

Subsequent to that date other small parties surrendered and some died, so that on July 1, 1878, the number of Northern Cheyennes, at Fort Reno, Ind. Ter., was nine hundred and forty-two. An attempt had been made by General Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, to disarm and dismount these Indians, so as to place them on the same footing with the Southern Cheyennes, but as it was found this could not be done without violation of the conditions of their surrender, they were permitted to retain their arms and ponies.

A large part of these Northern Cheyennes found friends and kindred among the Southern Cheyennes at Fort Reno, mixed with them, and joined the various bands. About one-third of the Northern Cheyennes, however, under the leadership of "Dull Knife," "Wild Hog," "Little Wolf," and others, comprising about three hundred and seventy-five Indians, remained together and would not affiliate with the Southern Cheyennes. Dissatisfied with life at their new agency at Fort Reno, they determined to break away, move north, and rejoin their friends in the country where they formerly lived. As nearly as could be ascertained, those who escaped from Fort Reno numbered eighty-nine men, one hundred and twelve women and one hundred and thirty-four children. Their intention to escape had long been suspected, and their movements were consequently watched by the troops, but by abandoning all their lodges, which they left standing, they stole away on the night of September 9th. Two troops of the Fourth Cavalry, under Captain Rendlebrock, the only mounted force at Reno, started immediately in pursuit, and the garrisons were ordered out from Forts Supply, Dodge, Lyon, and other places near the Arkansas River, to intercept or overtake the escaping band; some cavalry was also ordered up to Fort Reno from Fort Sill, to prevent an extension of this exodus, and two troops of the Fourth Cavalry were also directed to march rapidly from Fort Elliott, Texas, to Fort Dodge. Besides these precautions, the garrisons of Fort Wallace, two companies of Sixteenth Infantry, Fort Hays, three companies of Third Infantry, and Fort Leavenworth, the latter consisting of one hundred mounted men of the Twenty-third Infantry, altogether two hundred and fifty men, were disposed along the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, to watch for the Cheyennes, should they succeed in eluding the troops upon the Arkansas.

In the Department of the Platte, dispositions of troops were made along the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, at points where the Indians might be expected to cross, should they escape between the detachments in the Department of the Missouri.

On September 16th, Lieutenant Colonel Wm. H. Lewis, Nineteenth Infantry, commanding officer at Fort Dodge, Kansas, reported that the Cheyennes were raiding about the mouth of Bluff Creek, Ind. Ter., and were driving off stock. Colonel Lewis sent all the force he could spare (about forty men of the Nineteenth Infantry) to Pierceville, north of the Arkansas and west of Fort Dodge, to try and strike the Indians if they attempted to cross the river. On September 19th, he sent Captain Morse, with his company of thirty-five men of the Sixteenth Infantry, ten more men of the Nineteenth Infantry, and Troop I Fourth Cavalry,

all of whom had arrived at Fort Dodge, to assist in pursuit south of the Arkansas.

All the operations along the line of the Arkansas were finally placed under direction of Colonel Lewis, whose force at last numbered about two hundred and fifty men, only one-half of them being cavalry.

On September 21st, about dark, the united companies of Captain Rendlebrock and Captain Morse, numbering about one hundred and fifty soldiers, with some fifty citizens, had a skirmish with the Indians on Sand Creek, south of the Arkansas, and again upon the following day.

On the 24th of September, the trail of the Indians was found north-east of Piercéville, showing that they had succeeded in crossing the Arkansas, and on the morning of the 25th, Colonel Lewis, in command of all the detachments of troops in the immediate neighborhood, started in pursuit, his cavalry having only just arrived at Fort Dodge, after a very hard forced march from Fort Elliott, Tex.

Colonel Lewis pursued rapidly in a northwest direction, through Kansas, until about 5 o'clock in the evening on September 28th, when he overtook the Cheyennes on "Punished Woman's" Fork of the Smoky Hill River, where the Indians were found very strongly intrenched and waiting for the troops. Colonel Lewis attacked them at once and in gallantly leading an assault upon their position he was mortally wounded, dying the same night whilst being conveyed in an ambulance to the nearest military post, Fort Wallace, Kansas; three enlisted men were wounded, one Indian was found killed, and seventeen dead saddle ponies; sixty-two head of stock were captured.

On the morning of September 28th, the senior surviving officer, Captain Mauck, Fourth Cavalry, continued the pursuit and reached the Kansas Pacific Railroad on the morning of September 29th, the Indians having succeeded in passing between the infantry detachments patrolling the line of that road, and having crossed the track near Carlyle, Kansas, during the night of September 28th.

All the troops on the line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, under command of Colonel Jeff. C. Davis, Twenty-third Infantry, were then pushed northward in pursuit, as was also the cavalry under Captain Mauck, but the Indians tore through the country, murdering and devastating the settlements on the Beaver, the Solomon, and the Republican, killing every settler they encountered, remounting themselves with some two hundred and fifty horses stolen on the way, and abandoning about sixty worn-out ponies in crossing the State of Kansas.

On November 11th, the Governor of Kansas, in writing, informed the honorable Secretary of War that in this raid through his State the Cheyennes had murdered over forty men and had ravished many women.

Simultaneously with the escape from Fort Reno of this party of Northern Cheyennes under "Dull Knife" and other chiefs, a band of one hundred and eighty-two surrendered Northern Cheyennes, from Fort Keogh, Mont., were also moving with a small military escort towards the Indian Territory, to be located on the same reservation at Fort Reno. These Indians were at once halted at Fort Sidney, Neb.,