

RG 393, PT. 3  
ENTRY  
399 2 of 2

LETTERS

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OTHER RECORD IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION [SPECIFY FOLDER TITLE(S)/FILE NUMBER(S)] Letters Sent 4/1866 - 12/1867					
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MOUNTAIN DISTRICT DEPT OF THE PLATTE.

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12. Ketchum R. A. Lieut. 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. 12. Feby 2. 67.

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5.	Greenwood. G. W. Lind	5. Jan 21 '67.
19.	Grant Geo. Sugrue	16. Feb 14 '67.
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- 8. Rev. St. A. N. O. M 10. Jan'y 22 '67.
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- 21. Rev. St. County Officer 18. Feb'y 1 '67.
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- 63. Richards M<sup>r</sup> 45. Jan'y 27 '67.

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5. New York Theodore. Capt 6. Jan 21 '67.

4. Van Voact Sa Maj 5. Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 67.  
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5. Mhatky Cigw 6. Jan 21 67.  
6. Wand. A.M. Linc 7. Jan 21 67.  
26. Wessels. Kaw 28. Feb 18 67.

**LETTERS SENT.**

MOUNTAIN = DISTRICT.

Supt Gen.  
Dept Platte.  
Awaka Neb.

Fort Reno, D.T.  
December 31<sup>st</sup> 1866

Major;

Having recd. the telegraphic communication from Department Hd Qrs of 26<sup>th</sup> inst. removing the Mountain District & assigning <sup>to me</sup> its Command I beg leave to submit for the consideration of the Major General Comd<sup>g</sup>. my views, which I will state in three distinct propositions (not knowing the intentions of the Government in reference to future operations against the hostile Indians,) and the means by which, in my judgement they should be supported.

I. A defensive attitude alone, by which I mean, ability to defend the several posts with their supplies, to protect parties necessarily engaged in sending stock, procuring fuel & material for building and to keep open the line of communication between the Platte & Big Horn Rivers, - this condition, I believe will be fulfilled on the arrival of the reinforcements recently ordered from Fort Saramie, in this inclement season it seems to me it is all that can be expected from the troops, A well selected well mounted force of One Hundred friendly Indians would be of great service.

II. Protection to travel, - as the Spring opens trains of wagons both on Government & private accounts, will commence to move, and they must be made secure from marauding parties of the enemy - to accomplish which there should be placed on the line on or before the first of May next, an additional force of two Squadrons of Cavalry, and a Regiment of Infantry - the former to be constantly in the field

patrolling the intervals between the military posts, the latter occupying also movable positions along the whole line of the road,

III. Offensive Operations. - hasty spasmodic expeditions for a limited period, will not I fear accomplish the desired results, and it seems to me better to form a well matured and systematic plan of operations, giving to the Commander both men <sup>(and)</sup> material in such numbers <sup>(and)</sup> quantity, as cannot fail to assure success, to this end, I would recommend an additional force of five hundred well mounted friendly Indians judiciously controlled, one Regiment of Cavalry <sup>(and)</sup> four Regiments of Infantry this would furnish two, & probably four strong columns, moving in concert or in different directions, and able to meet any force that they might encounter - they should take the field not later than the first of July, <sup>(and)</sup> remain there, if necessary until the close of the year.

It would also be judicious to move a force of suitable strength from some point on the Missouri River towards the Black Hills; or the Yellow Stone River, as might be judged expedient at the proper time. I state this last proposition with great diffidence, at the risk of seeming extravagance <sup>(and)</sup> even timidity, knowing the prevailing sentiment of contempt entertained towards an enemy of this character, but I consider the Indians were never so dangerous as at the present time - the great majority of the Dakota bands, are leagued together in bitter hostility, under one leader, with considerable accessions from the Anapahoes and probably the Cheyennes. - An almost uninterrupted series of successes has given them prestige <sup>(and)</sup> confidence -



they seem to be under skillful control (and) have  
 been improved in their peculiar tactics,  
 It is notorious that they were largely supplied  
 with powder during the Saramie treaty  
 of last summer, which it is well known  
 Indians are not in the habit of wasting, their  
 captures of small arms have been considerable  
 they are abundantly supplied with horses and  
 mules, their mobility is extraordinary, (and)  
 Taking all these facts into consideration  
 with the little required for their subsistence  
 and their vast extent of country, they will  
 be found a most formidable enemy  
 It is <sup>well</sup> known here that in the summer 1865  
 three regiments of mounted Volunteers, provided  
 with artillery were boldly followed and at-  
 tacked by these same Indians with but  
 trifling injury to the latter - it is not ad-  
 visable to underrate such an enemy,  
 If the Cavalry cannot be made efficiently  
 without the impediment of a forage train,  
 dismounted men would be preferable, (and) no  
 agent of the Indian Department, or other  
 civilian in authority should be permitted  
 to influence the operations, it would also  
 seem proper to empower the Comd'g Officer to  
 impose terms when, in his judgement the  
 proper time has arrived, subject to approval  
 by the proper authority - I have reason  
 to believe that discussions to some extent,  
 exist in the camp of the enemy, to encourage  
 which my constant efforts will be directed  
 though communication is both difficult  
 and uncertain. The foregoing is respectfully  
 submitted for the consideration of the Maj. Gen. Comd'g,  
 whose well known experience in Indian Character (and)  
 warfare, will enable him to judge of its merits,  
 & deficiencies, and for such action or reference  
 as he may deem proper. Respy. Your obt. servt.

A'

Forwarded to Mr. Sims, Dept. Platte,  
 Cheyenne, 27<sup>th</sup> 1867

W. Nespeles  
 Sr. Col. 15<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. Col. Wis. Cav.

4  
Col. A.B. Cairington  
18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infy.  
Fort P. Kearny  
D.C.

Hd Qrs Mountain District,  
Fort Philip Kearny D.C.  
January 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Colonel,

I have the honor to enclose herewith an order of this date assuming Command of the old Mountain District, based upon Telegraphic Order of 25<sup>th</sup> ult. (an extract of which is enclosed) & telegram of same date, addressed to Gen. Palmer - a copy of which I suppose is in your possession.

Very respectfully

Your Obedt servt,  
W. W. Wepelle,  
Lt. Col 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infy.  
Bvt Brig. Gen. U.S.A.

Copy forwarded,  
Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Maj. Gen. W.D.A.  
Washington  
D.C.

Hd Qrs. Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny D.C.  
Jan'y 20<sup>th</sup> 1867

General:

I have the honor to request that an Ordnance Sergeant may be assigned to duty at this post, there is but one in the District, and his term Expires within a month.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt  
W. W. Wepelle,  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infy.  
Bvt Brig Gen, U.S.A.  
Candy Dist.

3

Mad Ovs. Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny D.C.  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Act. Adj. Genl  
Dep't. Platts  
Owaka

4.

Sir: I have the honor to report my arrival at this post on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, with two Companies of the 2<sup>d</sup> Cavalry, and three Companies of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inf, under Major Van Dorch and that I assumed Command of the District on the 17<sup>th</sup> and of this post the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. A Company of Infantry was left at Fort Reno, subject to the approval of the Supt Command.

Very Respectfully  
Yours Obedt Servant  
W. W. Phelps  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
St. Big Ten, W. D. C.  
Cading Dist.

Mad Ovs. Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny D.C.  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Act. Adj. Genl  
Dep't. Platts  
Owaka  
D.C.

5.

Sir: In compliance with the instructions contained in your communication of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult I have investigated as far as lies in my power the circumstances attending the recent massacre of troops in the vicinity of this post, but as no number of that ill-fated detachment has ever returned. I can only relate to you, the cause which led to it, and, its tragical result.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December last the usual wagon train, with an armed escort left the post about 8 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of procuring timber for the Saw Mills. - Not long after their departure, perhaps unknown, firing was heard in the direction they had taken, and the alarm was given that the train was attacked by the enemy. Capt <sup>and</sup> Rich Lieut Col W. J. Pittman, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry with a detachment of forty nine (49) Infantry Soldiers made up by details from the different Companies, was directed to proceed at once to the assistance of the train, and conduct it in safety, <sup>to the post</sup> but not to pursue the enemy. Lieut Granmond, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry was then ordered to report to Lt Col Pittman, with three or four men of the 2<sup>d</sup> Cavalry, and to intimate to him that

6  
order previously given, this detachment left the post within fif-  
teen minutes after the Infantry <sup>and</sup> soon joined it.

The force was consisted of three Commissioned Officers,  
Sergeant Six enlisted men, <sup>and</sup> two Citizens, Messrs Whately <sup>and</sup> Disher,  
Captain Brown having joined the command without authority, Lieut  
Col Pittsman being in Command of the whole. The detachment in-  
stead of proceeding towards the wagon train, disengaged very easily  
erably to the right, crossed Big Pine Creek <sup>and</sup> passing over the  
high grounds in a northerly direction, struck the road leading  
to Big Horn Riv. - This route they seem to have followed for a  
distance of about five miles, <sup>and</sup> were then attacked in great  
force by the enemy, Eight men were here killed, <sup>and</sup> from this point  
they appear to have retreated about one mile in the direction  
of the Post, leaving six more men scattered along the interval, far  
then retreat, was here arrested, the devoted band was surrounded  
it on all sides, and every man perished where he stood, but  
few Cartridge Cases were found on the ground, leaving the fact  
inferred, that they had exhausted their ammunition, <sup>and</sup> was help-  
less under the arrows of their savage enemy. Arrows were found  
fixed in the earth, pointing in all directions showing that they  
were completely surrounded. Sharp firing was heard from the  
vicinity of the Post, continuing for about three quarters of an  
hour, which caused reinforcements to be sent to their assistance  
This detachment commanded by Captain Van Dyke 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry -  
left the Post about noon, <sup>and</sup> marched in the direction of the fi-  
ring, but arrived too late to aid their comrades, or participate in  
the action, the enemy being in full view, leaving the field, their  
number variously estimated at from 1500 to 2000. Mounted  
Warriors, the arrival of a few wagons, caused them suddenly  
to disappear beyond the hills, the field now presenting a  
scene of a character, too shocking for description; the un-  
fortunate victims were scalped, denuded of all clothing, their  
bodies pierced with arrows, <sup>and</sup> subjected to the most fiendish  
indignities and mutilations; but information related to the  
incident <sup>and</sup> details attending their tragic fate, can only be de-  
rived at some future time from their destroyers.

The attack on the Wagon train, appears to have been  
only a feint, as it returned safely to the Post. Why Col Pittsman  
should have failed to join it, can only be conjectured, he may  
have seen from the valley that it was not seriously threatened

and his zeal for soldierly distinction, has determined to attack the enemy, the latter showing only small parties and leading him to the position selected by themselves. The various detachments, appear to have been differently supplied with Ammunition, some leaving with twenty rounds, others with forty. As the Cavalry arrived with the Spencer repeating rifle, having fifty rounds.

The force sent out to cover the return of the train, would have been sufficient to accomplish that object. As it is to be regretted that the will of the Sarago, should have caused it to deviate from that purpose.

No estimate can be made of the loss of the Enemy, as few pools of blood were found in different places, giving evidence of killed or wounded, and three or four dead horses were lying near the scene, I would further state that this report is compiled from the statements of several officers and others, who was at the Post at the time of the Massacre.

I have the honor to be Sir

Very respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
of W. H. Wells  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Brit Brig Gen. U. S. A.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney D. C.  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1864.

Comdg Officer  
Fort Reno  
D. C.

Captain :-

On the departure of Col Carrington from your post, you will furnish him with an escort of thirty men, commanded by a commissioned officer to accompany him to Fort Caspar.

Provide the party with a sufficient number of wagons that they may ride, both going and returning. As directed the officer, after the performance of that duty to return to Fort Reno, with his detachment and all other men belonging either to that post or to Fort Philip Kearney.

By direction of Lt. Brig Gen W. H. Wells.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> Infy.  
A. A. W. Genl.

Copy furnished, as ordered, to the Adj. Genl. at  
Fort Reno D. C.  
A. A. W. Genl.

8  
Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny, D. D.  
January 31<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Asst. Adj. Genl.  
Supt. G. A. S.  
Omaha  
N. D.  
7.

Sir:  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the Major General Commanding the Department dated 27<sup>th</sup> ult., enclosing report from Mr. Ballock Supt. of Fort Laramie, of the 20<sup>th</sup> of November last, & notice from a Cavalry Station had by Major Van Zoast 18<sup>th</sup> inst. with three Sioux Indians, on the day previous.

Having arrived at the post & assumed command of the District, as reported in my communication of this date I desire to state my reasons for the distribution of the several Companies from Laramie, and to explain my apparent inactivity.

A Company of Infantry was left at Fort Reno, subject to approval for the purpose, not only of giving greater security to that post, but to afford ample protection to herding & other parties, necessarily obliged to labor, or herd at some distance from the station. I believe this condition is now fulfilled, & I feel no anxiety, in regard to the safety of that post.

My further design was to detach a Company of Cavalry & one of Infantry under Major Van Zoast, for Fort C. F. Smith, assigning to him the Command of that Post, but thus far, this movement has been delayed, during the past two weeks, violent snow storms, have been of such frequent occurrence, that the various have become impassable for wagons, or even by great labor in shoveling, rendering progress extremely slow and uncertain, the latter part of our march from Fort Reno, was attended with great difficulties, the weather during the whole journey being extremely cold & stormy. Beyond this point the quantity of snow is very much greater, than towards Reno, & the road in many places, difficult of transfer, loaded wagons, even in summer, Mountains, which have been cut out, pronounced it impassable at this time except at great labor, & expenditure of much time, slow progress in that direction would enable the enemy to concentrate on the road, harass the command & perhaps cause his retreat, I shall send the Cavalry in that direction with Infantry.

in empty wagons to reconnoitre, break the road, and report its  
 Condition, I have made every effort to open Communication -  
 with P. J. Smith, by Couriers, but thus far without success, but  
 for the depth of snow, they would undertake it, as it is, they  
 refuse to go, except under the most extravagant terms of com-  
 pensation.

In future, I expect to transmit the mails more promptly  
 and with more regularity, recently however, I think the Com-  
 manding General has reason to complain, but the last Express  
 has been delayed a few days, to accompany Col Carrington, to-  
 wards Fort Caspar. In my report from Fort Reno, of the  
 31<sup>st</sup> ult. I stated that the force now in this District was suf-  
 ficient to keep open the line, in its whole extent, but in view of more  
 recent information, in regard to hostile combinations (allu-  
 ded to in Gen Cooke's letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult.) I desire to modify  
 that statement, and make it less positive, in regard to the way  
 to P. J. Smith, it crosses Sougue river on which at several points  
 comes down, it is believed the main body of the Indians is en-  
 camped and in very large numbers, it seems therefore to be, and  
 is so considered, the point of danger. In the transmission of  
 mails below, I would recommend if practicable, that a mail  
 station be established at Star Creek on the Platte, provided the  
 river can be used at that point, and arrangements be made  
 for certain crossing of the river, it would save both time and dis-  
 tance. Indian Scouts would be invaluable to me, in the  
 present condition of affairs, but I am entirely unable to em-  
 ploy them. From information recently derived from Lar-  
 aund, I have reason to believe that the Indians have estab-  
 lished their villages low down on Sougue river, near the  
 Yellow Stone, from whence it is their design, to harass, with  
 their war parties, all movements, along this road. Their means  
 of subsistence, seem to be abundant, game of all kinds is  
 plenty, and their being low down towards the Yellow Stone, they can  
 have no difficulty in grazing their animals. For a more  
 full exposition, of my views in regard to present and future  
 operations I beg leave to refer to my communication of the  
 31<sup>st</sup> ult. from Fort Reno, and in regard to supplies, transporta-  
 tion, buildings &c, to that of Fort King Gen Landy, V. G. M. to the  
 Chief Q. M. of the Department.

I have the honor to be Sir  
 Very Respectfully,

Official

1<sup>st</sup> Dist 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. of Mts. G. Mts.

Young Chief Survey  
 (signed) N. H. Wessely  
 Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
 Bt Brig Gen. U.S.A.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
 Fort Philip Kearny D.D.  
 January 22<sup>d</sup> 1867.

A. Q. M.  
 Ft Reno  
 D.D.

Sir:-

A train of fifteen wagons, with team this post tomorrow for Fort Reno, with an escort Commanded by a Com. Missions Officer. You will as soon as possible send three wagons back to this post, loaded with 25,000 pounds of Com. rations to Bt Brig Gen G. B. Dandy A. Q. M. who will return the necessary receipts. You will so distribute the loads of the wagons, so to have a sufficient number of empty wagons, to carry the escort.

By direction of Bt Brig Gen N. H. Wessely.

W. H. Bryant  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
 a. a. a. Genl.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
 Fort Philip Kearny D.D.  
 Jan'y 23<sup>d</sup> 1867.

Comdy Officer  
 Ft C. D. Smith  
 D.D.

Colonel:-

Mr Van Volzak, with a Company leaves this post tomorrow for Fort C. D. Smith, by way of the mountains with team & mules. The road is heavily blocked with snow & some places, rendering the transit of wagons, so slow & difficult, that I have just determined to communicate with you by some other means, I desire to send you a Company of Cavalry & one of Infantry, but am not well informed as to your resources. Send the messengers back as soon as practicable, with all information that will be of service at District Head Quarters. Now are you supplied with long & short forage, clothing & fabricated stores, send your any recent information as

Copy furnished to Mr. Wessely, N. H. Wessely



To the present location of the principal Indian Camps, have they formed any new combinations, is any portion of the Crow Nation disposed to be friendly, and will they convey information, have any hostile demonstrations been made against you, and can you state the condition of the road to this post, in reference to exposure from hostile Indians. The Major General Commanding the Department is extremely anxious for information in regard to the condition of this district, even to minute details, can you suggest a good and practicable plan for conveying regular intelligence between the two posts, say twice in every month.

I have the honor to be,  
Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt Servant

Official  
Thos D Brent  
1st Lt 18th Inf. A.A.A.

(signed) H. W. Merrill  
Lieut Col 18th U.S. Inf.  
Br Sig Gen. U.S.A.

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Br Philip Kearney, D.D.  
27th Jan'y 1867.

Starring  
10.

H. S. Link,  
36th U.S. Inf. Post Capt.  
Brk Phil Kearney D.D.

Sir,  
I have the honor to request that you furnish this office at your earliest convenience, with copies of General and such Special Orders as may be necessary for the information of these Head Quarters, and which have been issued since the 17th inst. at which time the Mountain District was revised.

I have the honor to be,  
Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt Servant  
Thos D Brent  
1st Lt 18th U.S. Inf.  
A.A.A. Gen'l.

Head Quarters, Mountain Dist  
Fort Pick Kearney, D.D.  
29<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1867.

Proctor  
11.

Lt. Captain  
36<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf. Camp Fort Reno, D.D.

Sir,  
I have the honor to herewith  
return for Correction, Your Monthly Report of Fort Reno D.D. for  
the two days ending January 20<sup>th</sup> 1867.

I have the honor to let  
You Recy  
Yours Obedt Servt  
Wm D Barry  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
a.a.a.g.w.b

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Pick Kearney, D.D.  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Proctor  
12.

Lt. Captain  
Camp Fort Reno D.D.

Sir,

In consequence of the scarcity of forage  
it is necessary to limit the ration of Corn at your post to four  
pounds, until additional supplies are received. A wagon train  
from this post has been summoned for Fort Reno, which you will  
cause to be loaded with Corn, invoicing the same to Rich Big Tree  
Dandy, A.C.M. It is believed that with the reduction above stated -  
15,000 pounds, received for your post, will be sufficient until more  
Corn arrives. You will therefore, cause all excess, over that amount, to  
be sent to Paul Dandy.

Should your supply of forage, eventually become  
exhausted, you must in your own judgment, cause work and give  
the public animals, every possible opportunity for grazing. Should  
the excess of forage above 15,000, pounds, be more than the train  
can safely carry, you of course will only send such load, as is  
convenient for travelling in the present season.

By direction of Rich Big Tree N. H. Wood  
Wm D Barry  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
a.a.a.g.w.b

Copy furnished A. A. G. W. B. Dept of State,  
at N. W. Fort, 27<sup>th</sup> Sep.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearny D.C. Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Captain J. S.

Captain 56<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. Camp Fort Reno. D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you furnish me at your earliest convenience a list of the contents of boxes of Ordnance Stores transferred to you about the 12<sup>th</sup> ult by the Post Brig Gen Commanding, who also desires to know if the Arms Chest has been added to his Invoice.

I have the honor to be Captain.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt.

W. D. Strick

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
a.a.a.m.b

Head Qrs. Mountain Dist  
Fort Phil Kearny D.C.  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adj General.

W. D. Strick

Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following Blanks.

32. Returns Department.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt.

W. D. Strick

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
a.a.a.m.b

Head Quarters, Mountain Dist.  
Fort Shilb Kearney, D.D.  
July 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Procter

Captain J. L.  
36<sup>th</sup> W. I. Inf.  
Comdg Fort Reno, D.D.

15.

Sir.

In reply to Your Communication of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst requesting to be furnished a few blank Post Returns, I have the honor to state, that we have none on hand and recommend that You make a requisition direct upon the Adjutant General, U.S. Army at Washington, D.C.

I enclose You however, a few, obtained from the Post Adjutant

Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt Servt  
W. S. Smith  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> W. I. Inf.  
A. A. Agent.

" Fort C. J. Smith M. D.  
" February 9<sup>th</sup> 1867

Brut

Lieut. J. L.  
" A. A. G. Mt. Mountain Dist. Dept. Matter.  
" Fort Shilb Kearney, D.D.

16.

Lieut.

I have the honor in reply to Communication from Dist Head Qrs, Ft Shilb Kearney, D.D. dated Jan'y 28<sup>th</sup> 67, to state for the information of the Federal Comdg.

First, As to the Q. M. Store at this Post.  
Articles of Clothing, Camp, and Garrison Equipage, required for this Post, for two Companies, for the fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 67, are as follows:- 200. Forage Caps, 150. Uniform Coats, - 250. prs. Drawers, 250. Man's Sack Coats (linen) 250. Man's Shirts. 150. prs. Drawers, 250. prs. Stockings, 200. prs. Pique Boots - 100. prs. Surch Boots, 75. Woolen Blankets, 12. Camp Kettles, 12. Mufflers, 100. Ars handles, 2. Drums, 2. Fifes; of Forage Sufficient  
Second, As to Subsistence Store, the kind and quantity required for two Companies for the fiscal year, ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 67, is as follows.

Original copy furnished to Dept. of War, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 67.  
Extract furnished for the information of  
the King's Co. Librarian, C. G. of Mount. Dist.

"Flour, 16,875 lbs. Beans, 3000 lbs. Apples, Candles, 125 lbs.  
 "Fresh Beef, 10,000 lbs. Salt 1,875 lbs. Pepper 87 1/2 lbs. For four  
 "Companies in addition to double the amount of the foregoing  
 "require of Rice 1,000 lbs. Green Coffee 1,000 lbs. of Tea 75 lbs.  
 "Requisitions for the above articles of Ordnance Subsistence Store  
 "will be sent to the Chief Q. M. and C. S. of the Dept. by this  
 "mail, also Statements of amounts on hand"

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servt  
 (Signed) W. C. Kinnear  
 Capt 27 W. S. Inf.  
 Comd'g Fort

Official  
 M. D. Brush  
 1st Lieut 18th W. S. Inf.  
 a. a. s. m. b.

Wood Quarters, Mountain Dist.  
 Fort Hill Kearney, N.D.  
 July 14<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Asst Adjt Genl

Dept of the Platte.  
 Omaha N.D.

Sir:  
 As there may be extensive operations from this vicinity  
 during the ensuing Autumn, requiring a large amount of supplies,  
 I have the honor to request, that an experienced Officer, of the  
 Subsistence Dept, be assigned to duty at this Post  
 I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servant  
 (Signed) A. W. Woodco.  
 Lieut Col 18th W. S. Inf.  
 Asst Adj Genl, U. S. A.

Official  
 M. D. Brush  
 1st Lieutenant 18th W. S. Inf.  
 a. a. s. m. b.

Head Quarters, Mountain Sisk  
Fort Pitt Kearney, D. T.  
February 14<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Proctor

Captain J. L.  
36<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf. Calif. Dist. Pac. D. T.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you make, and forward to this office at your earliest convenience, a report of the enlisted men now in confinement at your post, with names and dispositions of charges in each case, length of confinement and whether any of them can be recommended for release and restoration to duty.

Very Respectfully  
Yours obt. Servant  
A. A. A. Guib.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf.

Head Qu. Mountain Sisk  
Fort Pitt Kearney, D. T.  
July 14<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Capt Guib Asst.

Department of the Platte,  
Omaha, N. D.

Sir

I have the honor to report that on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst two enlisted men of this Command, (Sergeant Graham of Co. "G." and Sergeant Grant of Co. "E.", both of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.) volunteered to carry official dispatches from this post to Fort C. J. Smith by using Snow Shoe, by taking the route through the Mountains, by energy, perseverance and suffering, the journey was accomplished and the dispatches delivered. Having been furnished with a Guide, three horses, two pack mules, and a mail, these men left Fort C. J. Smith on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst for this post, which they reached on the 13<sup>th</sup>, having been attacked by Indians on the way, losing the mail and all their animals.

The road to the Big Horn river, having been for some time past too much blocked with snow for the passage.

of troops, and wagons during the present inclement season, respect-  
ful efforts have been made to communicate by Curiers, but as  
often failing, from defect of Snow & hostile Indians. Mountaineers  
refusing to go for a less Compensation than One thousand Dollars  
each,

In view of the important Service rendered by the above  
named Servants, the risk, Exposure, & Suffering, attending  
an Expedition, so dangerous, I respectfully & respectfully request  
favorable Consideration and request that a liberal Compensa-  
tion in money be allowed them, for the successful per-  
formance of this duty.

I have the honor Sir to be.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt

(signed) W. W. Wessells -  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf.  
Bt Brig Gen. U.S.A.  
Quincy.

Official  
W. W. Wessells  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf.  
A. A. S. Genl.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney, D. D. July 26<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Department of the State.  
Owaha, W. S.

20.

Sir - I have the honor to invite attention to that portion of my Com-  
munication to Your Office of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult, relating to the establish-  
ment of a Mail & Telegraph Station, on the State line, at Deer Creek. I  
have been informed that an Operator will be sent there, provided, he can  
have the protection of troops. And as it offers such an advantage over  
the present Station at Bridgus Ferry, in regard to distance from Fort  
Keo. I consider it important that the Station be so established, and  
the Mails sent there from this District. I think also, it would be  
well to inquire into the propriety of making it the route for transpor-  
tation of Supplies from Saranac, thus avoiding the difficult pass-  
age of the bluffs below Sage Gutz, in time of high Water in the State.  
I have the honor Sir to be.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt

Official  
W. W. Wessells  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 18<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf. A. A. S. Genl.

(signed) W. W. Wessells  
Bt Brig Gen. Quincy.

Commanding Officer  
Fort Reno, D.C.

Head Qrs. Mountain District  
Fort Philip Hanes, N.C. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 67.

21.

Sir,

In the absence of information from higher Authority relative to the Military Reserves of your Post it is important that a suitable reservation should be determined & announced at an early date, subject to the approval of the Dept Command. The accurate Survey has been made when the Service will furnish the Order to Secure to the Government a future supply of Wood. Coal. & Grass. It is suggested that the reserves be made as parallel lines, say three (3) miles wide perpendicular to the river. & extending four (4) or five (5) miles along it, above, and below the post, making it in all three (3) miles wide, and eight (8) or nine (9) miles long. You will report as soon as practicable your action in the case.

By direction of Lt Brig Gen W. H. Wood.

Thos Brown  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> W. S. Inf.  
N. A. S. G. S.

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Philip Hanes, N.C.  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Department of the State.  
Owaha, Neb.

22.

Sir,

Should it be the intention to complete the proposed arrangement of last summer of establishing posts at the Crossing of the Hellors Stone River. I would respectfully recommend that the force be designated as soon as practicable (say two Companies of Cavalry, and four of Infantry,) so as to be in readiness to move in that direction certainly by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, taking with them supplies for three or four months. Timber, for building purposes, is said to be abundant on that river, and if reports are well founded, a large portion of the supplies, both Subsistence and Forage, can be drawn from the Gallatin Valley, fifty miles beyond.

The Crossing of the Hellors Stone, is one hundred, and sixty miles from Fort C. S. Smith, and it may be necessary to establish



an interim dist. post.

Exclusion of the latter contingency. I have the honor to submit the following programme for the distribution of troops, to protect traffic along this line, during the coming season, and of which, judging from the past, appears to me to be necessary to effect that object. The territories between the several posts, to be constantly patrolled by the Companies stated below as movable, and that at the close of the traveling season to be withdrawn to Fort Vancouver, or other suitable locations for winter quarters. It may also be found advisable to establish an additional patrolling force between the Big Horn, and Yellow Stone Spring.

In addition to these precautions, wagon trains, whether public, or private, should not depend entirely upon the troops for safety but should be imperatively required to move in such numbers, and under such organization as would give reasonable security to themselves.

At Post of Big Horn River.	<u>3.</u>	Co. Infantry	(movable)
" Fort Reno	<u>3.</u>	" "	(Stationary)
" Crazy Woman's Post	<u>3.</u>	" "	(movable)
" Bear Creek	<u>1.</u>	Company	"
" Fort Phil Kearney	<u>5.</u>	Infantry	(Stationary)
" " "	<u>1.</u>	Company	"
" Big Horn Spring	<u>4.</u>	Infantry	(Movable)
" Little Horn "	<u>2.</u>	Company	"
" Fort C. & Smith	<u>3.</u>	Infantry	(Stationary)
" " " "	<u>1.</u>	Company	"
On Yellow Stone	<u>4.</u>	Infantry	"
" " "	<u>2.</u>	Company	"

I have the honor to be Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant  
 F. W. W. Wells  
 Lt. Col. General U. S. A.  
 Big Horn Mountain Dist.

Head Quarters, Mountain District,  
Fort Philip Kearny, N.D.  
March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1867.

Commanding Officer,  
Fort Reno, N.D.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you forward to this office at once, Monthly Returns of troops, stationed at Fort Reno, for the months of January, and February, & respectively - Returns for these months have not been received.

I have the honor Sir to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

W. L. Branch

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 12<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
A. A. S. Quib.

Head Quarters, Mountain District,  
Fort Philip Kearny, N.D.  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1867.

Genl. S. Post Regt. Quib.

S. O. M. U. S. A. 2<sup>d</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> Mt. Mountain Dist.

Fort Philip Kearny, N.D.

I have the honor to furnish for your information and Extract of letter from the Major General Commanding Department, dated "Head Qu. Dist. of the Mts. District, Helena, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1867."

Post Regt. Quib J. H. Hensley

Chief of Mountain District

Fort Philip Kearny, N.D.

General -

I was pained to hear that scum has made its appearance amongst your troops. I have ordered a large supply of anti-scum pills to be sent you at once from Fort Serrano. I wish they would not be sent, as they will freeze on the way. The Commissary will have a quantity of fresh potatoes pickled and in that way I hope they will reach you in condition to arrest for the progress of the disease.

"The Commissary Dept has complained that no returns can be gotten from Fort Phil Kearney. I wish you would have this corrected and have returns rendered promptly."

I am General

Very respectfully

(Signed) O. O. August

Brig Major Genl.

"Quincy"

I have the honor to be General

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

Thos D Brach

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 15<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.

A. D. C. Genl.

Head Quarters, Mountain Sick

Fort Phil Kearney, W. D.

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant

General Assistant

Department of the Platte.

Owaha, Neb.

25.

Sir,

The Communication of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. from the Major General Commanding the Dept has been received. I am aware of the irregularities and gross neglects heretofore existing in the Subsistence Dept at this post, in regard to the rendition of required reports, but such will not be the case in future. Since my arrival here in January, Annual and partial estimates of stores have been sent to the Chief Commissary (except that for Salted goods which will be forwarded the first mail) and stated reports have now been made to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February last.

The prevalence of scurvy is due to the total absence of all fresh vegetables for some months past, it is extending rapidly among the Companies, comprising the old garrison, and I have no hope of arresting its progress, until the weather will permit the transportation of vegetables without freezing the ordnance. Anti-Scorbutics furnished by the Subsistence Dept may possibly delay, but are entirely ineffectual in effecting

as cure of that frightful disease. The supply of dried beef has been exhausted for several weeks past. And the troops are dependant upon hunting parties for that essential part of the ration, but the supply thus furnished is irregular and uncertain.

Communication with Fort C. D. Smith is virtually impracticable, the same obstacles to all efforts in that direction as have been heretofore reported by me still exist, and even to a greater extent than at any other time. The winter has been one of extreme rigour, and so much of the present month has been very stormy and intensely cold. The roads are blocked with snow rendering travel exceedingly difficult even in the direction of the Platte.

The troops have been much exposed in the performance of necessary duties, many have been frozen more or less severely, and several amputations have been performed, as soon as conveyance could move, the road to the Big Horn will be opened by force, and Garrison sent in the meantime if it can properly be done.

The great amount of labor now required, particularly by the procuring of fuel, the severity of the weather, and the quantity of snow, prevents practical military instruction and exercise, but these duties will be thoroughly attended to, as soon as it is practicable to do so.

I can find no records whatever at this post pertaining to the Old Aqueduct District, and no instructions from Dept. Head, Qr. prior to 21<sup>st</sup> of December last.

Should it be determined to commence offensive operations during the month of April, it seems to be important that a full supply of forage, should be sent with, or in advance of the expeditionary forces, as in that month, the resources of the country cannot be fully depended on for the subsistence of the animals.

I have the honor Sir to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

W. W. Phelps

Lieut. Col. 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.

Big Horn U. S. A.

Quay District

40  
No. 1. Quar. Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearny, D.S.  
March 18<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Kearny

Capt No. 3.

Quadr Fort B. F. Smith No. 1.

Captain,

26.

Your letter of July 26<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> have been rec<sup>d</sup>. The Curious find in number, arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> with our packages of mail matter, Supts Frank and Graham, and Boyer the half bred. Your camp with your last mail was attacked by Indians near Little Horn River, losing their mail and animals. They however brought in our packages of official mail containing report of affairs at Fort Smith, supposed No of Indian etc. and private letter to Gen Wesley.

Your Estimate for, and reports of Commissary, and Quarter Master Store, and other supplies have been duly forwarded, as well as your requisitions for Ordnance and Ordnance Store.

The load by the same Curious find 151 packages of mail matter, a large quantity of mail yet remains here for you, which will be sent at the earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be Captain  
Very Respectfully,

Your obt Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Wm D. Brown  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
A. A. S. G. I. G.

No. 1. Quar. Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearny, D.S.  
March 18<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Salmon

J. W. Rankin S. I. G.

Quadr Fort Laramie, D.S.

General.

27.

Your Communication of July 18<sup>th</sup> to Dept No. 1. Qu. and telegraphic reply of 28<sup>th</sup> ult. relative to Mail Service, have been received.

In the present condition of the roads, the extensive diversity of the matter, and the almost total absence of forage I am unable to give this subject much attention, and do not deem it advisable to make any change until the opening of Spring. Your plans

of reestablishing a relay, at the South Cheyenne is good, the only objection being the great scarcity of grass, which may compel the furnishing of that station with hay for the winter. I have applied for an additional force, with the design of placing two Infantry Companies on the Forks of the Cheyenne, for the protection of travel. Should my application be favorably received, those Companies will be directed to construct a block house and Corral, as a place of security for supplies, and Animals, and this would naturally become a Station for the mail. The transportation of the mails is a very important duty, and should be entrusted to men of great resolution, and reliability, with knowledge of the Country and Indian habits. Travelling at night, is in some respects objectionable, but the Experiment can easily be tried. In passing to and fro along the road, it will be found necessary to use Light or Spring Wagons, as a general thing for the accommodation of Officers, joining this Station, and this always necessitates an escort.

I should recommend unhesitatingly the abandonment of Bridgier Spring as a Station, conveying the mails from Laraine to Las Cruces, from whence they could be distributed to Fort Casper, and this District. I am also of opinion that supplies for this District should pass by that route, though I am not personally familiar with the road, this only requires a Telegraph Station, a Guard, and a Ferry. It imposes more labor on Laraine than is now performed, but materially lessens that of this District and Fort Casper, besides placing us over and probably two days nearer the Telegraph line. Over this business I have no control, and as soon as I hear the wishes of the Dept. Commanding, relative to an additional force I will communicate with you more fully.

I have the honor to be General.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servt.  
J. W. Phelps  
Lieut. Col. 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
At Big Horn Spring

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny, D.D.  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 67.

Commanding Officer  
Fort Cas. D.D.  
Sir.

28.

A citizen named Mueggen has passed your post recently with a large quantity of Whisky, causing disturbances of disorder in a detachment of troops on the road. Your attention is called to the requirements of District Order No. 5, Part I, of July 16<sup>th</sup> 1867, in reference to the violation of the Acts of Congress.

It is reported that the Butler of this post has shipped a quantity of liquor for this District, from below, which you will cause to be stopped there, and sent back unless brought under the direct authority of the Secretary of War.

By direction of Lt. Col. G. N. H. Russell Comd.  
The 2<sup>d</sup> Regt.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> W. Infantry.  
A. C. H. G. C.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny, D.D.  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Department of the Platte.  
Omaha, Neb.

29.

Sir:

Having made efficient arrangements for the security of travel along the road in the manner proposed in my report of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and assuming that a force of friendly Indians, will be added to this command, it seems advisable to use them at once in suitable detachments for the purpose of reconnoitering the country, and to ascertain as accurately as possible the location of the principal camps of the Enemy; that is, such points, as their lodges, families, and property are concealed, making in the mean time active preparations to take advantage of any information thus obtained. Should the villages, as now seem to be the case, be still found out-

Copy by mail or by express furnished. Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 67.

the Yellow Stone, or near the mouth of Douglas, and Little Bear Rivers, it is believed that a depot can be established on the former stream by a wagon road leading along the ledges between the former and Jordan Rivers, the distance, as near as can be judged, not being more than seventy five miles, passing around the Hoop or Sautee range of Mountains.

The supplies being thus properly secured, it would become a starting point for one or more Columns, along the valleys of the two streams above named, and to the Yellow Stone itself. To provide for the contingencies of the Campaign, having passed the Yellow Stone, suitable arrangements should be made for crossing that river. A ferry boat (in pieces) with Cordage, Tar, Sashum &c. and if practicable, a Co-operating force from some point on the Missouri, near the Elk Horn, or Milk River, pack Saddles should also be supplied in the event of the Gun-ty being too rugged for the passage of wagons. As the hostile Combinations are believed to be numerous, and formidable, each Column should be of sufficient strength to attack with confidence and success, a force of five thousand mounted warriors, its flank and advance being well covered by active, well mounted partisan parties.

It is difficult at this time to decide definitely upon a positive plan for the operations of any particular Column, as every thing will depend upon the location of the hostile Camps, and they being temporary, can be readily moved from one point to another. Much will depend upon the enterprise and activity of the friendly Indians. The Yellow Stone is said to be from three to four hundred yards wide, and generally with a rapid current.

Should the hostile bands however, instead of establishing their Camps near the Yellow Stone, determine to take refuge in the Big Horn range of mountains, as supposed by the Commanding Officer of Fort C. D. Smith, they would, then, in all probability, be found in the valley of Wind River, or in those of its tributaries, a access to which, through the gorges of the Big Horn Mountains is impracticable for wagon trains. On this supposition a depot would be established near Fort C. D. Smith and the Expedition supplied from that point by means of pack mules. The Wind river valley is of great extent, having several tributaries, principally from the north, and is said to be the range of the Snake, and Sausak tribes of Indians.

I submit these views for the consideration of the Major General Commanding, knowing them to be imperfect, since our own



operations must depend entirely upon the movements of the enemy, and liable to such modifications, as change of circumstances might require.

The supply of material, transportation, and Subsistence stores in this District is very limited, but it is believed that ample provision has been sent to the proper Staff Departments.

It is proper to add, that the extent of Country requiring attention is so great, that no one person can be found here familiar with the whole, and information as to distances, practicability, &c. being derived from different sources is often conflicting and unsatisfactory.

A road is practicable from Fort Caspar, to the Wind River valley.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
H W Waples  
Capt Regt Cav.  
Quincy Dist.

W. D. Quantas Mountain District  
Fort Philip Henry D. C.  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Department of the Interior.  
Omaha Neb. J. C.

30.

I have the honor to report that on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. a Cavalry Soldier absent from the post without proper authority, and hunting in a northerly direction, returned hither to his quarters stating that whilst pursuing a buffalo, he had been shot at with arrows and chased for a short distance by Indians, adding further that he saw a considerable party of them, perhaps fifty in number.

On the following morning the ground was examined by two Experienced guides, who corroborated his statement reporting that moose tracks was plainly to be seen, indicating a party of thirty or forty, but as the steps was one upon another in the snow, the number could not be accurately stated.

Towards Evening of the same day, two Indians were seen in the same direction, making signals, who on being met by an interpreter proved to be two Com. bearing dispatches from Fort C. D. Smith's dead man was brought to the post and was shortly followed by three others of the same tribe and party. These Messengers had been

had days en route, stating that they had remained in their own Camp  
 nine days, traveling from a fire, they further stated that they had seen  
 no Sioux or Cheyennes, that they saw the Cavalry soldier above mentioned, but  
 endeavoring to attract his attention but being alarmed he was aware  
 that they fired no arrows at him, the guides on being further questioned then  
 came to the conclusion that they being themselves alarmed at the Sioux, had  
 over estimated the number of tracks.

The messengers having rested here and received the return  
 mail, left for the Big Horn, on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, accompanied by a  
 half breed belonging above, and by a Cheyenne division of cutting employment, in  
 that part of the quarter. The objection to this was made by the Indians, unless  
 they had proceeded two or three miles, they stopping and expressing friendship, told  
 the two men that they must return, that they had seen some Sioux on their way  
 down, that they would be likely to make more, and that they could not pro-  
 tect them. Finding the Indians determined in this the men returned, and the  
 Indians went on their way.

From this occurrence as an illustration of Indian  
 character, and arrived at the conclusion that the Corps are now on friendly  
 terms with the Sioux, but desire to remain neutral, at least until they see  
 a greater exhibition of power on the part of the government. The cir-  
 cumstances are suspicious, and the Cavalry soldier in his alarm, may  
 or may not have exaggerated the numbers, it is more than probable  
 that he did so.

Now how they will communicate with the Sioux, or what  
 will be the nature of the information thus ascertained, it is of course im-  
 possible to know, but I attach to it very little importance. The Com-  
 manding Officer of Fort C. D. Smith has been duly apprised.

I have the honor Sir to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

W. W. Phelps

Lieut Col. U. S. Army

at Fort C. D. Smith.

N<sup>o</sup> 1 Quarter, Mountain District

St. Paul, Minn. U. S. Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer

Fort C. D. Smith, Minn.

Sir,

The Commission appointed to investigate In-  
 dian affairs has, deems an interview with the principal chiefs of

the Mountain Cross, to confer with them relative to the treaty made at Fort Union last summer. You will please ascertain their wishes in this matter and send to them N<sup>o</sup>. 1. For the information of the Department Command. 11, their reply, stating at what time, and at what place they will meet the Commission. "Don Ball" has been instructed and can tell the Chief what he has learned here. It is desirable that messengers be sent through as soon as practicable. Let them understand that the Commission came from the President himself.

I should think it better to hold the Council, it is not necessary for the whole tribe to be present, but well represented, by their most influential men, with some of their young warriors, bringing with them their lodges, women and a full supply of provisions.

I have the honor to be Sir  
 Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servant  
 J. W. Nesbitt  
 Lieut Col 1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Inf  
 Ft. Riley Kan. 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 1867.

N<sup>o</sup>. 1. Quantico, Mountain District  
 Ft. Riley Kan., U. S. Feb 30<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer  
 Fort C. D. Smith N. B. G.

32.

I have the honor to acknowledge the arrival of the Mail from your post on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> inst brought in by Com. Indians, mostly 120 in number. And the receipt of letters dated March 24<sup>th</sup> (two) 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and each also copies of letters previously sent by Sagrants Trshaw and Grant and the Saints Royce. And by the party of Com<sup>o</sup> who arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, all of which have been previously received and acknowledged.

Your Estimates of Subsistence Store, Lists of P. M. Store, and C. O. and G. E. Tri-Monthlies for 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Copy of the Order assuming Command of the 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. and letters to Gen Dandy and Lieut Donnan have likewise been duly received and will be promptly and properly attended to. The private letters were duly posted.

The end by your of the same various your packages of mail matter, while quite a large quantity still remains which will be sent at the earliest opportunity.

I have the honor to be Captain  
 Very Respectfully.

Your Obedt Servant  
Wm S. Brewster  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
A. A. A. Genl.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearney, D. D. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer  
Fort Reno D. D.

33.

Sir,

In order to secure a sufficient supply of  
hay during the coming season, you will cause the best ground in that  
vicinity to be examined before it is entirely dry, and if necessary  
have it burned over, and prepared as well as possible for the mowing  
machines. This is a matter of great importance, and much will  
depend on your best judgment and energy.

By direction of Lt Brig Gen Wm S. Brewster

Wm S. Brewster  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry  
A. A. A. Genl.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearney, D. D. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer  
Fort C. D. Smith M. T.

34.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you  
forward to this office at the earliest convenience, Monthly Returns  
for January, February, and March. Your Monthlies have not been recd.

I have the honor sir to be

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant

Wm S. Brewster  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry  
A. A. A. Genl.

This journal has Dept. N. D. One

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearney, D.D. April 8. 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Departments of the State  
Omaha, Neb.

Sir,

I have the honor to request Office of Gen Order, Current Series, from War Department Division, and Department N<sup>o</sup> 100, for file in this office.

I have the honor Sir to be,

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

L. W. Sperry

Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.

Act Brig Gen. Army.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
Fort Mountain Def. April 12. 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Departments of the State,  
Omaha, N.B.

Sir -

The mail which left Fort Laramie, for the Posts in this District, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, was captured by the Enemy about twenty miles East of Fort Ring on the 2<sup>d</sup> inst, and as last reports, news of the dispatch was received, the latest dates received at this Post, as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. I have therefore to request that all Communications dated at Dept N<sup>o</sup> 100 between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March may be duplicated, and again sent to the different Posts. - The mail which left this Post on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, was also lost, by the upsetting of a raft in Tongue River at Fort Ring, it contained the last reports from Fort P. J. Smith -

I have the honor Sir to be,

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

L. W. Sperry

Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.

Act Brig General

Commanding.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist-  
Fort Phil Kearney, D.D. April 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer -

Fort Keug, D.D.

37.

Sir -

Your reports, dated March 31<sup>st</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> are received. Hunting Parties should not be permitted to go out, unless well organized and strong enough for their own protection. Indians sometimes drive Buffalo near camp to entice small parties out. The claims of Contractors for escorts, depends on the terms of Contract. You must use your own discretion, in affording them protection. Company Commanders should be required to give their attention, to the diet and clothing of these Nations. A good supply of Anti-Scorbutic is reported by the A.C.S. at Fort Keug the last of February, and they should not only be issued freely, but the men should be required to use them - Much depends on the individual efforts of Company Officers -

The loss of the Mail from Bridgman Ferry is much to be regretted, but it is hoped that the affair has been fully investigated, and the letters recovered, the vicinity must be thoroughly searched and the bodies found if possible, and decently buried, it is not believed that the Indians are yet out in strong parties, or that there are any serious apprehensions of an attack, troops have been applied for, and are now probably en-route. No report has been received from you relative to the Military Reserves of Fort Keug.

I have the honor Sir to be.

Very Respectfully

John A. Serravallo

Ch. W. Napier

Acting Gen. Supt. Dist.

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Phil Kearney, D.D. April 15<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer -

Fort Keug, D.D.

38.

Sir -

A train of Eight (8) wagons, leave this Fort to-day for forage, with which you will load if from your present supply, if the train of Contractor Porter, en-route to this Fort has not arrived, as the train mentioned is now at your post, or has already passed you, you must not load the wagons empty.

they may return empty. If Mr. Porter's train has not yet arrived, you will send the Crow, immediately, arriving to the Quarter Master of this Post.

By direction of R. Brig Gen N. H. Weesley  
Thos. Hornum  
Lieutenant 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
A. A. A. Smith

Head Quarters, Mountain Dist.  
St. Philip, Wyoming D. T. April 19<sup>th</sup> 67.

Commanding Officer  
St. C. S. Smith, M. S.  
Captain.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst a large party of Crow Indians arrived from St. C. S. Smith, bringing a mail, and many of the letters signed by you, stating who, and what they are. No acknowledgment has been received of this office, of the various parcels of mail sent you from this Post.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March last, we sent you four packages by Doos Bull a Crow Indian, and three companions. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March we sent five packages by five other Crows. Both parties run the same that you sent down with mail. In your next communication you will please enumerate in your acknowledgment the papers, and letters you have received from this office. The mail which arrived here from your Post, March 30<sup>th</sup>, was lost in crossing Torder River - by mail carrier Wilson near St. Rang. and the same day it was discovered that the mail party coming from Bridgno Ferry under charge of Mr. Paul Volzak was attacked, and had not been heard of since.

From the reports of your A. C. S. it appears that by exercising rigid economy, your rations may last till June 1<sup>st</sup>. This you must endeavor to exercise. The supplies of this Post, are even shorter than at yours, and we do not know when we will be able to send you assistance - If you are obliged to stop issuing any Company's parts of the rations, it must be made up by some other part in line. Assistance may possibly reach you before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June but you must not place absolute reliance upon it - but use all your discretion in making your supplies last. Trains may possibly now be on the road for this Post and St. C. S. Smith, but nothing certain is known. The latest advice we had from Larabee, was dated April 1<sup>st</sup> and arrived here April 11<sup>th</sup>.

By direction of Br Brig Gen M. H. Hensley  
*M. H. Hensley*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 10<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
 A. A. C. General.

Head Qrs. Mountain District -  
 Ft. Sub. Kanauj. U. S. April 21<sup>st</sup> '67.

Major General Assistant.  
 Department of the Platte.  
 Omaha, U. S.

49

Sir -  
 In consequence of the insecurity of travel, and the great  
 risk attending the exposure of small parties, it will be necessary  
 to transport the mail from this Post to the Platte River, by means of  
 wagons, guarded by Soldiers, until more points along the road are  
 occupied by troops, and as the traveling animals are in poor con-  
 dition yet, and poorly fed the mails for some time will necessarily  
 be irregular, and be frequently <sup>delayed</sup> -

*R. M. Spells*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Col 10<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
 Br Brig Gen Hensley.

Head Qrs. Mountain Dist.  
 Ft. Sub. Kanauj. U. S. April 22<sup>nd</sup> '67.

Colly Major Gen. Hensley.  
 Special Indian Commissioner.  
 Ft. M. P. Kanauj. U. S.

111

General -  
 Your communication by the Commanding Officer of  
 Ft. Laramie of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult has been referred by me, and I this day  
 inform you by telegraph that the principal Crow Chiefs are ready  
 to meet the Commissioner at this Post, having been invited to do  
 so under the direction of the Department Commanding. The Miss-  
 sionary is out of the question - they prefer seeing you at the  
 Big Horn, but was persuaded to fix upon this Post, as the place  
 of interview - A portion of the tribes will encamp here in a day or  
 two, and as soon as you arrive, the other chiefs agreeing to be  
 done as being notified. I hope that you will be no delay on  
 your part, as the question is one of great importance, they  
 have promised in good faith - and I have no reason to doubt



but they will observe if - If there is a failure on the part of the Commissaries, you will perceive if placed in a most embarrassing position, with regard to these Indians - and I am anxious to make their services available -

The road to this Post is perfectly practicable now, and a crew of fifty men is ample, - towards the Big Horn, it is dangerous, and I can only communicate with Ft. C. D. Smith by means of the Crow -

The information you desire, relative to the particular bands engaged in the massacre of troops in December last. Their numbers &c, may possibly be obtained from the Crow when you meet them, - the latter is the only friendly tribe within the limits of this District - but at the same time they are in treaty with the Sioux - I request you will inform me by special messenger when you will probably be here, what I may be able to do to the Crow when they inquire -

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt Servant  
G. M. Spells  
Lieut Col 15<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infy  
Bt Brig Genl  
Caidg -

Head Qrs. Mountain Dist.  
St Philip Kasauy D. C. April 25<sup>th</sup> 67.

Sandy St Brig Genl G. B.

Asst Qr. M. U. S. A.

Chf Qr. M. Mountain Dist

45.

General,

You are hereby directed to employ the following named men to accompany the Mail Carrier from the following dates viz

- Thomas Mallory - from March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Nancy Lohman " " 31<sup>st</sup>
- William Storey " " 31<sup>st</sup>
- Thomas Callahan " April 8<sup>th</sup>

These men to be employed at the rate of \$125.00 per month, and to be discharged, as soon as their services can be dispensed with -

Respectfully

Chf Quartermaster Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 67

Head Quarters, Mountain District.  
St Phil Kearney, D.D. May 4. 1867.

Commanding Officer,  
St. Regis, N.D. Sir,

45

In reply to your communication of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. you are authorized to discontinue the usual Tri-Monthly Report to this Office - rendering however, as Return upon the same form the last day of each month - which will answer the necessary purposes.

I have the honor Sir to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
Wm M. Wells  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and S. O. No. 18 - U. S. Inf.  
A. A. C. General.

Head Quarters, Mountain District.  
St Phil Kearney, D.D. May 14. 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant.  
Head Qrs. Dept of the Platte,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

46

Sir. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day, of the following General Order, viz -  
Head Qrs. Dept of the Platte, Number 17 P. O. 2 Copies of each.  
There are also required to complete the files - 4 Copies of each of the following General Orders -  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and upward.

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt Servant  
Wm M Wells  
Lieut Col 15<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
St Regis, N. D.

Head Quarters, Mountain Dist.  
St Phil Kearney, D.D. May 15. 1867.

Commanding Officer,  
St. C. D. Smith M. G.  
Colonel.

47

I have the honor to acknowledge the

receipt on the 13 inst, for 'Iron Rule', and party of eight (8) packages of mail, two (2) of which, was for the post, the same party returning this evening, take with them seven (7) mail packages for St C. D. Smith among which are quite a quantity of Blank.

In view of the utter impossibility of obtaining postage at this post, the Lt Brig General commanding directs me to say that it is useless in your forwarding hereafter any official documents to this office to be mailed. Mail matter thus received is necessarily laid aside, perhaps for indefinite periods - and consequently much delayed.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
Wm W. Wepell  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 4<sup>th</sup> R. I. No. 18 Inf. A. A. C. G. I. B.

Head Quarters, Mountain District.  
St Phil Kearney, D. C. May 19<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Major

General Assistant  
Head Quarters Department of the Platte.  
Omaha, Nebraska.

48.

Sir  
I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of this day of the following General Order, viz -  
Head Quarters Dept of the Platte, Number 15, C. S. One Copy -  
I am Sir,

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
W. W. Wepell  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt 18<sup>th</sup> R. I. Inf.  
Lt Brig Gen Quiry.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Phil Kearney, D. C. May 19<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Major

General Assistant  
Head Quarters Department of the Platte.  
Omaha, Nebraska.

49.

Sir  
I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz -

Military Div. of the Mo. Number 4 C. D. - 1. Copy.  
Shew are still required to complete files 4 Copies  
of each of the following General Orders -  
1. 2. 3. 4. and upward.

I am Sir.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servant  
J. W. Wepell  
Lieut. Col. 11. Inf.  
1st Reg. Gen. Corp.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St. Paul Kansas, D. C. May 21<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Secretary

Head Quarters, Department of the Platte,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

So.

Sir:

I have the honor to report for the information of the Major  
General Commanding, that from the best information now obtain-  
able, it appears that the main encampments of the hostile Indians, and  
to be found on Powder River at points below where it is joined by  
a smaller stream of the same name, and perhaps one hundred miles  
in a north westerly direction from this post. This has been report-  
ed to me at different times, by the Com. and a private party of  
that tribe is now out, for the purpose of ascertaining more def-  
initely, localities, intentions &c. Our men returned, I hope to be able  
to speak with greater accuracy, they have been about two  
days two weeks and the mail has been detained for their re-  
turn.

I have the honor Sir to be

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servant  
J. W. Wepell  
1st Reg. Gen. Corp.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St. Paul Kansas, D. C. May 21<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Commanding Officer

Fort Reno, D. C.

Sir.

Porter's train have had to unload for

57

Fort Laramie, and advantage is taken, to send by it as  
 Mail for the East. An Escort of twenty Jers must have been de-  
 tailed from this Regiment to guard the train and Mail as far  
 as Redgs Ferry. As this Mail is one of very great import-  
 ance, and the detachment too large for a New Co. Officer, you  
 will add to it such number as you may deem sufficient  
 for safety, and place the whole under a Commissioned Officer  
 under instructions to proceed to the Ferry, and return as soon  
 as practicable, with the first train for the District and bring-  
 ing any mail he may find there. No officer can now be  
 spared from this post.

By direction of Brig Gen W. H. Wright  
Thomas C. Fry  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant <sup>U.S.A.</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
 a.a.a.4.urob

Head Qu. Mountain District  
 Ft. Philip Kearny, D.T. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Sajantant General Assistant

Head Qu. Department of the Platte,  
 Omaha, Nebraska.

52

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following  
 General Order, &c.

4 Copies Head Qu. Dept of the Platte, Nos 18.

Four Copies of Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,  
14, 16, and 19, and required to complete office files -

Very Respy

Your Obedt Servant,

W. H. Wright  
 Br. Gen. Foundy -

Head Quarters Mountain Dist.

Ft. Philip Kearny, D.T. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867.

Sajantant General Assistant

Head Qu. Department of the Platte,  
 Omaha, Nebraska.

53

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of  
 Circulars, Dept of the Platte. Number 3, Current Order, 4 Copies

of each.

This are still required to complete files. 4 Copies of each of the following Circulars, Nos. 1, and 2.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

H. W. Waples

Act Brig Genl Comdg -

Head Qu. Mountain District

St Philip Kansas. N.D. June 7<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Telegram -

Adjutant General Assistant

Head Qu. Department of the Platte.

Owaha, Neb.

5-4

Sir.

Colonel Trues left for Big Horn to assist, with his Companies of Infantry and two of Cavalry, taking Supplies. The streams are high and may delay his march. Some day they were in camp near mouth of Little Powder, but doubt there were Sioux and some have had some booty, stolen by Indians in vicinity of this Post. Wait can you be sent out to assist Trues & forces.

H. W. Waples

Act Brig Genl

Comdg -

Telegram. 18. 9. 9.

Head Qu. Mountain District

St Philip Kansas. N.D. June 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant

Head Qu. Department of the Platte.

Owaha, Nebraska

5-5

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of the following - One Copy - Books of Troops -

Copies of Numbers 1 to 14 and 35 E.P. - and requiring to complete office files -

H. W. Waples

Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.

Act Brig Genl

Comdg -

Head Qu. Mountain District  
St Philip Kansas. A.D. June 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Head Qu. Department of the State  
Omaha, Nebraska.

56.

Sir - I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz -

Head Qu. Department of the State. Number. 26 - Amount Due

4 Copie of Each -

There are still required to complete files Four Copie, each of the following -

1. to 14, and 25

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant,

W. W. Phelps  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
At Big Bend  
Cindy.

Head Qu. Mountain District  
St Philip Kansas. A.D. June 17<sup>th</sup> 67.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Head Qu. Department of the State.  
Omaha, Nebraska.

57.

Sir - I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order. A.D.

Four Copie, Head Qu. Dept of the State, No<sup>s</sup> 23-24.

Four Copie of Number. 1. to 14, and 25, are required to complete Office files -

W. W. Phelps  
Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
At Big Bend  
Cindy -

Head Qu. Mountain Dist  
St Philip Kansas. A.D. June 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant  
Head Qu. Department of the State.  
Omaha, Nebraska.

58.

Sir -

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day, of the following General Order, viz-

Head Qu. Dist. of the Potts. Number 25 4 Copies Each -

Thus are still required to complete files. Your Copies Each of the following - 1 to 14 and 25.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant,  
W. W. Spells

Lieut. Col. 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
Br. Reg. Gen. Co. 17<sup>th</sup>

Head Qu. Mountain District  
St. Philip, Kan., N.D. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 67.

Adjutant General Assistant.

Head Qu. Department of the Potts.  
Owaho, Nebraska.

59.

Sir -

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz-

Head Qu. Dist. of the Potts. No<sup>s</sup> 22, 16, and 19 4 Copies Each -

Thus are still required to complete files. Your Copies Each of the following, 1 to 14 and 27 -

Very respectfully

Your Obedt Servant,  
W. W. Spells

Lieut. Col. 18<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
Br. Reg. Gen. Co. 17<sup>th</sup>

Head Qu. Mountain District  
St. Philip, Kan., N.D. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant.

Head Qu. Department of the Potts.  
Owaho, Nebraska.

69.

Sir -

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order C. S. 4 Copies Head Qu. Dist. of Potts. No<sup>s</sup> 20 and 21.

Your Copies of Number 1 to 14 and 27 are required to complete office files -

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant,  
W. W. Spells  
Lieut. Col. 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.  
Br. Reg. Gen. Co. 17<sup>th</sup>



Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip, Kansas, D. D. June 18, 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant

Head Quarters, Department of the Platte.  
Owahas, Nebraska.

61.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz -  
Head Department, numbers 1 to 52, inclusive, Current Series 4, G. O. in Each.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

W. M. Sperry

Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.

At Brig Gen. U. S. A.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip, Kansas, D. D. June 18, 1867.

Adjutant General Assistant

Head Quarters, Department of the Platte.  
Owahas, Nebraska.

62.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz -  
Head Quarters, Department of the Platte, numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5, to 15 inclusive - Current Series 4, Copies of Each.

I am Sir,

Very Respectfully.

Your Obedient Servant

W. M. Sperry

Lieut Col 18<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.

At Brig Gen. U. S. A.

Head Qrs. Mountain District  
St Philip, Kansas, D. D. June 27, 67.

Quartermaster Capt. R. B. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf.

Commanding St. C. V. Dist. W. S.

63.

Sir.

Your communication of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. and stating that "Dinner-Booth" and others, with big lodges of Crow was Camped on 31<sup>st</sup>.

and if desired, word would be sent them to come to this post, to wait  
the Commission has been received.

In reply, I am directed to state, that as that part of  
the Crow Nation, which came to this post on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, have had  
a Council with M<sup>r</sup> S. J. Kearney, the Special Indian Commissioner,  
and it is not necessary that I should speak of, should be sent here,  
those who have been at the Council, will tell the rest, what was  
done and said.

M<sup>r</sup> Richard, will carry this mail to your Cousin  
Sir - (6) - Package -

I have the honor to be Captain -  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant -  
Wm D. Brown  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant <sup>and</sup> R. O. M. 18<sup>th</sup> Regt. U. S. A. -

Head Quarters, Mountain District,  
St. Philips Agency, N. M. July 5<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Richford  
62.

St. Louis Co. Mo.  
Adjutant Adjutant General  
Department of the State -  
Ourok, Neb.

Sir -  
I have the honor to report my arrival on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst at this Post  
with the recruits for the 18<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Regts - (the former being distributed  
at various Posts along the route,) together with the Supply Train, for  
the Posts of "Russ", Kearney," & "O. D. Smith," in compliance with Special  
Order N<sup>o</sup> 67 from the War Dept. Department of the State, dated at Ouchos,  
April 17<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Since my report from Fort Sedgwick of date May 27<sup>th</sup> I have the  
honor to state, that I left the latter place at 9. AM May 28<sup>th</sup> & was  
at Pole Creek Station, at 10.30. AM May 30<sup>th</sup> & Camped, the road  
from Sedgwick was very heavy, owing to the continual rain with but little  
intermission since the 26<sup>th</sup>.

May 31<sup>st</sup> - Marched at 6. AM. roads heavy. Camped 18 miles from  
Pole Creek near a pond of rain water.

June 1<sup>st</sup> - Marched at 6. AM Arrived at Mud Springs at 8.30.  
AM Corralled & grazed the animals 24 hours. Marched to Kanran cis  
Post and Camped at 11. PM After passing Mud.

Springe, 3 miles, took left hand road, which is hilly <sup>and</sup> sandy, but better than the low hollow road, on the North Platte, which at this time was impassable, distance from last Camp 18 Miles.

Jan 2<sup>d</sup> - Wagon rolled out at 5 AM Troop marched at 7 AM, grazed the animals at 10.30 AM. Marched to Chimney Rock, Camped on the Platte at 3.45. PM. roads between Bent House Rock <sup>and</sup> the main Ranch, heavy sand & hilly, the river road was very bad from the latter place, to Chimney Rock being an alkali hollow for 6 miles, it may be avoided, by making a detour to the left, over the hills, the portion of the train that took the lower road, was two hours later, getting in to Camp, distance 18 Miles.

Jan 3<sup>d</sup> - Wagon rolled out at 4.30 AM Troop marched at 7 AM. Leaving Scotts Bluff. Camped at Pt McShells at 6 PM. roads good, distance 28 Miles.

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 7 AM Wagon rolled out at 4.30 AM Camped on Horse Cut at 2 PM. roads good distance 17 miles.

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6 AM Wagon rolled out at 5 AM Camped near Horse Cut at 5 PM 9 miles from Pt Laramie, Wagon Camped at 6 PM roads hilly <sup>and</sup> sandy, distance 23 miles, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 7 AM <sup>and</sup> Camped 1/2 mile below Pt Laramie, at 10 AM road very hilly, distance 9 miles.

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - Remained in Camp heavy rain, I was informed that a large delegation of the Principal Indians, from the Mountain District, were to meet the Commissioner from Washington, on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, concluded to wait, during it of importance, that I should know the result of the interview.

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Indians not arriving as expected, Marched at 10 AM being delayed by a fight among themselves, one of the Wagon Masters, being seriously wounded in the arm by a Pistol shot, after leaving Laramie, at short distance, received telegrams, to await the arrival of Maj Van Zoast <sup>and</sup> Pay Master, went into Camp on the North Platte 9 miles from Laramie.

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - Gen Bradley, Maj Van Zoast <sup>and</sup> Paymaster arrived at 11 AM

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6 AM roads very soft for 3 miles, next 6 miles very rough <sup>and</sup> hilly, Camped on Big Little Cottonwood Creek, 3 PM. distance 12 Miles.

Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6 AM rained all night, <sup>and</sup> roads heavy and very hilly, commenced raining again at 7 AM with very cold wind and hail. Camped at foot of hills, at 10 AM distance 6 miles.

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6 AM road hilly, <sup>and</sup> very heavy, Camped

out North Platte, 4 miles from Redoubt Ferry at 12. M. distance March 15. 1861  
June 18. Marched at 6. A.M. Arriving at the Bluffs below the Ferry  
found the road several feet under water - made a detour to the left, made  
a road over the hills, and reached Redoubt Ferry at 10. 20. A.M. found the  
waters of the North Platte very high, and the Ferry rope not strong enough to  
 ferry the wagons over, Deputed to Sub. Salinas at Laramie, for rope  
and learned that Co. M. Dept was provided with rope and would be up  
tomorrow.

June 20<sup>th</sup> - Co. M. Dept arrived at 1. A.M. 4<sup>th</sup> of June ordered to put the  
rope across, and commenced crossing his command at 11. A.M.

June 21<sup>st</sup> - Co. M. Dept having crossed his command at 11. 30. P.M. commenced  
crossing the Supply Train.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - All the Command crossed at 6. 30 P.M. and camped two miles  
above the Ferry.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Marched at 6. A.M. roads fair, sandy in places -  
Camped at 1. 30. P.M. 3 miles above Fort. Calumet distance 14. miles.

June 24<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6. A.M. roads hilly, through the bad land, or  
"Sand Hills" - Camped at 21. 1/2 miles opposite the - Fort. - and camped at  
11. A.M. on North Platte River, at the point where the road to Reno, leaves  
the Platte, distance 12 miles. Up to this point, the Camp being generally  
in the North Platte, water is not wanting, Grass plenty - but co-  
rroed, and did not reach St. Mitchell. Except that it may be had in con-  
siderable quantities on Camp. Hill. about 3 to 5 miles from the  
road, in the vicinity of Mud Creek Station. From St. Mitchell to last  
Camp, on the North Platte, road can be had with very little incum-  
brance to supply all ordinary demands.

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6. A.M. roads good to Brown's Springs, but  
hilly and rough to South fork of the Chuyand, Camped at the latter place  
at 2. P.M. distance 15. miles, but little water in the river, May be  
had by digging a few feet in the bed of the river, it is strongly alkaline.

June 27<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 5. A.M. roads hilly, reached Brown's  
Springs Camp at 9. 30. A.M. Crossed middle fork of Chuyand at 11. 1/2. P.M.  
to water, Camped on North Fork or Wind river at 2. P.M. distance 17-  
miles, plenty Wood and Grass, Water bad.

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 5. A.M. Crossed South of Wind River, 2.  
Miles from Camp, but little water, it is better however than in last Camp.  
Proceeded 5 Miles farther and pulled out to right of road, 1/2 miles to Carter's  
Springs, at 9. 30. A.M. and watered animals, water bad, and but little of it.  
Camped on Dry Fork of Snake River - at 11. 30. P.M. distance 26. miles -  
Wood and Grass plenty, Water scarce and bad, roads good but hilly -

June 29<sup>th</sup> - Marched at 6. AM roads good, Arrived Opposite Fort  
Reno. on Powder river, and Camped at 1.30. PM distance 17 miles.

Saw 30<sup>th</sup> Arrived Command of Fort, and assigned Major  
Jaw Wash 18<sup>th</sup> Inf. to Command of Post at Reno. in compliance with Order  
from Dept Head Qu.

July 1<sup>st</sup> - Crossed Powder river at 4. AM and left Reno at  
6. AM, leaving the route for the 18<sup>th</sup> Inf. and taking Co. D. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. with  
us to graze animals at Dry Fork 10 miles from Reno. at 10.9. AM.  
Plenty Wood and grass. Water bad and scarce. Camped near Round town.  
Ponds of right of road, 5 miles from Pappy Woman's Fork at 8.30. PM.  
Distance 21. miles.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marched at 6. AM Camped at Cauro's Springs at  
6. PM roads good, distance 20 miles, Water good as Wood, & Mag.  
was abandoned at this place by our men, after the loss of his animals, I  
had hauled to this Post.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Marched at 6. AM and arrived at Fort Kearney at 2.  
PM roads good, distance 17 miles.

No understanding when leaving Omaha, from the Genl  
Comdr's Dept. that the Pawnee Indians, or a portion of them, would over-  
take us at Ft. Kearney. I was disappointed that they did not do so,  
as I had used of the difficulties apprehended from the hostility of  
the Indians - however, this was not material, but since my arrival  
I think a portion, say 50, could be used to advantage.

I was very satisfied that a Preparative detail for  
of 100 men around Reno, say 100, and travel through this country, with safety, but  
it requires constant vigilance and activity. I believe that nearly all the  
losses sustained and through carelessness. Men become fatigued by  
this march, and are negligent for this reason. Small parties should  
not be sent out, but large or small, they must be constantly on the  
alert, I had no trouble on the route, although it was reported, that Indian  
depredations had continued every day, in our advance or rear, from Ft.  
Holt's City, to Sledge Creek. I had no means of verifying these reports, but  
we did not see any Indians.

From Sledge Creek to this place no word was received, except at  
Sage Creek. Our first camp after leaving North Platte river, and attempt  
was made by a small number (only 5, or 6 men saw) of Indians to  
stampede the herd, they were this evening in pairs and a pair of Minnie  
deployed, between them and the herd, when they retired after firing 3, or 4.  
shots at the camp, with this exception, I believe as Indians were seen  
upon the whole route, although some of the men reported that they  
could see some occasionally.

I had Considerable Sicknes, among both Officers and men, of the latter, Examined by the Surgeons at Reno, near the Source. I regret very much that it was not found judicious at Dept Head Qu. to send a Regiment with the Detachment, numbering (including Transpore) over 2100 men, Marching 600 miles through a hostile Indian Country, liable at any moment to come in Conflict with Indians.

I was unable to obtain any fresh meat at Ft. M. Placer, Capt Potter could only obtain 3 miserable Melons for Beef - In Buying the Salt was Capt. Morron's Ranch, they were Cook, at Sedgewick's obtained a Mangy Steer, that I doubt think could have survived the Storm of the following night, it was Consumed after successive boiling. I could myself with the belief that our Cattle procure Beef at Karamia. In this however, I was again disappointed, all Scouts obtained was one seal, Maj. Cushing informed me, that I should receive 120 Head at Bridger Ferry, but I arrived at that place with the same result, The A. S. Co. of the Detachment was not supplied with Beans, and only a small quantity of Rice, this is now of little use at this post, Somebody is at fault. I cannot be satisfied, upon promises, and I respectfully call the attention of the General Comd'g to this point.

At Sedgewick's Fort Sherman informed me that he was directed to hand me 60,000 rounds of Ammunition for the attached Muskets. The wagons being already overloaded, unless I could get Transportation at Sedgewick, I found it impossible to take it. Upon application to the A. S. Co. and Comd'g Officer of that Post, I was informed that they were ordered to retain all Transportation for the Expedition contemplated - I telegraphed several times to Department Head Qu. for authority to get the necessary transportation, but could get no reply.

After the delay experienced at North Platte City, in getting Transportation for Supplies, retaining the difficulty still exists that the Contractors will not make any effort, unless they can subscribe to a draught. and since coming over the road, considering the time required to make the trip, I respectfully but most earnestly ask that the General Comd'g direct - adopt such Measures as will insure the prompt forwarding of Supplies, needed at these distant Posts.

There is but a small quantity of Storage at this Post. I believe not to exceed 20 days Supply, if sent early or late in the season, but a small portion gets here, it is Consumed on the route, Storage should be sent at once.

We must have Supplies, or the Troops will be in the same

Conditions as they must last winter, and is no certainty of being able to get  
 Hay by Contract, if we must continue to make laborers of the Troops,  
 we must expect the disaffection that already exists, to increase, they  
 have already been used in that Capacity to such an extent, as to de-  
 roach in part their Efficiency as Soldiers, it is time some attention was  
 given them,

Although much has been done, yet a great deal must be  
 accomplished to make the Post & Camp habitable, Storehouses, for  
 the protection of Supplies must be built, Quarters for Officers and  
 Men, and roofs put on those already built, the Quarters at Reno.  
 (and I presume those at C. D. Smith are no better) are very poor, they have  
 no means or facilities for making blankets, and each has a Saw.  
 Mill, and Shingle Machine.

All our attention will be required to provide for the coming  
 winter, I have not had time to examine the Post sufficiently to make  
 a satisfactory report, but will do so, as soon as I can get reports  
 from Reno and C. D. Smith.

I trust you need more to urge the necessity for prompt  
 action in forwarding Supplies, than the Report, a few weeks  
 more or less, which you can communicate, in of no consequence.  
 But to us, days, even hours, are very important, the men Sabot.  
 Cars, Drags, Ammunition, &c. &c. &c. and Medical Supplies.

Very Respectfully

Yours Obt. Servant

Wm. E. Smith

Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf.

at Ft. Reno, D. T.

Comdg District

Head Quarters, Mountain Dist.

St. Philip's Kasany, D. T. July 8, 1867.

New York Major, General, 15<sup>th</sup> Inf.

Commanding Ft. Reno, D. T.

- 65 - Major,

You will please furnish the necessary escort for Det. Lieut  
 Geo. Hensell and party, from your post to the next Station,  
 and on the East of the detachment from your command not be-  
 ing relieved at the Camp of the 21<sup>st</sup> Inf. You will order it to pro-  
 ceed as Escort, to St. Philip's, D. T. returning to its proper Sta-

time with as little delay as possible.

By direction of Br Maj Gen S. Smith

Commanding Dist.

~~Wm~~  
Kantank 27 U.S. Inf.  
A. D. A. General

Head Quarters, Mountain District

St. Philip, Kansas, D.T. July 19<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Sandy Br Brig Gen S. S.

A. D. W. U. S. A.

Chf. Qr. Mtn. District.

Genl.

You will cause to be made at your earliest convenience, for the use of this Head Quarters, two (2) Round tables, three and one half (3 1/2) feet across the top.

By direction of Br Maj Gen S. Smith

~~Wm~~  
Kantank 27 U.S. Inf.  
A. D. A. General

Head Quarters, Mountain District.

St. Philip, Kansas, D.T. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Bradley Br Brig Gen S. S.

Commanding Post of C. J. Smith

General.

You will endeavor to ascertain the location of the principal Indian Camps, particularly of hostile Indians.

The Camp must be watched, and if possible, combination for hostile purposes prevented. Any demonstrations of a hostile character, that you may deem important, you will communicate as soon as possible that, it may be transmitted to Dept. Head Qr.

Very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

~~Wm~~  
Kantank 27 U.S. Inf.

Br Maj Gen. S. S.  
Chief District.



Head Quarters, Mountain District.  
St Philip Marry, N.D. July 18, 1864.

68. Drady Lt Brig Gen G.D.

Adj Gen M<sup>o</sup> Mountain District  
St Philip Marry, N.D.

General: You will turn over all the available stores you can  
dispose of with, in your department to Maj W.S. Gordon, 2<sup>d</sup> Car-

Superintendent  
Jno E Smith  
Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf  
At Maj Gen G.D.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip Marry, N.D. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

69. Drady Lt Brig Gen G.D.

Lieut Col 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf  
En - Route to Ft. C. F. Smith, N.D.

General: The Craig Company arrived at this post about 4 P.M. hav-  
ing left Ft. C. F. Smith on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, with a communication from Maj  
Bunton, a copy of which I send for your information,

With this information I consider your force too small,  
and send Major W.S. Gordon with the entire strength of his Company  
to report to you. I have no doubt, relying upon your judgment  
and vigilance, that this addition to your force, will enable you to  
get through without much difficulty, but it may be necessary to  
send two Companies back with it. Of this however you must judge  
when you get through.

I am, General

Very Respectfully,

Jno E Smith

Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry  
At Maj Gen G.D.

70. Drady Lt Brig Gen G.D.

Lieut Col 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf  
En - Route to Ft. C. F. Smith, N.D.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip Marry, N.D. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

General

Major Gordon with his Company, will leave here at daylight to-morrow morning to reinforce your command.  
If the Honble General directs that you wait for him to come up, he will join you about 10 o'clock.

By direction of Lt. Maj Genl James G. Smith.

*W. H. Murray*  
Lieutenant 27<sup>th</sup> W. I. Inf.  
A. A. A. General.

Head Quarters, Mountain Division  
St Philip Kansas, N. T. July 25<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant

General Amis Taub.

Head Qu. Department of the State.  
Omaha, Neb.

71.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following General Order, viz:-

Head Qu. Dept of the State, Humboldt - 4 Copies -  
Circular, M. D. M. - 1 -

There are still required to complete files, 4 Copies of Genl Order, No 27, C.S. Dept State -

Very Respectfully  
*Wm E Smith*  
Lt Maj Genl Comdg.

Head Quarters, Mountain Division -  
St Philip Kansas, N. T. July 26<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Adjutant

General Amis Taub.

Head Qu. Department of the State.  
Omaha, Neb.

72.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this day of the following Gen Order.

Head Qu. Dept of the State - No<sup>s</sup> 28-29-30 - C.S. - 1 Copy of the first and 4 Copies Each of the two last -

Respectfully  
*Wm E Smith*  
Lt Maj Genl Comdg.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip Kasany, N.D. July 27, 1867

New Beach

Maj Genl 18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf  
Commanding post of St. Louis, N.D.

73

It will be impossible to fill your  
the saw mill must be repaired, &  
requisition for lumber at present - before our saw runs again, &  
the probability is, you will have our Commissary Store, three days  
and informed that there is a train with 600 lbs of Commissary Stores, three days  
behind the train just arriving, which I presume has reached you in time.  
If this information is not correct, send up at once for Commissary Supplies  
which will be forwarded -

No your fort must be rebuilt. Send you a General  
plan, which I deem you to carry out - if too large, you can reduce it -  
By putting your buildings on the line, you save the labor of a Stockade  
making them a portion of your defenses, the Rations should be large  
enough to maintain twenty five (25) men and one (1) gun, in case  
of necessity, from which the fort and Corral can be swept in all directions  
(Your ground is favorable for such a plan. You will, I have  
no doubt see its advantage for defense by a small force, if necessary  
to land if - three (3) Posts for Guard duty on the Rations, will  
effectually Guard the fort -

I suggest the plan for Barracks, and Officers Quarters, which  
explain themselves, of their horrors. You can use your own judgment, but  
the General plan, I deem carrying out -

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
Geo E. Mearns  
Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf  
St. Philip Kas  
Comd.

Kitchford Lt Lt Col. N. G.

Head Quarters, Mountain District  
St Philip Kasany, N.D. July 27, 1867

74

Assistant Adjutant General  
Department of the Platte,  
Omaha, Neb.

Colonel

Since my report of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. having made the assignment

of Officers and recruits to the Companies of the 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. and transferred the troops contemplated by Special Field Order No. 2 Head Quarters, Dept of the Platte, dated at Ft. Sedgewick O. S. June 9<sup>th</sup> 1867. I have Carefully Examined the Post and its surroundings, the vicinity, not to the extent however, that I desire, and which I will do, as soon as possible, and beg leave to submit my views to the Genl Commanding for his consideration.

Although Col Carrington accomplished a great deal for the time he was here, yet much remains to be done, to make the troops at all comfortable, the Barracks and Quarters, now hardly put up, of logs, with dirt roofs, that last badly, they must be rebuilt, and Storehouses put up for the protection of Public Property. (Two Commodious Storehouses for S. & M. Store nearly completed) and my little time to do it. Owing to bad usage, the Saw Mill cannot be run more than half the time requiring Cartback tinkering, the other machine is being set up with doubtful success. The other Saw mill at the Post was burned down, the machinery was tinkered up and sent on, say Genl Bradley took it to C. D. Smith. Considering it better than nothing, I hope he will not be disappointed, it requires so much time for trains to reach here, that I fear we shall not receive the Machinery desired for these Posts in time to be of service this season. Contractors should be compelled to furnish transportation as required, or take the consequences. We not be permitted to consult their interests or convenience.

I saw at a loss to understand what could have induced Col Carrington to select this point for a post, unless to gratify some romantic whim, there is nothing to recommend it, a proper regard for economy in Expenditure, and labor, as well as the comfort of Troops, has all been overlooked. The Post has been laid out and built without system, or with a view to its defence by a small force, it can be overlooked from every point of the Compass, and the slightest movement by the Garrison, debilitating at once, by Erud as much as many feet, than we have to contend with. The railway for Dub. Quincy and Way, is, and must continue to be, erroneous, to say nothing of the constant labor of Troops requiring, a great cause of dissatisfaction to them, who find that instead of being Soldiers, they are required to labor for a mere pittance, compared with what laborers are getting, and hence the cause of many desertions.

At this season the Climate is very severe, I was told the ground is coming with snow, during some and a half months of the year, so that animals cannot graze. Hay thus becomes an important consideration. (If one has any Cattle, as I hope we will have, and then I would take occasion to say that the Cattle promised me at Laramie, have not been heard of.) They must be fed all winter, as well as horses and mules.

Hay cannot be had, short of 20 or 30 miles, possibly.

much farther. (I saw Considering the practicality of getting it from C. D. Smith.) Proposals to furnish two tons, was asked for by the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. <sup>and</sup> no bids received. Those who furnished Hay last winter, say they would not undertake it this year, for \$200<sup>00</sup> per ton. I fear I shall have to get what I can by the labor of Troops. Details for Guard went out very heavy, leaving but 170 men in garrison, this must be still farther reduced in a few days. I cannot send less than 100 men for any time 10 or 12 miles from the post with safety. If I do not succeed in securing Hay, I shall be reduced to the necessity of sending all Animals that can be disposed with, before the approach of winter, when they can be subsisted.

This Contract for Wood has been let at \$27.<sup>50</sup> per cord, this is, in addition to a few Cords, but 24 Six Mule Teams at this Post, 125 men sent up to C. D. Smith, with the troops, during their absence we cannot get material, the remaining are barely sufficient for police purposes. If this it was necessary to locate this Post near the summit of the Big Horn Mountains - Six miles farther out this road, at no greater elevation than (or very little) it could have been. (We may yet think to advantage, which I respectfully recommend) built either on Fairy Island itself, or near the road denoted in Dr. Carrington's map of the surroundings of St. Philip's Army, as the Wood road to the Detachment, near a large body of Pine timber, sufficient to last for several years, for Dried and Lumber that could be manufactured on the spot, thus saving large sums for transportation, in the labor of troops and Guard duty, for every wagon requires a strong Guard, the working parties must be protected by permanent guards, with equal advantages for grazing.

In Gros Creek valley, a Tributary of August River, 25 miles from here. Old Man Bridger informs me, that it is from 600 to 1000 feet lower than at this Post, that when there is from four to six feet of snow here, there is none in the valley, that Animals can subsist naturally all winter there grazing, that there is generally good Grass for Hay and plenty Wood and Water - this, if true, would have been the proper place for the Post.

I intended to examine Gros Creek valley, but with that view took the Cavalry on duty here - On the 17<sup>th</sup> when Tail Bradley, left for C. D. Smith, but the day turned out very stormy, and the men not being provided with shelter, and only two days rations, I returned on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> (having encamped at Bradley's Camp, 15 miles from here, the storm being so dense as to prevent him from moving) without accomplishing my object. A Courier also came in from C. D. Smith, with information from Mr. Panor, which I have the honor to forward. How

of this information. I found that Bradley's force (two Companies) too small,  
for safety. And ordered Br. Maj. Gordon, Comd'g C. D. 2<sup>d</sup> Cavalry, with One Mount  
Miss Horitzer, to join him, so that I must defer any Explorations, un-  
til the Cavalry returns.

If the information is correct and I have good reasons to believe  
it is, I consider myself very unfortunate, that I have not a force to  
strike a blow at this Camp. If it is the intention to furnish the rascals,  
and they should live, for they think the Government has not the power to do so,  
and that they can defy us with impunity, I think a golden opportunity has  
been lost, as this attraction will be fully occupied, by the train going  
up.

I hope the G. C. will return his train, at least to the spring, and  
see the condition of things, so that I can get his return, and conform to them.  
I regret very much that G. C. Sully and Co Saxton did not come up. I fear  
the Comd'g will lose confidence in my ability or disposition to protect them, and  
that they may join the hostile bands to save themselves, although they pro-  
fess friendship for us. Yet their intercourse with the Sioux, their close  
proximity of Camps, and trading with them, although they say they are forced  
to do so, looks suspicious. The number of Emigrants to Montana, over this  
route to date is 19, if it is the intention to keep this route open, I should  
think it could be done more effectively by keeping two miserable columns,  
of from 200 to 500 men each, constantly on the route during the tra-  
veling season, and always passing up, to other down, this route giving  
constant communication, and they could concentrate in a short time to strike  
a blow if opportunity offering. This force I should consider ample for  
that purpose, and would make the road safe, they could go into W. C.  
Quarters at Karamia, or Sidgwick, upon the approach of winter, when they  
could be subsisted and quartered most conveniently, and come as far  
up in the Spring as Emigrants could travel, say May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Arrow sent to the Cavalry and used on the plains  
The Half Blood Missouri Party, is best adapted to this service, and may be  
had at much less cost, the Indians with this force, and great long  
papers, in mobility, in that, has the advantage over us. They ride up  
and down the Staked Hills at full speed every few days (reports of which are  
sent) they will show themselves and attempt to shoot at us, but so far, they  
have not succeeded. On the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. they lost one Man and pony, both  
shot, but they are very anxious to keep out of range, and it is no use to  
pursue them.

A Irish Rodman Gun, would be a great acquisition for the  
defense of the Fort, they know so well the range of the Mountain Horitzer,  
or that it is of no use to us.

The Post of St Paul, is nearly out of Communication except in  
only having sufficient to last until August 18. I have instructed Major  
Law to reach if he does not receive any, by the time my Communication  
reaches him, to send him at once for some. We made tools for building  
for some time. The Post is in a very dilapidated condition.

I will forward reports from P. J. Smith, soon as recd.  
A Courier arrived today from P. J. Smith, bringing a Communi-  
cation from Gen. Bradley dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. Stating that he had just  
arrived, all right. And found the garrison in good order, he had no  
trouble on the route and saw but few Indians, although they showed  
themselves upon the hills. Every day in small numbers.

"Crazy Head," "White Mouth," "Iron Bull," "Left Hand," and  
other Crow Indians, are camped on the Little Horn with 300 lodges,  
and informing him that the Sioux were still camped on the Rose Bud, and  
wreaking him to go with them and attack their villages. And say that  
the Sioux have no powder, and that on Crow whip them. He mentions this  
as an incident of the trip and attaches no importance to it. And says  
the Crow are very friendly. And promising to see him at the Post, as soon as  
they had finished killing Buffalo. And go when he told them, the in-  
tention of the Post is, that they have gone to the neighborhood of  
the Sioux Camps, to trade with them, and that the Sioux will get a por-  
tion of the powder, given the Crow at the post by Judge Keim, who  
tells me, he gave them about 150 lbs. Gen. Bradley does not express  
an opinion, not being acquainted with them, but thinks they  
are not much to be relied on, but will treat them kindly.

I have the honor to be Colonel

Very Respectfully

Samuel Serrant

Major & Assistant

Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf

Act Major Gen

Coin's g.

Head Qu. Mountain Dist -

St. Philip's Harmony W.D.

July 28<sup>th</sup> 67.

Ordnance Chief of Dept of the Platts.

Ouahas, Neb.

Sir -

I have the honor to state, that owing to

the insufficient supply of Ammunition for the Albuquerque  
loading Arms on hand, I have not turned over in compliance  
with instructions, the Springfield Light Mus. Kf. formerly  
in possession of the troops, there being a quantity of Am-  
munition Cal '58 on hand, adapted to that arm, I deemed  
it prudent to retain them a short time, to meet any emer-  
gency that may arise requiring the Expenditure of Am-  
munition and the use of more Arms.

Very Respectfully  
Yours Obedt Servant  
Geo E Smith  
Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf  
Act Maj Gen  
Coidy-

Head Quarters Mountain District  
St Philip Army, D.S.  
July 29. 1867.

Thompson Captain E. F.  
Comdg Co. "K" 27<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
Sir

On the event of attack, by largely super-  
rior forces of Indians, Captain Thompson, will hold his position, by  
securing his defenses with the means at hand (Wagons) and will send  
the Courier Dusyer to report his situation to his Fort. (or C. O. Smith  
depending upon his proximity to either point.) He will not under any circum-  
stances act upon the offenders, only so far as may be necessary to pro-  
tect his train.

Captain Thompson will turn over his train to the Senior Officer  
of the escort from the troops belonging to the Garrison of St. C. O. Smith, if he  
should meet them on the road to this place, and return with Major Jordan. On  
the event that Major Jordan's Company should be the only Escort, Captain  
Thompson will proceed to St. C. O. Smith, and return with the Company or  
else from that Post to his proper Station, without delay.

By direction of A. Maj Gen John P. Smith.  
W. H. ...  
Lieutenant 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
A. C. A. ...



Head Quarters. Mountain District.  
St. Philip Kearney, D.D. 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1867.

Order Lt Major D.S.  
Captain 2<sup>d</sup> U.S. Cavalry.

-77-

Major:  
The Comd'g Officer directs me to call your attention to the last Paragraph of your Order, requiring you to return to the Head Quarters, without delay. He regrets very much that you have overstepped the time allotted to you to make the trip, as it has very materially interfered with his plans.

You will return immediately -

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

*[Signature]*

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.

A. H. C. Davis of

Head Quarters. Mountain District  
St. Philip Kearney, D.D. August 4<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Order Major Davis  
18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry.

Commanding St. Louis, D.D.

78

Major:

The Comd'g Officer of the District, directs me to inform you that on Friday Morning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Company C. 27<sup>th</sup> Reg. under the Command of Lt Major Jonell sustained an attack at the Spring, by an overwhelming force of Indians. The Indians made their appearance in large numbers all around the Fort about Sugar Mountain. Getting fire to the ground and almost surrounding the Garrison in Saw No. At this moment the Indians developed, it became evident that they were attacking Maj Jonell. Company. And on Monday arrived an Escort to Contractors, supplying the Fort with fuel from the Spring, two Companies under Command of Lt Co Smith. And as Hostilities were immediately put under orders to move, the Comd'g Officer little delay in getting Wagon to accompany the Command. They did not get off from the Fort till several O'clock.

Upon Co Smith giving his Armistice, as ordered, for the purpose of signaling Major Jonell the Indians at first showed signs of consenting his advance, but afterwards retired across the Spring. Major Jonell was first engaged about 10 A.M. the fight was continued at intervals until about 1/2 past 11 A.M. when Co Smith gave up the Indians of his approach.

The Casualties in Maj Forrest's Company are as follows.

- 1 Lieutenant John C. Sumner Co. C. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. Killed
- Private Doyle and Haggerty " " " do
- " Dunning and Looney " " " Wounded
- " Kethledge, Laag and Harris " " " Missing.

Maj Forrest's command was protected by Sagou Cochis and Two Young Stockade. It is believed that the Indians suffered severely.

By direction of Lt Major General John E. Smith

W. Sumner  
1 Lieutenant 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf.  
M. A. H. General.

Head Quarters, Mountain District -  
St Philip Kasany, D. August 21. 1867.

Received  
79.

St Louis Mo. S.  
Assistant Adjutant General  
Department of the State.  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Colonel.

St Major D. J. Gordon, Co. K. 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry, returning about 10 P.M. last night from St. P. Smith. I have the honor to forward the report of St Brig Gen L. J. Bradley, Co. D. from which the Genl Comd the Dept. can see the condition of affairs at this Post. Maj Gordon reports, that on the morning he left, when a few miles off, he heard heavy firing in the direction of Bradley's May Party, and soon smoke was seen which he supposed was caused by the Indians firing the grass. From the information I get, Bradley will have to fight for all the money and Hay he obtains. There is no doubt, but that the hostile Indians, have concentrated a very large force, with the determination to drive us off. It is very hazardous to send out less than One hundred (100) Men, with at least One (1) Mortar from this Post, without risking their total loss. I beg to call the Genl Comd's attention to this fact, and that he will not consider it as being dictated by a hasty imagination, but by facts alone. I am willing to abide the consequences, but cannot neglect the evidence daily accumulating, and should deem myself culpable, not to apprise you candidly of the situation.

It has been recently reported that a large force was to be sent against the Indians, which they have heard. The Corps was also to go, but they now think we have not the force to send. The Corps say they were indeed

To leave the range of Mountains, because there was no game. And the Sioux  
 provided their animals from grazing. They were induced to Camp near  
 the hostile Indians, who wanted to trade with them. But said, they do  
 not want their powder, lead, or caps, as they had plenty of their own.  
 They (the Crow) Crossing the Big Horn on the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. through the request  
 of Gen Bradley. — "I deemed it advisable to get them by and by, and  
 away from the bad influence of the hostile tribes." — with a large Num-  
 ber of horses, mules, and Packs of robes and furs, which they obtained from  
 the Sioux by trading. Capt. the Guide and Interpreter, who has been with the  
 Crow, since they were here, and returning with Major Gordon last night, told  
 me to-day in the presence of Judge Nimrod that he thought the Crow traded  
 powder with the Sioux. I do not think they can be any do. abt. of it. I  
 again take the liberty of Expressing the belief, that with a force of  
 One thousand (1000) Men divided in two (2) Columns, One (1) Mor-  
 ing from this Point along Sugar Creek, to this Camp, distant, four  
 (4) days March, the other from P. D. Smith, about two (2) days March,  
 we could chastise them severely. If the Genl and Chief should deem it  
 advisable to send this force, they should be provided with two 3. inch  
 Rodman Guns, or 10. lbs. Parrotts, in any event if possible, I should like  
 our Det to this Post as soon as possible. We have enough light Gun, Hor-  
 itzers, the Indians are becoming so familiar with their range, as to render  
 them useless, we require also, more Ammunition for the new arms immediate-  
 ly. The appearance of the Indians has been regularly reported, but the most  
 serious affair occurred on the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. On the 1<sup>st</sup> a small party of  
 (10) or fifteen (15) Indians, made their appearance, and drove off Six (6) Cows  
 belonging to Arizans, also two (2) Horses. They had already succeeded in  
 getting their sound distant across the Piney Gully, before they were dis-  
 covered. Having no Cavalry (as they had not returned at that date) or  
 mounted men at the Post, they were not pursued, it was well they were  
 not, as the next morning at 8. A.M. they made their appearance in  
 large numbers all around the Post, their numbers variously estimated  
 from fifteen hundred (1500) to two thousand (2000). It was difficult  
 to determine what this intention was for some time, they joined the ground  
 around the Post. And about 9. A.M. concentrated on the hills, about two  
 to three miles above and across the Piney, leaving large numbers hor-  
 em around the Post, it then became painfully evident that the Host  
 party, guarded by Lieut Major Smith's Company (C. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf.) near the Piney  
 Detachment, they object. Two (2) Wagons loaded with wood, and guard-  
 ed by Christian (13) men, had been in in the morning, thus reducing  
 Major Smith's force to less than thirty (30) Men. Two wagons owing  
 to the excitement, were not unloaded.

as the intention of the Indians could be discerned, I ordered two of my best  
 Companies, at the Post, with our Horsemen and the Wagon of the Wood train to  
 move out under the Command of Lt Col Smith, and retire Major Powell  
 the Wood Party from this perilous position. For the reasons stated above, the  
 wagons not being unloaded, causing some delay. Col Smith did not  
 get off until 11.30. P.M. for the month I respectfully call your  
 attention to reports of Lt Col S. B. Smith and Lt Maj Ch Powell.

The Indians find the grain around us, and during the remain-  
 ing of the day, the whole Country was Enveloped in Smoke, they  
 are firing the grain all over the Country.

I deeply regret the loss of Lieut S. C. Sumner, who had already  
 endeared himself to all, by his gentlemanly and soldierly conduct, the  
 Service has lost a very promising Young officer.

I also sincerely regret the loss of the men from Company C,  
 who defended themselves so nobly against such great odds.

M<sup>r</sup> Porter, the Wood Contractor is entitled to our gratitude  
 being the only man who could be induced to remain with us and  
 assist us in procuring Fuel and Timber, Stables and Subsidy. Memorandum  
 of his losses furnished at my request, for the information of the  
 General Council.

I have abandoned all hope of procuring Hay and shall  
 have to rely upon Supplies from below, I would also call the attention  
 of the Dept Commandg, to Gen Bradley's report concerning Supplies from  
 Gallatin Valley, for such action as he may deem proper, I would  
 respectfully recommend that they be procured at that place, during at  
 least the time and risk of transportation.

I have endeavored to present the situation of affairs in this  
 District candidly for the consideration of the Civil Council, there is no cause  
 for alarm, but something should be done to enable us to protect our-  
 selves from the constant annoyance and their injurious practices of the Indians.

We are out of Beef Cattle and unless a suitable supply both of Cat-  
 tle and Cattle-Skin Cuticles is received before Winter closes in, I cannot but  
 anticipate a repetition of the Experience of these Posts last winter  
 and spring, when a third of this Garrison, was on the sick list, with  
 that terrible disease Scoury.

I have the honor to be  
 Very Respectfully  
 Yours  
 Geo. B. Smith  
 Lt Maj Gen  
 Council.

New Quarter, Mountain District  
 Ft. Phil. of Camp. D. C.  
 Aug 12. 1867.

Litchford  
 86

St. Louis, Mo. G.  
 Assistant Adjutant General  
 Department of the State.  
 Omaha, Neb.

Colonel.

Lieut. W. S. Watson, Co. E. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. arrived yesterday with his command  
 sixty men, in charge of Fortified Train No. 2, returning from C. J. Smith.  
 and will proceed with it as far as Ft. Reno, tomorrow morning.

I have the honor to enclose official copy of the report of Col. Big  
 Genl. J. S. Bradley, Coing at C. J. Smith and report of Col. Major Tho. S.  
 S. Burrows, Coing Co. G. 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf. from which the Genl. Coing will see  
 that our neighbors the Sioux, Cheyennes and others have made another friend  
 by demonstration. and that we have to mourn the loss of another promising  
 Young Officer killed. and several of his men. Lieut. Watson reports also  
 that on the morning he left C. J. Smith, the 7<sup>th</sup> inch firing was heard and  
 from the South, he had no doubt the Indians were firing the gun. I  
 presume they will not care to annoy us, until they are completely furnished.  
 although I have reason to believe they will not with a heavy reception and  
 that they will be a little more cautious hereafter.

I again take the liberty of urging the necessity of forward-  
 ing a supply of Ammunition as rapidly as possible. As the expenditure  
 with the New Ordnance is much more rapid than with the old. Col. Major  
 would expend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inch Heavy Ordnance (77) rounds per Man during the  
 hour. at the rate if the Indians made their Great good, to engage  
 us four or five days. the New Ordnance will be useful.

Since my last report nothing of importance has occurred. A  
 few Indians are seen daily on the hills apparently making observations.

I have the honor to be Colonel.

Very Respectfully

Wm. A. Serran  
 W. S. Smith

Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U. S. Inf. Y. I.  
 At Maj. Genl.  
 Coing.

No. 100 Mountain District  
St Philip Kearney M.T.  
August 12<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Howard.

St Major Genl <sup>100000</sup> Howard.  
Adjutant General U.S. Army.  
Washington, D.C.

81.

General.

In Compliance with Gen 119. R. A. I. I have the honor to re-  
port that Capt Geo P. Jones, Co. C. 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. was killed in action  
with Indians in the vicinity of the Fort. August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1867. And that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut  
Sigmund M. Hurlburt, Co. D. 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf. was killed in action with Indians  
near Ft. S. Smith, M.T. August 1<sup>st</sup> 1867. And that a report of their engagement  
has been forwarded through the proper channels.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient  
J. W. Smith  
Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. Inf  
St Maj Gen U.S.A.  
Circuit District.

No. 100 Mountain District  
St Philip Kearney M.T.  
August 27<sup>th</sup> 1867

Bradley

St Brig Genl  
Commanding Post  
Ft S. Smith M.T.

82

General

The enclosed communication received this A.M.  
owing to its importance, and the short time interveni-  
ng when the proposed meeting is to take place I forward  
this P.M. by Courier Jack Steed.

You will see the necessity for communicating the  
wishes of the Commission to meet the Chiefs and  
prominent men of the hostile bands in Council at  
the time and place specified, and send me  
their answers as soon as possible. You may be  
enabled to accomplish the object through the  
Crows, (who are included) at all events, it  
must be done if they can be found. It is

reported that General Sherman, Terry & Kearney, are to compose the Military portion of the Commission. Lieut Mateer left here on Saturday last with 85 Wagon loaded with stores & 85 head of Beef cattle. Raphael's Post interpreter is with him, but will be instructed to accompany Jack Steed if the latter overtakes him. You may find me for him and send him or Boyer back with Jack with such an answer as you may get.

It would probably be well to ascertain how many and the names of the Chiefs who consent to go and if the time is too short find when they will be able to go.

Very respectfully,  
 Geo E Smith  
 Colonel 27<sup>th</sup> Infy  
 1st Maj Genl  
 Comd'g

Head Quarters Mountain District  
 Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
 12<sup>th</sup> September 1867.

Van Hook Major J.  
 Commanding Post  
 Fort Reno D.T.  
 Major

You will please render whatever aid, in way of Horse &c, that may seem proper to Courier Jack Steed, to enable him to prosecute his journey to Fort Hatterman and return to these Head Quarters.

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servant  
 By direction of 1st Major Genl John C. Smith  
 J. C. Smith  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Adj. of 27<sup>th</sup> Infy  
 A. A. A. General.

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
October 1<sup>st</sup> 1867.

Bradley L.P.

84

Brig Genl  
Comd<sup>g</sup> Fort C. T. Smith M.T.  
General

I am instructed by the General Commanding, to respectfully request that you use every means in your power to further communicate with the Indians, and to forward by courier as early as possible all the information you may be able to gain as to their decision &c. The Comd<sup>g</sup> Officer also directs that Jack Steed return immediately

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt

~~W. W. W.~~  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Regt Adjutant, 27<sup>th</sup> Regt  
A. A. A. Genl

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867.

85  
Commissary

General  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from Br. Genl. T. J. Cairnes Chief Commissary of Subsistence Mil. Div. of the Mt. of a list of Canned fruits for the use of one Officer, for one month. And to respectfully state, that the amount of Canned articles authorized to be sold to one Officer, under the provisions of the Schedule is inadequate to the requirements of actual necessity, particularly so in this latitude, were the invasions of that fearful disease Scoury is so prevalent, and without a sufficient quantity of Vegetables and Antiscorbutics I cannot but anticipate the most dire results in the health of this Command. - Where our only dependence at these isolated posts is on the Commissary Department for these indispensable supplies I deem it my duty to enclose the list of Canned fruits allowed one Officer per month. And to respectfully request that



the allowance be increased, as it is believed the interest of the Service demand

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
Wm E. Smith  
Bvt Major Genl USA  
Comdg

This  
No. 22 D. of P.

Hd Qrs Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny D. T.  
October 17<sup>th</sup> 1867

Bradley Bvt Brig Genl L.P.  
Commanding Post, Fort C. F. Smith M.S.  
General

8.6

The Bvt Major Genl, Commanding, directs that to equalize the escorts between the Posts, that you send a sufficient escort under an Officer to this Post with Train No. 77, to return as escort to C. F. Smith with the next train, which if met on the road, your detachment can relieve the escort from here

I am Genl

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
~~Wm E. Smith~~  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 2<sup>d</sup> Regt. Adv. 27<sup>th</sup> Inf.  
A. A. A. Genl

Hd Qrs Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearny D. T.  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 1867

Van Hook Major James  
18<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry  
Commanding Fort Reno D.T.

Major The Bvt Major General, Commanding, directs that the following prisoners, Bvt M. McCabe, Walsh and Shaffer of 1<sup>st</sup> B. Co. 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, be forwarded to this Post at an early day as possible for trial before a General Court Martial now in session here

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant

**W. W. W.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut & Adjutant 27<sup>th</sup> Infy  
Actg Asst Adj<sup>t</sup> General

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867.

55  
Can Vtact Major James  
Commanding Post  
Fort Reno D.T.

Sir

The Br<sup>o</sup> Major General  
Commanding, directs that hereafter you send no less than one  
Company under command of a Commissioned Officer, as escort  
to Trains destined to this Post, in order to guard against  
further trouble by Indians

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
**W. W. W.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut & Adjutant 27<sup>th</sup> Infy  
Actg Asst Adj<sup>t</sup> General

Head Quarters Mountain District  
Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867

57  
Gatchfield Br<sup>o</sup> Lieut Col - H. G.  
Assistant Adjutant Genl  
Dept of the Platte  
Omaha Neb

Sir

An order was received  
by the last mail directing the discharge from the service on his  
own application Actg Asst Surgeon F. Geisdorff, U.S. Army.  
Owing to the great and increasing demands on the medical  
Dept here for medical attendances Surgeon Geisdorff being at  
this time on the road in charge of wounded men, the result  
of a recent engagement with Indians East of this Post, near Crazy -  
over

womans fork, I have the honor to invite the attention of the  
 Department Commander to Surgeons Kortons communication  
 enclosed, and to request that Doctor Leidoroff be retained in  
 the service until such time as a suitable Officer can be sent  
 to fill his place

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servant  
 Geo & Smith  
 Brig Major Genl U.S. Army  
 Commanding

Head Quarters Mountain District  
 Fort Philip Kearney D.T.  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> 1867.

71

Assistant Adjutant General  
 Department of the Platte  
 Omaha Neb.

Sir I have the honor to report for the  
 information of the General Comd<sup>g</sup>, that on the morning of the 3<sup>d</sup>  
 Inst, a Messenger arrived at this Post, reporting that a Train of  
 Wells Fargo Co. and escorted by a Detachment of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
 was attacked and corralled by Indians, near Crazy Womans Fork  
 some forty miles east of this Post. Company D. 12<sup>d</sup> Cavalry  
 Brig Major Gordon Comd<sup>g</sup> was immediately sent to their relief.  
 Major Gordon on his arrival (about 12 o'clock the same night) found  
 that the Indians had succeeded in capturing part of the Cattle,  
 killed our enlisted man G. C. 18<sup>th</sup> Inf, and wounded 3 enlisted men  
 18<sup>th</sup> Inf, and four Citizens. Major Gordon escorted the Train and  
 wounded to this Post, arriving here on the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst.

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt Servant  
 Geo & Smith  
 Brig Major General U.S. Army  
 Comd<sup>g</sup> District