

Harrisburg, Pa., June 22/78.

His Excellency,

The President.

A letter addressed to Hon. W. W. Corlett, Delegate to Congress from Wyoming Terr'y, and by him referred to the House Committee on Mil. Affairs, and thus made semi-official, appeared in the press of the 13th inst. As the object of this letter was to request an investigation of my conduct at the battle of the Little Big Horn river, and was also the first time various reports and rumors had been put into definite shape, I addressed a communication to the same Committee, through its chairman, urging that the investigation be resolved upon. The Congress adjourned without taking any action, and I now respectfully appeal to the Executive for a "Court of Inquiry" to investigate the affair, that the many rumors started by camp gossip may be set at rest and the truth made fully known.

The letter to Mr. Corlett which is referred to, is hereto attached.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Serv't.
(sd) M. A. Reno,
Maj. 7th Cavalry.

Copy of newspaper slip

THE CUSTER MASSACRE.

Major Reno accused of cowardice-An Investigation Probable.

Washington, June 12.-The House Committee on Military Affairs decided to-day to report favorably to the House a resolution directing an investigation into the Custer massacre. Mr. Bragg will present a resolution for a sub-committee to sit in recess and send for persons and papers. The basis of this action is embraced in a letter addressed by Frederick Whittaker, of Mount Vernon, N. Y. to Mr. Corlett, representing Wyoming Territory, and by him signed to the House Committee on Military Affairs, which letter is as follows:-

Mount Vernon, N. Y., May 18, 1878.

Hon. W. W. Corlett, M.C.,

Dear Sir: Having been called on to prepare the biography of the late brevet Major General George A. Custer, U.S.A., a great amount of evidence, oral and written, came into my hands tending to prove that the sacrifice of his life and the lives of his immediate command at the battle of the

Little Big Horn was useless, and owing to the cowardice of his subordinates. I desire, therefore, to call your attention, and that of Congress, through you, to the necessity of ordering an official investigation by a committee of your honorable body into the conduct of the United States troops engaged in the battle of the Little Big Horn, fought June 25, 1876, otherwise known as the Custer Massacre, in which Lieut. Col. Custer, Seventh United States Cavalry, perished, with five companies of the Seventh Cavalry, at the hands of the Indians. The reasons on which I found my request are as follows:

First-Information coming to me from participants in the battle, written and oral, is to the effect that gross cowardice was displayed therein by Major Marcus A. Reno, Seventh United States Cavalry, second in command that day; and that owing to such cowardice, the orders of Lieut. Col. Custer, commanding officer, to said Reno, to execute a certain attack, were not made.

That the failure of this movement, owing to his cowardice and disobedience, caused the defeat of the United States forces on the day in question; and that, had Custer's orders been obeyed, the troops would probably have defeated the Indians.

That after Major Reno's cowardly flight, he was joined by Capt. P. W. Benteen, Seventh United States Cavalry, with reenforcements, which were placed under his orders, and that he remained idle with this force while his superior officer was fighting against the whole force of the Indians, the battle being within his knowledge, the sound of firing audible from his position, and his forces out of immediate danger from the enemy.

That the consequence of this second exhibition of cowardice and incompetency was the massacre of Lieut. Col. Custer and five companies of the Seventh United States Cavalry.

Second-The proof of these facts lies in the evidence of persons in the service of the United States Government, chiefly in the Army, and no power short of Congress can compel their attendance and protect them from annoyance and persecution if they openly testify to the cowardice exhibited on the above occasion.

Third-The only official record of the battle now extant is the report written by Major Reno, above-named, and is, in the main false and libellous to the memory of the late Lieut. Col. Custer, in that it represents the defeat of the United States forces on that occasion as owing to the division by Custer of his forces into three detachments, to overmanning his forces, and to ignorance of the enemy's force--all serious charges against the capacity of said Custer as an officer; whereas the defeat was really owing to the cowardice and disobedience of said Reno and to the wilful neglect of said Reno and Capt. Benteen to join battle with the Indians in support of their commanding officer when they might have done it, and it was their plain duty so to do.

Fourth-The welfare of the United States Army demands that in case of a massacre of a large party of troops, under circumstances covered with suspicion, it should be officially established where the blame belongs, to the end that the service may not deteriorate by the retention of cowards.

Fifth-Justice to an officer of the previously unstained record of Lieut. Col. Custer, demands that the accusation under which his memory now rests, in the only official account of the battle of the Little Big Horn now extant, should be proved or disproved.

I have thus given you, as briefly as I can, my reasons for asking this investigation, and the fact I am confident of being able to prove. My witnesses will be all the living officers of the Seventh United States Cavalry who were present at the battle of June 25, including Major Reno and Capt. Benteen--myself to prove statements of an officer since deceased, made to me a few days before his death; F. T. Girard, Indian Interpreter to the United States forces; Dr. Porter, of Bismarck, D. T., contract surgeon at the battle in question; Lieut. Carland, Sixth Infantry, Sergeant Godman, now of the Signal Service, and others whose names I can find in time for the committee's session, should the same be ordered.

Trusting, dear Sir, that this letter may result in an investigation which shall decide the whole truth about the battle of the 25th June, 1876, and the purgation of the service.

I am your obedient servant:

Frederick Whittaker.

Official Copy

L. C. Drummer
Assistant Adjutant General.

A.G. Office,)
January 9, 1879)

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USTER'S BATTLE-FIELD

(June 25th 1876)

Surveyed and drawn under the personal supervision of

LIEUT. EDWARD MAGUIRE
Corps of Engineers U.S.A.

by
Sergeant Charles Becker
Co. D' Battalion of Engineers

Note:— The figures on the map are those of the stakes driven into the ground to mark the graves.

1. Capt. M.W. Keogh 7th Cav.
2. Lieut. J. Callahan 7th Cav.
3. Lieut. J. J. Crillonson 20th Inf.
4. Lt. Col. G. A. Custer 7th Cav.
5. Capt. T.W. Custer 7th Cav.

7. Capt. G.W. Yates 7th Cav.
8. Lieut. W. Van W. Raity 7th Cav.
9. Lieut. A.R. Smith 7th Cav.
10. Lieut. H.W. Cooke 7th Cav.
11. M^r. W.D. Custer.
12. M^r. Wood.

Scale of Miles.

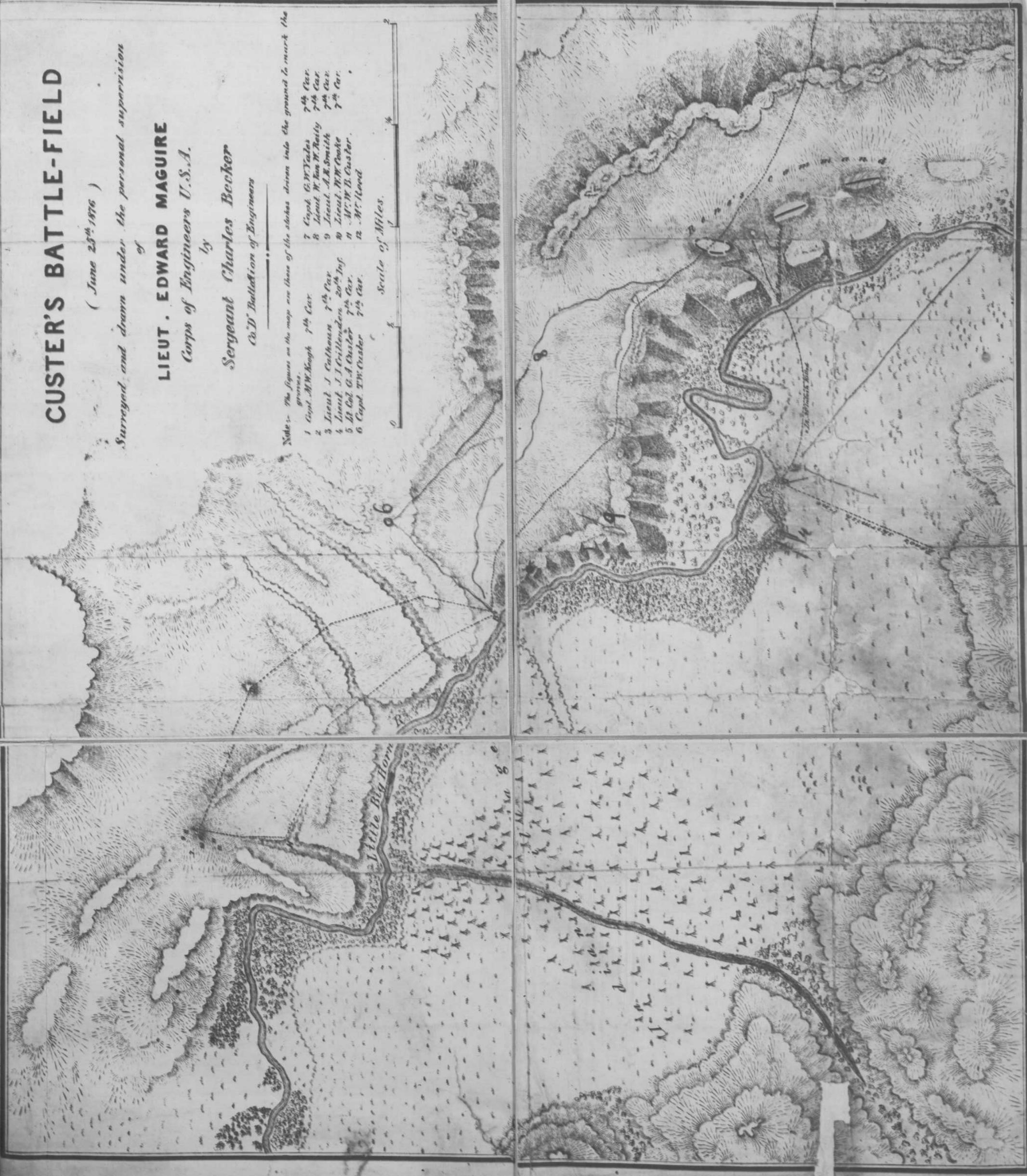


EXHIBIT NO. 3

Questions to be asked the witness Herrendeen respectfully submitted to the Court by Frederick Whittaker, accuser of Major Reno.

Submitted January 28, 1879.

1. Did you or did you not observe any evidences of fear on the part of Major Reno on the 25th or 26th June 1876. State the grounds of your opinion.
2. When Bloody Knife was killed by Major Reno's side in the glade or park of which you have spoken, what effect did it have on Major Reno, and how do you know, if you know?
3. Did you ever converse with Major Reno on the subject of the death of Bloody Knife, and what was the conversation, if any?
4. What words were uttered by the cavalry soldier who was shot at the same time as Bloody Knife, if you heard them?
5. Did Major Reno give any other orders than "Dismount" and "Mount" before he started to leave the timber?
6. Did he start before or with the men, and did he exhibit coolness and courage in so doing, or did you then think that he started under the influence of fear for his own personal safety?
7. Have you had cause to change your opinion since that time as to Major Reno's conduct whether cowardly or the reverse?

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I further desire leave respectfully to submit to the court that in case these questions should lead to fresh ones by Major Reno's counsel I should be permitted to ask questions if necessary in my own person of this or any other witness, subject to the discretion of the court in the same manner as Major Reno and his counsel.

Respectfully submitted
Frederick Whittaker
Accuser of Major Reno.

copy

EXHIBIT NO. 4

Headquarters 7th U. S. Cavalry,
Camp on Yellowstone River,
July 5, 1876.

Captain E. W. Smith.
A. D. C. and A. A. A. G.

The command of the regiment having devolved upon me as the senior surviving officer from the battle of the 25th and 26th of June between the 7th Cavalry and Sitting Bull's band of hostile Sioux on the Little Big Horn River, I have the honor to submit the following report of its operations from the time of leaving the main column until the command was united in the vicinity of the Indian village.

The regiment left the camp at the mouth of the Rosebud river after passing in review before the Department Commander under command of Brevet Major General G. A. Custer, Lieutenant Colonel, on the afternoon of the 22nd of June and marched up the Rosebud twelve miles and encamped:- 23d marched up the Rosebud passing many old Indian camps and following a very large lodge-pole trail, but not fresh, making thirty-three (33) miles; 24th the march was continued up the Rosebud, the trail and signs freshening with every mile until we had made twenty-eight (28) miles, and we then encamped and waited for information from the scouts: at 9-25 p.m. Custer called the officers together and informed us that beyond a doubt the village was in the valley of the Little Big Horn, and in order to reach it, it was necessary to cross the divide between the Rosebud and the Little Big Horn, and it would be impossible to do so in the day time without discovering our march to the Indians; that we would prepare to march at 11 p.m.; this was done, the line of march turning from the Rosebud to the right up one of its branches which headed near the summit of the divide. About 2 a.m. of the 25th the scouts told him that he could not cross the divide before daylight. We then made coffee and rested for three hours, at the expiration of which time the march was resumed, the divide crossed and about 8 a.m. the command was in the valley of one of the branches of the Little Big Horn; by this time Indians had been seen and it was certain that we could not surprise them and it was determined to move at once to the attack. Previous to this no division of the regiment had been made since the order had been issued on the Yellowstone annulling wing and battalion organizations, but Custer informed me that he would assign commands on the march.

I was ordered by Lieutenant W.W. Cook, Adjutant, to assume command of companies M.A. and G; Captain Benteen of companies H.D. and K, Custer retained C.E.F.I. and L. under his immediate command and company B, Captain McDougall, in rear of the pack train.

I assumed command of the companies assigned to me and without any definite orders moved forward with the rest of the column and well to its left. I saw Benteen moving farther to the left and

as they passed he told me he had orders to move well to the left and sweep everything before him. I did not see him again until about 2-30 p.m. The command moved down the creek towards the Little Big Horn valley, Custer with five companies on the right bank, myself and three companies on the left bank and Benteen farther to the left and out of sight. As we approached a deserted village, and in which was standing one tepee, about 11 a.m. Custer motioned me to cross to him, which I did, and moved nearer to his column until about 12-30 a.m. (p.m.?) when Lieutenant Cook, Adjutant, came to me and said the village was only two miles ahead and running away; to move forward at as rapid a gait as prudent and to charge afterwards, and that the whole outfit would support me. I think those were his exact words. I at once took a fast troop and moved down about two miles where I came to a ford of the river. I crossed immediately and halted about ten minutes or less to gather the battalion, sending word to Custer that I had everything in front of me and that they were strong. I deployed and with the Ree scouts on my left charged down the valley driving the Indians with great ease for about 2½ miles. I however soon saw that I was being drawn into some trap as they would certainly fight harder and especially as we were nearing their village, which was still standing, besides I could not see Custer or any other support and at the same time the very earth seemed to grow Indians and they were running towards me in swarms and from all directions. I saw I must defend myself and give up the attack mounted, this I did. Taking possession of a front of woods, and which furnished (near its edge) a shelter for the horses, dismounted and fought them on foot, making headway through----the woods. I soon found myself in the near vicinity of the village, saw that I was fighting odds of at least five to one and that my only hope was to get out of the woods where I would soon have been surrounded and gain some high ground. I accomplished this by mounting and charging the Indians between me and the bluffs on the opposite side of the river. In this charge 1st Lieutenant Donald McIntosh, 2nd Lieutenant Benj. H. Hodgson, 7th Cavalry and A.A. Surgeon J. M. DeWolf were killed. I succeeded in reaching the top of the Bluff with a loss of three officers and twenty-nine enlisted men killed, and seven men wounded. Almost at the same time I reached the top mounted men were seen to be coming towards us and it proved to be Colonel Benteen's battalion, companies H. D. and K. We joined forces and in a short time the pack train came up. As senior my command was then A. B. D. G. H. K. M., about 380 men and the following officers, Captains Benteen, Weir, French and McDougall, 1st Lieutenants Godfrey, Mathey and Gibson, and 2d Lieutenants Edgerly, Wallace, Varnum and Hare and A. A. Surgeon Porter. 1st Lieutenant De Rudio was in the dismounted fight in the woods but having some trouble with his horse did not join the command in the charge out and hiding himself in the woods joined the command after night-fall of the 26th. Still hearing nothing of Custer and with this re-enforcement, I moved down the river in the direction of the village, keeping on the bluffs. We had heard firing in that direction and knew it could only be Custer. I moved to the summit of the highest bluff but seeing and hearing nothing sent Captain Weir with his company to open communication with him. He soon sent back word by Lieut. Hare that he could go no further and that the Indians were getting around him. At this time he was keeping up a heavy fire from his skirmish line. I at once turned everything back to the first position I had taken on the bluff and which seemed to me the

best. I dismounted the men and had the horses and mules of the pack train driven together in a depression, put the men on the crests of the hills making the depression and had hardly done so when I was furiously attacked, - this was about six p.m. We held our ground with a loss of eighteen enlisted men killed and forty-six wounded until the attack ceased about 9 p.m. As I knew by this time their overwhelming numbers and had given up any support from that portion of the regiment with Custer. I had the men dig rifle pits, barricaded with dead horses and mules and boxes of hard bread the opening of the depression towards the Indians in which the animals were herded, and made every exertion to be ready for what I saw would be a terrific assault the next day. All this night the men were busy and the Indians holding a scalp dance underneath us in the bottom and in our hearing. On the morning of the 26th I felt confident that I could hold my own and was ready as far as I could be when at daylight about 2-30 a.m. I heard the crack of two rifles. This was the signal for the beginning of a fire that I have never seen equalled. Every rifle was handled by an expert and skilled marksman and with a range that exceeded our carbine, and it was simply impossible to show any part of the body before it was struck. We could see as the day brightened countless herds of them pouring up the valley from out the village and scampering over the high points towards the places designated for them by their chiefs and which entirely surrounded our position. They had sufficient numbers to completely encircle us and men were struck from opposite sides of the lines from where the shots were fired. I think we were fighting ^{all} the Sioux nation and also all the desperadoes, renegades, half-breeds and squawmen between the Missouri and the Arkansas and east of the Rocky mountains and they must have numbered at least twenty-five hundred warriors. The fire did not slacken until about 9-30 a.m. and then we found they were making a last desperate effort and which was directed against the lines held by companies H and M. In this charge they came close enough to use their bows and arrows, and one man lying dead within our lines was touched with the coup stick of one of the foremost Indians. When I say the stick was only ten or twelve feet long some idea of the desperate and reckless fighting of these people may be understood. This charge of theirs was gallantly repulsed by the men on that line led by Colonel Benteen. They also came close enough to send their arrows into the line held by Co's. D and K., but were driven away by a like charge of the line which I accompanied. We now had many wounded and the question of water was vital as from 6 p.m. of the previous evening until now 10 a.m. about 16 hours we had been without.

A skirmish line was formed under Colonel Benteen to protect the descent of volunteers down the hill in front of his position to reach the water. We succeeded in getting some canteens although many of the men were hit in doing so. The fury of the attack was now over and to our astonishment the Indians were seen going in parties toward the village. But two solutions occurred to us for this movement, that they were going for something to eat, more ammunition (as they had been throwing arrows) or that Custer was coming. We took advantage of this lull to fill all vessels with water and soon had it by camp kettle full. But they continued to withdraw and all firing ceased soon, - occasional shots from sharp-shooters sent to annoy us about the water. About 2 p.m. the grass in the bottom was set on fire and followed up by Indians who encouraged its burning, and it was evident to

me it was done for a purpose and which purpose I discovered later on to be the creation of a dense cloud of smoke behind which they were packing and preparing to move their village. It was between six and seven p.m. that the village came out from behind the dense clouds of smoke and dust. We had a close and good view of them as they filed away in the direction of Big Horn Mountains moving in almost perfect military order. The length of the column was fully equal to that of a large division of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac as I have seen it in its march.

We now thought of Custer of whom nothing had been seen and nothing heard since the firing in his direction about six p.m. on the eve of the 25th and we concluded that the Indians had gotten between him and us and driven him towards the boat at the mouth of the Little Big Horn River. The awful fate that did befall him never occurred to any of us as within the limits of possibility.

During the night I changed my position in order to secure an unlimited supply of water and was prepared for their return feeling sure they would do so as they were in such numbers, but early in the morning of the 27th and while we were on the qui vive for Indians I saw with my glass a dust some distance down the valley, there was no certainty for some time what they were but finally I satisfied myself they were cavalry and if so could only be Custer. As it was ahead of the time that I understood that General Terry could be expected, before this time however I had written a communication to General Terry and three volunteers were to try and reach him (I had no confidence in the Indians with me and could not get them to do anything.) If this dust were Indians it was possible they would not expect anyone to leave. The men started and were told to go as near as it was safe to determine whether the approaching column was white men and to return at once in case they found it so but if they were Indians to push on to General Terry. In a short time we saw them returning over the high bluffs already alluded to. They were accompanied by a scout who had a note from Terry to Custer saying Crow scouts had come to camp saying he had been whipped but that it was not believed. I think it was about 10-30 a.m. that General Terry rode into my lines and the fate of Custer and his brave men was soon determined by Captain Benteen proceeding with his company to his battle ground and where was recognized the following officers who were surrounded by the dead bodies of many of their men:

General G. A. Custer, Col. W. W. Cook, Adjutant, Captains M. W. Keogh, G. W. Yates, and T. W. Custer, 1st Lieuts. A. E. Smith, James Calhoun, 2nd Lieutenants W. V. Riley of the 7th Cavalry, and J. J. Crittenden of the 20th Infantry, temporarily attached to this regiment. The bodies of Lieutenant J. E. Porter and 2nd Lieutenant H. M. Harrington and J. G. Sturgis, 7th Cavalry and Assistant Surgeon G. W. Lord, U. S. A. were not recognized, but there is every reasonable probability they were killed. It was now certain that the column of five companies with Custer had been killed.

The wounded in my lines were during the afternoon and eve of the 27th moved to the camp of Gen'l Terry and at 5 a.m. of the 28th I proceeded with the regiment to the battle ground

of Custer and buried 204 bodies including the following named citizens. Mr. Boston Custer, Mr. Reed (a young nephew of General Custer) and Mr. Kellogg a correspondent for the New York Herald. The following named citizens and Indians who were with my command were also killed. Charles Reynolds (guide and hunter) Isaiah Dorman (colored) interpreter, Bloody Knife who fell from immediately by my side, Bobtail Bull and Stab of the Indian scouts.

After traveling over his trail it is evident to me that Custer intended to support me by moving further down the stream and attacking the village in flank. That he found the distance greater to the ford than he anticipated, that he did charge, but his march had taken so long, altho' his trail shows he had moved rapidly, that they were ready for him. That Co's. C. and I and perhaps part of E crossed to the village or attempted it, at the charge were met by a staggering fire and that they fell back to find a position from which to defend themselves but they were followed too closely by the Indians to permit time to form any kind of line. I think had the regiment gone in as a body and from the woods from which I fought advanced upon the village, its destruction was certain. But he was fully confident they were running away or he would not have turned from me. I think (after the great number of Indians there were in the village) that the following reasons obtain for the misfortune. His rapid marching for two days and one night before the fight. Attacking in the daytime at 12 m and when they were on the qui vive instead of early in the morning, and lastly his unfortunate division of the regiment into three commands.

During my fight with the Indians I had the heartiest support from officers and men, but the conspicuous service of Evt. Col. F. W. Benteen, I desire to call attention to especially, for if ever a soldier deserved recognition by his government for distinguished services, he certainly does. I enclose herewith his report of the operations of his battalion from the time of leaving the regiment until we joined commands on the hill. I also enclose an accurate list of casualties as far as it can be made at the present time, separating them into two lists "A" those killed in General Custer's command - 'B' those killed and wounded in the command I had. The number of Indians killed can only be approximated until we hear through the Agencies. I saw the bodies of 18 and Captain Ball, 2d Cavalry who made a scout of thirteen miles over their trail says that their graves were many along their line of march. It is simply impossible that numbers of them should not be hit in the several charges they made so close to my lines. They made their approaches through the deep gulches, that led from the hill top to the river, and when the jealous care with which they Indians guards the bodies of killed and wounded is considered it is not astonishing that their bodies were not found. It is probable that the stores left by them and destroyed the next two days was to make room for many of them on their travois. The harrowing sight of the dead bodies crowning the height on which Custer fell and which will remain vividly in my memory until death, is too recent for me not to ask the good people of this country whether a policy that sets opposing parties in the field armed, clothed and equipped by one and the same government should not be abolished.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) M. A. Reno,
Major, 7th Cavalry.
Com'd'g Regiment.

Official
(S'G'D) R. P. Hughes,
Captain 3d Inf't'y. A.D.C.

Headquarters Department of Dakota.
Saint Paul, Minn., January 9", 1879.

A true copy:

Geo. D. Ruggles,
Assistant Adjutant General.

EXHIBIT NO. 5

Camp on Little Big Horn,
20 miles from its mouth.

June 27th.

General Terry:

I have had a most terrific engagement with the hostile Indians. They left their camp last evening at sundown moving due south in the direction of Big Horn Mountains. I am very much crippled and cannot possibly pursue. Lieutenants McIntosh and Hodgson and Dr. DeWolf are among the killed. I have many wounded and many horses and mules shot. I have lost both my own horses. I have not seen or heard from Custer since he ordered me to charge with my battalion (3 companies) promising to support me.

I charged about 2 p.m. but meeting no support was forced back to the hills. At this point I was joined by Benteen with 3 companies and the pack train rear guard (one Co.). I have fought thousands and can still hold my own, but cannot leave here on account of the wounded. Send me medical aid at once and rations.

(signed) M. A. Reno.
Maj. 7th Cavalry.

As near as I can say now I have over 100 men killed and wounded.

Headquarters Dep't of Dakota,
Saint Paul, Minn., January 9th, 1879.

A true copy:

E. Geo. D. Ruggles,
Assistant Adjutant General.

EXHIBIT NO. 6

List of Casualties in 7th Regiment of U. S. Cavalry during the battles on Little Big Horn River with Sitting Bull's band of Hostile Sioux on the 25th and 26th of June, 1876.

KILLED

| Co | Names | Rank | Co | Names | Rank |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| Field & Staff | George A. Custer | Bvt. Maj. Genl. USA | C Co | Short | Pvt. |
| " | " | Bvt. Lt. | " | Shea | " |
| " | W. W. Cook | Col. USA | " | Shade | " |
| " | " | Asst. Surg. | " | Stuart | " |
| " | Lord | U.S.A. | " | St. John | " |
| " | " | Act'g Asst. | " | Thadius | " |
| " | J.M. DeWolf | Surg. USA | " | Van Allen | " |
| " | " | " | " | Warren | " |
| " | " | " | " | Wyndham | " |
| " | " | " | " | Wright | " |
| W.C. Staff | W.W. Shanon | Sergt. Maj. | " | " | " |
| " | Henry Voss | Chief Trptr. | " | " | " |
| A Co | Henry Dallons | Corpl. | D Co | Vincent Charlie | Farrier |
| " | George H. King | " | " | Patrick Golden | Pvt. |
| " | John E. Armstrong | Pvt. | " | Edward Hansen | Pvt. |
| " | James Drinan | " | E Co | A.E. Smith | Bvt. Capt. USA |
| " | William Moody | " | " | J. Sturgis | 2nd Lt. |
| " | James McDonald | " | " | Fred. Hohmeyer | 1st Sergt. |
| " | Richard Rawlins | " | " | Egden | Sergt. |
| " | John Sullivan | " | " | James | " |
| " | Thomas P. Switzer | " | " | Hagan | Corpl |
| B Co | Benj. Hodgson | 2nd Lt. | " | Mason | " |
| " | Richard Doran | Pvt. | " | Blorn | " |
| " | George Mask | " | " | Meyer | " |
| C Co | Thos. W. Custer | Bvt. Lt. | " | McElroy | Trptr. |
| " | " | Col. USA | " | Mooney | " |
| " | H.M. Harrington | 2nd Lt. | " | Baker | Pvt. |
| " | Edwin Baba | 1st Sergt. | " | Boyle | " |
| " | " | " | " | Bauth | " |
| " | Finley | Sergt. | " | Connor | " |
| " | Tinkle | " | " | Darring | " |
| " | French | Corpl. | " | Davis | " |
| " | Foley | " | " | Farrell | " |
| " | Ryan | " | " | Hiley | " |
| " | Allen | Pvt. | " | Huber | " |
| " | Criddle | " | " | Hime | " |
| " | King | " | " | Henderson | " |
| " | Bucknall | " | " | Henderson | " |
| " | Eisman | " | " | Leddison | " |
| " | Engle | " | " | O'Connor | " |
| " | Brightfield | " | " | Rood | " |
| " | Farrand | " | " | Reese | " |
| " | Griffin | " | " | Smith 1st | " |
| " | Hamel | " | " | Smith 2nd | " |
| " | Hattisoll | " | " | Smith 3rd | " |
| " | Kingsouts | " | " | Stella | " |
| " | Lewis | " | " | Stafford | " |
| " | Mayer | " | " | Schoole | " |
| " | Mayer | " | " | Smallwood | " |
| " | Phillips | " | " | Tarr | " |
| " | Russell | " | " | Vanjant | " |
| " | Rix | " | " | Walker | " |
| " | Rauter | " | " | Brogen | " |
| " | " | " | " | Knight | " |

The body of P. Sturgis was not found but it is reasonable to believe he was killed.

It is possible that the body of H.M. Harrington was not found but it is reasonable to believe he was killed.

| Co | Names | Rank | Co | Names | Rank |
|----|-------------------|-----------|----|------------------|---|
| E | G. W. Yates | Captain | I | M. W. Keogh | <i>the body of Lt. Pitter was not found but it is known and is killed</i> Pvt. Lt. Col. |
| " | W. Van Rielly | 2nd Lt. | " | J. E. Porter | 1st Lieut. |
| " | Kenney | 1st Sgt. | " | F. E. Varden | 1st Sgt. |
| " | Nursey | Sgt. | " | J. Bustard | Sergt. |
| " | Vickory | " | " | John Wild | Corpl. |
| " | Wilkinson | " | " | G. C. Morris | " |
| " | Colman | Corpl. | " | S. F. Staples | " |
| " | Teeman | " | " | J. McGucker | Trptr. |
| " | Briedy | " | " | J. Patton | " |
| " | Brandon | Farrier | " | H.A. Bailey | Blksmith |
| " | Manning | Blk.smith | " | J. P. Broadhurst | Pvt. |
| " | Atchison | Private | " | J. Barry | " |
| " | Brown 1st | " | " | J. Connors | " |
| " | Brown 2nd | " | " | T. P. Downing | " |
| " | Bruce | " | " | E. C. Driscoll | " |
| " | Brady | " | " | D. C. Gillette | " |
| " | Burnham | " | " | G. H. Gross | " |
| " | Cather | " | " | E. P. Holcomb | " |
| " | Carney | " | " | M. E. Horn | " |
| " | Dohman | " | " | Adam Hetismer | " |
| " | Donnelly | " | " | P. Kelley | " |
| " | Gardiner | " | " | Fred. Lehman | " |
| " | Hammond | " | " | Henry Lehman | " |
| " | Kline | " | " | E. P. Lloyd | " |
| " | Knauth | " | " | A. McIlhargry | " |
| " | Luman | " | " | J. Mitchell | " |
| " | Losse | " | " | J. Noshang | " |
| " | Milton Jos. | " | " | J. O'Bryan | " |
| " | Madson | " | " | J. Parker | " |
| " | Monroe | " | " | F. J. Pitter | " |
| " | Audden | " | " | Geo. Post | " |
| " | Omeling | " | " | Jas. Quinn | " |
| " | Sicfous | " | " | William Reed | " |
| " | Sanders | " | " | J. W. Rossbury | " |
| " | Warren | " | " | D. L. Symms | " |
| " | Way | " | " | J. E. Tray | " |
| " | Lerock | " | " | Chas. Von Bramer | " |
| " | Kelley | " | K | W. B. Whaley | " |
| G | Donald McIntosh | 1st Lt. | " | D. Winney | 1st Sgt. |
| G | Edward Botzer | Sgt. | " | R. Hughes | Sgt. |
| G | M. Considine | " | " | J. J. Callahan | Corpl. |
| " | Jas. Martin | Corpl. | " | Julius Helmer | Trumpter. |
| " | Otto Hageman | " | " | Eli U. T. Clair | Pvt. |
| " | Benj. Wells | Farrier | L | James Calhoun | 1st Lt. |
| " | Henry Dose | Trptr. | " | J.J. Crittenden | lt. 20 Inftry. |
| " | Crawford Selby | Saddler. | " | Butler | 1st Sgt. |
| " | Benj. F. Rogers | Pvt. | " | Warren | Sgt. |
| " | Andrew J. Moore | " | " | Harrison | Corpl. |
| " | John J. McGinniss | " | " | Gilbert | " |
| " | Edward Stanley | " | " | Seiler | " |
| " | Henry Seafferman | " | " | Walsh | Trumpter |
| " | John Rapp | " | " | Adams | Pvt. |
| H | Geo. Lell | Corpl. | " | Assdely | Pvt. |
| " | Julian D. Jones | " | " | Burke | " |
| " | Thos E. Miador | " | " | Cheever | " |
| | | | " | McGill | " |
| | | | " | McCarthy | " |

| Co | Names | Rank |
|-------|-------------------|----------|
| L | Dugan | Private |
| " | Maxwell | " |
| " | Scott | " |
| " | Babcock | " |
| " | Perkins | " |
| " | Tarbox | " |
| " | Dye | " |
| " | Tessier | " |
| " | Galvin | " |
| " | Graham | " |
| " | Hamilton | " |
| " | Rodgers | " |
| " | Snow | " |
| " | Hughes | " |
| " | Miller | " |
| " | Tweed | " |
| " | Valler | " |
| " | Cashaw | " |
| " | Keefe | " |
| " | Andrews | " |
| " | Crisfield | " |
| " | Harrington | " |
| " | Haugge | " |
| " | Kavanaugh | " |
| " | Lobering | " |
| " | Mahony | " |
| " | Schmidt | " |
| " | Simon | " |
| " | Semenson | " |
| " | Riebold | " |
| " | O'Connell | " |
| M | Miles P. O'Hara | Sergt. |
| " | Henry M. Scollier | Corpl. |
| " | Fred. Stringer | " |
| " | Henry Gordon | Pvt. |
| " | H. Klotzbrüsher | " |
| " | G. Lawrence | " |
| " | W. D. Meyer | " |
| " | G. E. Smith | " |
| " | D. Somers | " |
| " | J. Tanner | " |
| " | H. Turley | " |
| " | H. C. Vogt. | " |
| ----- | Boston Custer | Civilian |
| | Arthur Reed | " |
| | Mark Kellog | " |
| | Chas. Reynolds | " |
| | Frank C. Mann | " |

Indian Scouts

Bloody Knife
Bobtailed Bull
Stab

Total number of commissioned officers
killed ----- 14
Act'g Asst Surg. 1
Enlisted Men 247
Civilians 5
Indian Scouts 3

List of wounded in 7th Regiment U.S. Cavalry during the Battles on Little Big Horn River with Sitting Bull's band of Hostile Sioux on the 25th and 26th of June 1876.

| Co | Names | Rank |
|----|---------------------|------------|
| A | William Heyn | 1st Sergt. |
| " | Jacob Deal | Pvt. |
| " | Samuel Foster | " |
| " | Frederick Homestead | " |
| " | Francis M. Reeves | " |
| " | Elijah T. Stroud | " |
| B | William M. Smith | Corpl. |
| " | Chas. Cunningham | Pvt. |
| C | Chas. Bennett | Pvt. |
| " | Maguire | Pvt. |
| " | Thompson | " |
| " | Whittaker | " |
| D | Patrick McDonald | " |
| E | Jan T. Reilly | Sergt. |
| G | Jas P. Boyle | Pvt. |
| " | Chas. Casell | " |
| " | John McVey | " |
| " | John Morrison | " |
| H | Joseph McCurry | 1st Sergt. |
| " | Patrick Connelly | " |
| " | Thos. McLaughlin | " |
| " | John Oahl | " |
| " | William Rasel | Trmptr. |
| " | Otto Voit | Saddler |
| " | Henry Bishley | Pvt. |
| " | Chas. H. Bishop | " |
| " | Alex B. Bishop | " |
| " | John Cooper | " |
| " | Henry Black | " |
| " | Wm. Farley | " |
| " | Wm. George | " |
| " | Thos. Hughes | " |
| " | John Muller | " |
| " | John Phillips | " |
| " | Samuel Severes | " |
| " | William C. Williams | " |
| " | Charles Windolph | " |
| I | David Cooney | " |
| K | Patrick Corcoran | " |
| " | Michael Madden | " |
| " | Max Milke | " |
| L | Thos. Marshall | " |
| M | Patrick Carey | " |
| " | Charles White | " |
| " | Daniel Sewall | Blksmith |
| " | Frank Braun | Pvt. |
| " | John H. Meyer | " |
| " | William E. Morris | " |
| " | Roman Ratten | " |
| " | Thos. P. Vanner | " |
| " | Jas. Wilbur | " |
| " | Chas. Wiedman | " |

The above is approximate the absence of all company records and the loss of 7 1st Sergts has rendered it almost impossible to account for all the men at the present time.

M. A. Reno
Maj. 7th Cavalry.
Commanding Regiment.

1st Endorsement

Headquarters Department of Dakota - Saint Paul Minn. July 10th 1876.

Respectfully forwarded to Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri - 269 bodies have heretofore been reported buried. This report accounts for 260 only. I have understood unofficially that there are 23 men missing some of these 23 were undoubtedly buried but were not recognized.

Signed Geo. D. Ruggles,
Asst. Adjt. General.

For and in the absence of the Brig. Genl. Commanding.

2nd Endorsement.

Headquarters Mil. Div. Mo.
Chicago, July 13, 1876.

Respectfully Forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Army.

(Signed) P. H. Sheridan.
Lieutenant General.
Commanding.

Official copy

E. D. Townsend.
Adjutant General.

A.G. Office,
Jan. 9, 1879

Exhibit No 7

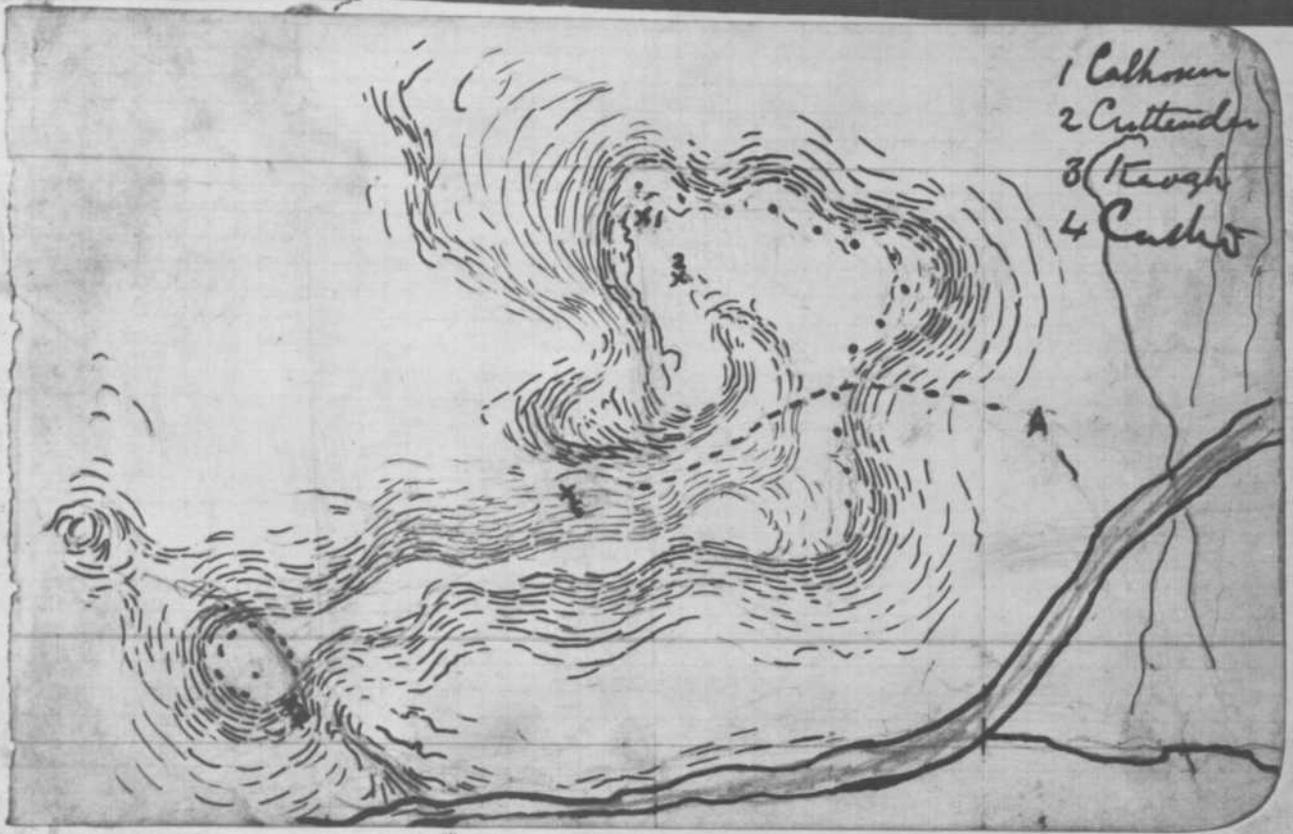


EXHIBIT NO. 8.

To the Honorable,
the Court of Inquiry.

In accordance with the Act of Congress approved 16 March 1878 I have the honor to request that I be allowed to testify before your honorable Court of Inquiry which has been convened upon my application.

M. A. Reno,
Maj. 7th Cav.

Headquarters of the Army,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, August 10, 1876.

Major M. A. Reno

7th Cavalry.

(Tho' Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri)

Sir:

Referring to the petition of the enlisted men of the 7th Cavalry (forwarded by you the 15th ultimo) for the promotion of yourself and other officers of the regiment who participated in the engagement of June 25, 1876, I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of the officers and enlisted men concerned, a copy of the remarks of the General of the Army with reference to the request contained in the petition.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant

(signed) E. D. Townsend.
Adjutant General.

A true copy:

J. M. Lee
1st Lieut. and Adj't 9th Infantry.
Recorder.

Exhibit No. 10 was a petition signed by 236 enlisted men who survived the battle. In this petition, the men requested the promotion of Major Reno and the other surviving officers of the regiment. The petition was introduced in evidence, but never attached to the original court record. Thus, it was not included as one of the exhibits in the typed copies of the original record. This petition is available, however, and can be viewed both in print and online. See, for example, the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections
<http://images.library.wisc.edu/History/EFacs/SetPerAmerInd/Reno/reference/history.reno.i0053.pdf>.

EXHIBIT NO. 11

Headquarters Army of the United States.
Washington, D.C. August 5, 1876

The judicious and skilful conduct of Major Reno and Captain Benteen is appreciated but the promotions caused by General Custer's death have been made by the President and confirmed by the Senate therefore this petition cannot be granted. When the Sioux Campaign is over I shall be most happy to recognize the valuable services of both officers and men by granting favors or recommending actual promotion.

Promotion on the Field of Battle was Napoleon's favorite method of stimulating his officers and soldiers to deeds of heroism but it is impossible in our service because commissions can only be granted by the president on the advice and consent of the Senate and except in original vacancies promotion in a regiment is generally if not always made on the rule of seniority.

(signed) W. T. Sherman,
General.

Official
(sgd) E. D. Townsend.
Adjutant General.

A true copy

J. M. Lee
1st Lieut. and Adjt. 9th Infantry.
Recorder.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

OLIVER C. HINKLE and WILLIAM J. MOULD, employees in the office of The Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, do hereby certify that we have carefully compared with the original and official record on file in said office, the within typewritten copy of the record of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry in the case of Major Marcus A. Reno, held at Chicago during January 1879, concerning his conduct at the battle of the Little Big Horn, June 25, 1876, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record as the same appears in the files of the Judge Advocate General's Office, with corrections of obvious errors in orthography, and the addition of certain question marks in the transcript of Vol. II.

Oliver C. Hinkle
OLIVER C. HINKLE

William J. Mould
WILLIAM J. MOULD

Subscribed in my presence by OLIVER C. HINKLE and WILLIAM J. MOULD, both to me personally known, this 28th day of October, 1933, at Washington, D. C., who did then and there each for himself make oath that the foregoing statement is true as he verily believes.

N. Curtis Lambard
N. CURTIS LAMBARD,
Notary Public,
District of Columbia.

Done under my supervision.

Waboban

Colonel J. A. G. D.

A typed copy of the proceedings of a Court of Inquiry to inquire into Major Marcus A. Reno's conduct at the battle of the Little Big Horn ("Custer's Last Stand"), prepared under the direction of the late Colonel William A. Graham, J.A.G.D. Colonel Graham also prepared an abstract of the testimony for review by the Secretary of War.

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| AUTHOR | |
| AT BATTLE OF LITTLE BIGHORN | |
| TITLE | |
| RIVER (1876) | |
| DATE DUE | BORROWER'S NAME |
| 6/15 | Mr. Stelmans OSD |
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