companies, expeditions, and

| Posts from which parties were sent out. | Commanding officers of forces sent out. | Troops composing command. | Strength. | | | | Date of— | |
|---|---|--|-----------|------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | Citizens. | Departure. | Return. |
| <i>District of the Yellowstone.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Cantonment Tongue River. | Capt. S. Snyder, 5th Inf. | Detachment 5th Inf. | 6 | 131 | ..... | ..... | 1877. May 17 | July 20, 1877 |
| Do..... | Capt. C. J. Dickey, 22d Inf. | Company E, 22d Inf. | 1 | 45 | ..... | ..... | June 3 | ..... |
| Do..... | Maj. H. M. Lazelle, 1st Inf. | Three companies 1st Inf., five companies 22d Inf., and Company B, 7th Cav. | 24 | 472 | ..... | ..... | June 16 | Sept. 1, 1877 |
| Do..... | Maj. J. S. Brisbin, 2d Cav. | Detachments 1st Inf and 2d Cav. | 16 | 316 | 95 | 16 | July 4 | Sept. 1, 1877 |
| Do..... | Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Inf. | Detachments 7th Cav. and 5th Inf. | 37 | 784 | 25 | 88 | July 4 | July 16, 1877 |
| Do..... | 1st Lieut. G. C. Doane, 2d Cav. | Company E, 7th Cav. | 2 | 53 | 350 | 5 | Aug. 3 | Still absent |
| Do..... | Col. S. D. Sturgis, 7th Cav. | Companies F, G, H, I, L, and M, 7th Cav. | 15 | 360 | * | 58 | Aug. 12 |do..... |
| Do..... | Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Inf. | Detachments 2d and 7th Cav. and 5th Inf. | 20 | 410 | 30 | 120 | Sept. 17 |do..... |

* Unknown.

† One horse, one gun.

scouts in the Department of Dakota, &c.—Continued.

| Country passed through. | Distance traveled (miles). | Tribes operated against. | Results. | | | | | | | | | | | Remarks. | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|---|
| | | | Indians killed. | Indians wounded. | Prisoners. | | | Property captured. | Property destroyed. | Our loss. | | Officers. | men. | | Citizens. | |
| | | | | | Men. | Women. | Children. | | | Killed. | Wounded. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Officers. | men. | Officers. | men. | Citizens. |
| Mont . . . | Unk'n. | Sioux | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Scouting country around cantonment from camp near that point. No engagement with Indians. |
| Mont. & Dak. | do | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Scouting against hostile Indians. Made camp at Cedar Creek. Joined command under Maj. H. M. Lazelle, 1st Infantry, June 16, 1877, and remained with it till July 11, 1877, when the company was, with the other companies, 22d Infantry, placed en route for Fort Lincoln, to be thence forwarded to their stations in the Military Division of the Atlantic. No engagement with Indians. |
| do | 1014 | do | 1 | | | † | | | | | | | | | | Scouting the Powder River and Little Missouri country and examining for wagon-road to the Black Hills. Was joined by Company E, 22d Infantry, June 16, 1877. The six companies 22d Infantry were relieved from this service and placed en route for Fort A. Lincoln, to be thence forwarded to their stations in the Military Division of the Atlantic. For portion of the time this detachment was out it operated in conjunction with one under command of Major Brisbin, 2d Cavalry. No engagement with Indians. |
| do | 600 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Scouting against hostile Indians. No engagement. |
| Mont . . . | 110 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Scout to headwaters Cedar Creek. No Indians encountered. |
| do | Unk'n. | Nez Percés * * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | Scout to Judith Basin to intercept Nez Percés. Operated in conjunction with other commands engaged in pursuit of Nez Percés. |
| do | do | do | * | * | | † | | 3 | | 1 | 10 | | | | | Scout to Judith Basin and Clark's Fork to intercept hostile Nez Percés, and had an engagement with those Indians at Cañon Creek, Mont., September 13, 1877. Operating in conjunction with other commands. |
| Dak. and Mont. | do | do | 37 | 45 | | § | | 2 | 22 | 4 | 38 | 2 | | | | Scout to mouth of Squaw Creek, thence northeast to Little Rocky and Bear's Paw Mountains to intercept Nez Percés. September 30, engaged the Indians at Bear's Paw Mountain and surrounded their camp. |

† About 900 ponies.

§ Herd of ponies.

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| Posts from which parties were sent out. | Commanding officers of forces sent out. | Troops comprising command. | Strength. | | | | Date of— | |
|---|---|---|-----------|------|----------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| | | | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | Citizens. | Departure. | Return. |
| <i>District of Montana.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Fort Ellis..... | Capt. Ed. Ball, 2d Cav. | Companies F, G, H, and L, 2d Cav. | 8 | 164 | .... | 12 | 1877. Mar. 26 | Still absent. |
| Do..... | Capt. Randolph Norwood, 2d Cav. | Company L, 2d Cav. | 2 | 51 | .... | .... | Aug. 8 | Aug. 29, 1877 |
| Do..... | Capt. G. L. Browning, 7th Inf. | Company G, 7th Inf., and detachment 2d Cav. | 3 | 43 | .... | .... | July 22 | Still absent. |
| Fort Shaw..... | Col. John Gibbon, 7th Inf. | Detachment 7th Inf. | 5 | 34 | .... | 1 | July 28 | Aug. 24, 1877 |
| Do..... | Capt. T. S. Kirtland, 7th Inf. | Company B, 7th Inf. | 2 | 28 | .... | .... | June 18 | Still absent. |
| Camp Baker..... | Capt. Richard Comba, 7th Inf. | Company D and detachm't Company E, 7th Inf. | 2 | 27 | .... | .... | July 24 |do..... |
| Do..... | Capt. Walter Clifford, 7th Inf. | Detachment Company E, 7th Inf. | 1 | 1 | .... | 20 | Sept. 23 | Sept. 27, 1877 |
| Fort Benton..... | Lieut. E. E. Hardin, 7th Inf. | Company F, 7th Inf. | 1 | 21 | .... | .... | July 25 | Sept. 18, 1877 |
| Do..... | do..... | do..... | 1 | 21 | .... | .... | Sept. 21 | ..... |
| Do..... | Maj. Guido Ilges, 7th Inf. | Detachment 7th Inf. | 1 | 1 | .... | 40 | Sept. 21 | Sept. 29, 1877 |
| Missoula Post..... | Lieut. F. Woodbridge, 7th Inf. | do..... | 1 | 4 | .... | .... | July 18 | July 24, 1877 |
| Do..... | Lieut. C. A. Coolidge, 7th Inf. | do..... | 1 | 1 | .... | 5 | July 21 | July 22, 1877 |

CAMPAIGNS IN DAKOTA.

scouts in the Department of Dakota, &c.—Continued.

| Country passed through. | Distance traveled (miles). | Tribes operated against. | Results. | | | | | | | | | | | | Remarks. | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|----------|-----------|--|---|
| | | | Indians killed. | | | Prisoners. | Our loss. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Indians wounded. | | Property captured. | | Property destroyed. | Killed. | | | | Wounded. | | | | | | |
| | | | Men. | Women. | | | | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | Citizens. | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | | Citizens. | | |
| Mont. & Dak. | Unk'n. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To cantonment on Tongue River, to form part of command of Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Infantry, in operations against hostile Indians. In July Company L was detached and returned to Fort Ellis. The battalion was commanded by Captain Ball from July 1 to July 17; by Major Brisbin from July 18 to August 31; by Captain Ball from September 1 to September 8; and from latter date by Captain Tyler. | |
| Idaho & Mont. | 534 | Nez Percés * | * | | | | | 1 | | | | | 5 | | | | En route to report for service with column operating under immediate command of Col. John Gibbon, 7th Infantry, against hostile Nez Percés. Reported to Colonel Gibbon August (date unknown), and was assigned to duty with command of Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard. Was engaged with Indians at Camas Creek, Idaho, August 20, 1877. | |
| Mont. | Unk'n. | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Missoula to report to Colonel Gibbon, 7th Infantry, for service against hostile Nez Percés. | |
| do | 401 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Missoula to form junction with another portion of 7th Infantry for service against hostile Nez Percés. | |
| do | Unk'n. | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | This company left Fort Shaw June 18 for Danphin Rapids as guard for party of engineers engaged on work of improvement of Upper Missouri River. On September 12 twelve men of the company, on detached service at Cow Island, guarding stores, were attacked by Nez Percés, who were repulsed. Four citizens served with the detachment during the attack. The entire company was moved to Cow Island September 28, 1877. | |
| do | 549 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Missoula, via Fort Shaw, to report to Colonel Gibbon for service against hostile Nez Percés. No Indians encountered. | |
| do | 121 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| do | 561 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | To Missoula, via Fort Shaw, to report to Colonel Gibbon for service against hostile Nez Percés. Captain Williams joined the company en route. |
| Mont. | 325 | Nez Percés | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | To Fort Claggett and Cow Island to watch Nez Percés. Engaged them September 25, 1877, in skirmish of two hours. |
| do | 150 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Scouting in vicinity of Lo-Lo Pass to obtain information regarding Nez Percés. |
| do | 76 | do | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Do. |

* Unknown.

CAMPAIGNS IN DAKOTA.

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| Posts from which parties were sent out. | Commanding officers of forces sent out. | Troops comprising command. | Strength. | | | | Date of— | |
|---|---|---|-----------|------|----------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| | | | Officers. | Men. | Indians. | Citizens. | Departure. | Return. |
| Missoula Post | Capt. C. C. Rawn, 7th Inf. | Detachments Companies A and I, 7th Inf. | 5 | 25 | .... | 100 | 1877. July 25 | July 28, 1877 |
| Do..... | Col. John Gibbon, 7th Inf. | Companies A, D, F, G, I, and K, 7th Inf., and detachm't 2d Cav. | 17 | 132 | .... | 34 | Aug. 4 | Aug. 21, 1877 |

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., March 25, 1878.

scouts in the Department of Dakota, &c.—Continued.

| Country passed through. | Distance traveled (miles). | Tribes operated against. | Results. | | | | | | | | | | | | Remarks. |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|---|
| | | | Indians killed. | Indians wounded. | Prisoners. | | Property captured. | Property destroyed. | Our loss. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Men. | Women. | | | Killed. | Wounded. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Men. | Officers. | Men. | Citizens. | | |
| Mont.... | 48 | Nez Percés | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | To Lo-Lo Pass to endeavor to intercept Nez Percés. No engagement. Indians evaded troops. In pursuit of hostile Nez Percés Indians under Chiefs Joseph, Looking-Glass, and others. Surprised them in camp at Big Hole August 9, 1877, when a sharp fight ensued. Indians fled on the evening of the 10th. After the action Companies A, D, and I were returned to Missoula post for duty, Companies F and K to their respective proper stations, and Company G, increased to fifty men, was assigned to service with the command of Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard; it was relieved from this service August 19, and ordered to Missoula post for duty. |
| Mont. & Idaho. | 311 |do..... | 89 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 221 | 6 | 531 | ..... | 4 | ..... |  |  |

ALFRED H. TERRY,
Brigadier General, Commanding.