

RG 393, PT. 3
ENTRY

399 1 of 2

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP				DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	
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LAST NAME (PRINT) Trevor		FIRST NAME (PRINT) Ann		RESEARCHER CARD NUMBER 100190	
SERIES OR COLLECTION NAME US Army Command 1817-1947					
RECORD GROUP NUMBER/ COLLECTION DESIGNATION 543	ENTRY NUMBER A13 53 399	NATIONAL ARCHIVES IDENTIFIER (OPTIONAL) 1752475		BOX/ITEM NOS. REQUESTED 44 11 vol. 99	
STACK 10W2	ROW 37	COMPARTMENT 25	SHELF 2	NUMBER OF BOXES/ITEMS PULLED 22 WJ	
OTHER RECORD IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION [SPECIFY FOLDER TITLE(S)/FILE NUMBER(S)] Letters sent 4/1966 - 12/1967					
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Adjutant General. U. S. Army.
No. 1. Washington. D. C.

5
Fort Kearney, April 5th 1866.

General

I respectfully ask that Fort Reno, Dakota Territory be declared a Chaplain Post. It will be the head quarters of the 18th U. S. Inftry, and of the "Mountain District" Department of the Platte with garrisons of few companies. This application is made before marching, believing that the public service, and the wants of the command require the assignment asked.

I am, very respectfully, your obed^t. Servt.

Henry Hannington
Col. 18th Inftry, Comd^y District

Medical Director Department of the Missouri
No. 2. St. Louis, Mo.

Fort Kearney, April 10th 1866.

Dear Sir,

I respectfully urge, that an order be issued, appointing Assistant Surgeon Samuel M. Horton to duty with Head quarters 18th U. S. Inftry ordered to the Mountain District, and that a telegram be sent to that effect. Dr. Horton is willing to go with the expedition, but very naturally feels delicacy, as to formal application for any special assignment. I should regard it as a special token of confidence, if my request be granted, and my reasons are: 1st, that he is remarkably studious, efficient, and successful with the men, and 2nd, that in family treatment (and several officers, and men have families with them) he is equally well received, and successful.

You will appreciate the import, and value of these points, when an officer has his home, and wife, when he is for the time stationed, the presence of a suitable medical officer is a matter of real moment.

I am, very respectfully, Your obed^t Servt.

Henry Hannington
Col. 18th U. S. Inftry, Comd^y Mtn Dist.

Haines. S. J. Br. Brig. Genl
No. 3. Chief Com. Sub. U. S. A.
St. Louis. Mo.

Head quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte.
(date) Fort Kearney, April 14th 1866.

General

I have the honor to furnish the accompanying estimate for subsistence stores for Fort Reno, and other Posts in Mountain District, Department of the Platte, based on full complement of men to the 2nd Battalion 18th U. S. Inftry.

3^d, I have purchased under authority of Genl's Orders potatoes, and onions for seed and use, and have ample other seeds, if practicable to use them this season.

4th, By favor of Brig. Genl M. C. Callum, I have good instruments, Transit, level, &c, for survey of routes, spots, elevations, and distances, for the information of the General commanding.

5th I have fifty good teams, and although I should have ten more, which are here, and can be spared, I can move without delay with what I have, to establish new Fort Reno, if desired.

6th Pursuant to request of Genl Pope I furnished him statement of assignment of Recruits from General Re-creating Service, giving to the 2^d Battalion 5th, to secure maximum strength. That force will not be excessive to make the new line secure from the start.

I should be gratified to receive such general instructions as may seem best to the General Command, and also respectfully suggest, that it would be of value to my future operations, if I could reach Larabee in time for the meeting of the Indian tribes in council, and thereby form the acquaintance of many with whom I will have subsequent relations. I observe in Spec. Order No 46, c. p. 4th Div. U. S. Forces Kansas & Territories, that the post upon the upper Yellowstone (supposed to refer to the vicinity of Cook's pass) is omitted. It was mentioned in General Order No 33, c. s. Sept. 65. I supposed the omission was made in view of the small force at my present disposal. Please instruct as to the views of the Genl Command, in this respect.

I am, very respectfully, your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Manwight
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd. Mtd. Dist.

Dodge
42.11. G. M. Major General.
Fort Leavenworth Kas.

Fort Kearney; April 27. 1866.

General Cooke telegraphs me to wait arrival of recruits. Please advise when they start. Do not fail to send a portable steam saw mill complete, if possible. The mills at Reno lack so many essential parts as to be useless for half the summer, in fact until new parts are sent out. I wish to make my work prompt, and complete as I go. I thank you for your prompt aid in my preparation.

Henry Manwight
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd.

Assistant Adjutant General
42.12. Department of the Platte.

Headquarters Mountain Dist. Dept. Platte.

Fort Kearney. April 27. 1866.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Special Order No 3, c. s. D. P. and shall conform to the instructions therein contained.

I am very respectfully, your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Manwight
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd. Mtd. Dist.

Assist. Adjt General.

Headquarters Mountain District, D. P.

11-13

Department of the Platte.

(date) Fort Kearney, April 27. 1866

Omaha.

Sir

I have the honor to state, that from this post west, as far as Fort
 Selden (Delaware) the grass, up to this time furnishes no forage, having scarcely changed color. Besides
 large trains passing west, three thousand ox teams are en route from Denver, one train of one thousand head
 and two hundred waggons, having already passed Delaware. In view of these facts, I ask discretionary
authority to increase allowance referred to in S. O. No. 3, c. s. to six pounds, if I find at time of, or
 during march, that the grass furnishes no substantial basis of supply.

I am very respectfully, your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Herington

Col. 18th Inf. Co. 6th Dist.

11-14

Haines,

Thomas J.

Fort Kearney, May 7th 1866.

11-14

Chief Commissary of Sub:

S^t. Louis, Mo.

General

I am advised that much scarcity has been developed at Fort Reno,
 to which direction I move next week. I have opportunity to secure potatoes at less than half the winter
 prices; laid at 30. c., butter at 50. to 60. cents, all fresh. Several families besides my own accompany me.
 I ask for telegraphic authority to Captain Geo. H. Ladd, Post Commissary, or Lieut J. H. Brown 18th U.S. Inf.,
 my quartermaster to purchase a supply of potatoes, not exceeding 10,000 lbs, and such domestic groceries,
 as are indispensable until supplies can be received. The prices at present are extremely high at Reno, and
 some of the essentials are not found even at the post at their rates. I think the matter is within the
 new order and urgent.

I am, very respectfully, your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Herington

Col. 18th U.S. Inf., Comd^g Mts. Dist.

11-15

Morgan,

Br. R. Col. A. C. S.

Fort Kearney, May 7th 1866.

11-15

Fort Leavenworth, Kas.

Dear Sir

I shall leave this post next week for my new command "Mountain
 District, and although one train of supplies has passed up, there are two matters, which I ask full authority for
 in view of the present prevalence of scarcity at Fort Reno.

1st that my quartermaster either be authorized to purchase 150 bushels of potatoes, or that they be sent from
 Leavenworth.

2^d, that my Quartermaster be authorized to purchase a reasonable supply of "Butter, lard, and family

groceries for sale to officers, or that the same be forwarded. Fresh laid 200 lbs. can be bought here to go with us, at 30. cents, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost at Reno, butter can be procured at 50. to 60. cents. As several families besides my own, are to accompany the command, it seems essential that a supply be procured. We have paid the last winter \$4.50. per bushel for potatoes. They can be procured at less than half, I think, 40. miles from here. Please telegraph to me at this Post, upon receipt of this. If you think best, Capt. G. H. Ladd, A. & M. & A. C. S. can purchase, and turn over to Lieut. J. H. Brown 18th U.S. Regt. & District Co. M. The new order covers these articles, but we have no purchasing office here, unless authorized so to purchase.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant

Henry Mearns
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd. Mtn Dist.

206

Assistant Adjutant General

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte.

206

Department of the Platte.

(date) Fort Kearney, D. T. May 10. 1866.

Omaha, D. T.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of

General Order No. 3. Head Quarters Dept. of the Platte. C. S. p. 9. copies 4

Letter from same source dated May 7th 1866. regarding the establishment of the post on the yellow stone.

Letter from same source dated May 7th 1866 regarding the allowance of grain, to be used on the march.

S. O. No. 201. War Dept. A. G. Office Washington D. C. May 1st 1866. p. for Comd. Officer 18th Inf. (1)

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant

Henry Mearns
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd. Mtn Dist.

206

Assistant Adjutant General

Fort Laramie, D. T.

207

Department of the Platte.

June 14. 1866.

Omaha.

Reached Laramie in nine teen marching days from Kearney. Indian negotiations waiting arrival of other chiefs. I shall move on Monday if transportation for supplies can be had. Comdants in good order, total loss on march only two recruits.

Henry Mearns
Col. 18th U.S. Inf. Comd. Mtn District.

207

Assist. Adjutant General

No. 18

Department of the Platte.
Omaha.

Head Quarters Mountain District.

Dept. Platte.

In camp near Fort Laramie, D. T.

Sir

June 16. 1866.

In compliance with your instructions of 30th ult. I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of the Mountain District for the month of May 1866, and to state that I have rendered no reports to General Pope since leaving Fort Kearney, et. T.

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

Henry Hamrington

Col. 18th U.S. Infy. Comd'g Mtn. Dist.

In 6
210

Assist. Adjutant General

No. 19

Department of the Platte.
Omaha.

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte.

In camp near Fort Laramie, June 16th 1866.

I have the honor to state, that I reached this post on Tuesday, in nineteen marching days from Kearney, having halted Sundays, and been delayed three days at Sedgewick, crossing the Platte.

The march has been made with success, but two desertions, viz. recruits who were teamsters, no deaths, no serious sickness.

I find at this post a supply of hard bread for only four days for my command and in poor condition, not a single utensil for baking flour, only one thousand rounds of ammunition Cal. 58. I brought what I could, and shall find 36,000 rounds at Fort Reno, giving me a total of 60,000 rounds, obviously very inadequate. I find myself greatly in need of officers, but must wait the arrival of new appointments, or until others are relieved from Recruiting service. I move tomorrow.

I am very respectfully, Your obedient Servant.

Henry Hamrington

Col. 18th U.S. Infy., Comd'g Mtn. Dist.

In 6

Assist. Adjutant General

No. 20

Department of the Platte.
Omaha.

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte.

In camp near Fort Laramie, June 16th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of ten copies of G.O. No 6. C.S. Dept. of the Platte.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant

Henry Hamrington

Col. 18th U.S. Infy. Comd'g Mtn. Dist.

In 6

Magruder, D. S. Sr.

No. 21 Medical Director

Department of the Platte.

Head Quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte.

En Route. June 18th 1866.

Dear Sir.

I have but one Hospital Steward in the District, and not sufficient medical officers. In case I make a scout or expedition, and the State of negotiations at Laramie, led the Indian Commissioners to advise me that they had little confidence of any general treaty with the Indians, and, I shall have no medical officer without leaving my main post, and General Hospital without one. Please send two contract physicians, and two Hospital Stewards as early as practicable.

I am very respectfully, Your obedient Servt.

Demy Hamington

Col. 18th Wisc. Comdy Mtn Dist

21/6

Denison, Hon. William

No. 22 Postmaster General

Washington D. C.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept. Platte.

On the march from Laramie to Reno

House shoe Creek, June 17th 1866.

Dear Sir.

I have the honor to furnish you some data, and herewith to urge the immediate establishment of a mail route from Dubuque, Ct. T. to Virginia City, Montana; and first as to the present system

During the past winter in conjunction with Col. Magruder's 5th U.S. Vol. stationed at Laramie I maintained a semi weekly mail from Dubuque to Fort Laramie, by government wagons, from Laramie to Reno a courier carried the mail upon a pack mule. That system still obtains but is perfectly inadequate and absurd under existing facts. To guard and care for such a line, absorbs several companies, furnishes no transportation for officers, and is liable to abuse and neglect of every kind. If the United States have troops, trains and wagons to open such a line in charge of good officers would answer until a regular mail were established, but already such is the scarcity of troops, that only 3rd Battalion is stretched from Dubuque to Salt Lake City, and the 1st Battalion from Laramie to Salt Lake City; while with the 2nd Battalion I am marching to open a new short route from Laramie to Virginia City, making surveys, maps &c.

Second; Character and conditions of the route.

It is nearly 450 miles shorter than the route by Salt Lake City; it has constant water, wood and other natural supplies for emigration to Montana, its valleys are fertile and rich grazing, while the winters are healthy and not extremely severe. It is the finest game region left to the Indians, and its mineral resources are great. During the opening season it is certain to attract the great mass of emigration; and I was recently informed by Genl. Sherman, that almost the whole current of travel was there directed. But the route is a question of grave dispute, between the Indian Commissioners now at Laramie, and the Sioux, Cheyennes, Gros, Arapahoes and other tribes. Indeed few if any but the Sioux and Arapahoes have

attended the council, and it is a matter of serious doubt with the Commissioners, whether any treaty will be realized. Certain it is that before this reaches you, I shall test the animos of all the leading tribes including Blackfoot, which are hunting Buffaloes on the very spots selected for the erection of new posts. I did not converse with one chief at Laramie, who did not regard with sadness or dissatisfaction any further encroachments upon their remaining hunting fields, north of the Platte. Still for a good and sufficient consideration, their presence, would give the right of way, and other than this and the establishment of the occupancy posts is not contemplated. Now beside the fact, that the richest game regions lie on or near the western terminus of this route, the Troops must have communication with the east. In three or four weeks my only communication with my superiors, and the government will be by courier, I cannot establish small relay posts near the sections, and garrison any them with my force; every house and fort is to be built, I shall live in tents in this summer. No officers can go on or leave, except by Government trains, and these I wish to haul supplies, timber &c. The Government can afford to pay some company well, to put on stages, and mails, but in the contingency of hostilities, or failure of treaty, I cannot use mail couriers, while if this treaty be made, be general, and be observed, the travel and mail will bear its own burdens. If I have only to build and garrison the posts I am instructed to build, I can do so and in a fair fight, or any general action, I can whip any force north of the Platte, but common sense teaches, that the general line is the object, and not the isolation of posts; I am to open a line not simply to hold positions, independent of these general relations, to termini which they separate. To this end communication by mail, and general transportation for the Public is advisable, and this at once puts the whole west in competition of travel to an endeavor to support afford to proper support to any line so established. I will protect mail lines, or give conduct a proper escort, but cannot originate and operate lines as already stated. If you have not the authority to make contracts, and at once operate a mail and stage line on this new route, I respectfully call reference of my communication to the proper committee of Congress, and that the proper act be passed. I had a conference with Col. Babcock of General Grant's staff at my house before I left Fort Kearney, and he expressed the belief, that provision would be made for this route. I have no objections to have you submit my views to the Secret General, and Mr. Harlan, if you deem best, and subsequent reference to the committee on postal affairs. I have provided myself with surveying instruments, saw mills and tools, a naturalist and photographer, and can make available many scientific sources of general information to the government. I wish to have either a sufficient force to make my own mail or other direct communication, or a regular mail line from the Postal Department, and leave the matter with you.

I am very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant

Henry M. Henshaw
Co. 18 US Army, Comd'g the Dist

Commanding Officer

S. 23 Fort Reno, D. T.

Head Quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte

Fort Reno, Powder River, D. T. June 30th 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to forward to you for your post the following blanks and orders, the receipt of which please acknowledge, viz:

100. discharges, 136. final statements, 110. certificates of disability, 32. inventories of effects, 180. furloughs, 38. muster and pay rolls, 13. post returns, 30. descriptive lists of deserters, 20. Returns of Enl. men joined, 16. quarterly returns of deceased soldiers, 100. consolidated morning reports. War Department, Department of the Missouri and the Platte General Orders.

Very respectfully, Your obedient Servant

Fred Phistow

1st Lt. Regt. Adjt. 18th Inf.

Procyp use. acct.

Commanding Officer

S. 24 Fort Ransom M.T.

Head Quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte

Fort Reno, Powder River, D. T. June 30th 1866

Sir

I have the honor to forward to you for your post the following blanks and orders, the receipt of which please acknowledge, viz:

50. discharges, 68. final statements, 55. certificates of disability, 16. inventories of effects, 90. furloughs, 19. muster and pay rolls, 13. Post returns, 30. descriptive lists of deserters, 20. returns of enlisted men joined, 16. quarterly returns of deceased soldiers, 100. consolidated morning reports, General Order of the War Dept, Dept. of the Missouri and Platte.
One communication for the A. C. S. at Fort Ransom.

Very respectfully, Your obedient Servant

Fred Phistow

1st Lt. Regt. Adjt. 18th Inf.

Procyp use. acct.

Commanding Officer

S. 25 Post on the Upper Yellowstone, M. T.

Head Quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte

Fort Reno, Powder River, D. T. June 30. 1866.

Sir

I have the honor to forward to you for your post the following blanks and orders, the receipt of which please acknowledge, viz:

50. discharges, 68. final statements, 55. certificates of disability, 16. inventories of effects, 90. furloughs, 19. muster and pay rolls, 13. Post returns, 30. descriptive lists of deserters, 20. returns of enlisted men joined, 16. quarterly returns of deceased soldiers, 100. consolidated

morning reports, sent orders of the War Dept, Dept of Missouri and Platte, and one communication for the a. c. S. at Upper Yellowstone post.

Very respectfully, your obedient servt.

Fred Whistler

1st Lieut. & Regt. Adj. 15 US Inf.

Post Capt. U.S.A. A. A. G.

h. 6
Litchfield, H. J. Post Major, A. C. S. - A. A. G.
No. 26
Omaha.

Head Quarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte.

In camp near Fort Laramie, June 16th 1866.

I respectfully urge, that the supplies of ammunition en route from Leavenworth, per orders, be forwarded forthwith. The entire supply of 58. cal. at Laramie being only 1,000 rounds, renders many Troops almost powerless, in case of delay of supplies and remoteness from base.

All the Commissioners agree, that I go to occupy a region, which the Indians will only surrender for a great equivalent. Even my arrival has started among them many absurd rumors, but I ~~do not~~ apprehend as difficulty. Patience, forbearance and common sense in dealing with the Sioux and Cheyennes, will do much and all who really desire peace, but it is indispensable, that ample supplies of ammunition come promptly.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servt.

Henry Whistler

Col. 18th US Inf. Comd. Mtn Dist

h. 6
Litchfield, H. G. Post Major, A. A. G.
No. 29
Omaha.

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte

Fort Reno, Powder River, June 28th 1866

I have the honor to report, that I reached this post at 12. on this day. From supplies in depot, at this post, I am ordered by the Chief Commissary for the Division of the Mississippi, to make up, with supplies drawn at Laramie the complement of four and a half (4 1/2) months for the two company posts at Big Horn and Upper Yellowstone respectively. To effect this purpose, to secure a complete chain of posts, to keep up my mail communications, and ensure a proper system for the movement of rapidly increasing emigration along the new route to Montana I shall leave one officer and a proper detail, when I leave this post to protect my supplies and advance the interests of the service in this command. The present garrison ~~garrison~~ consists of two companies of the 5th Regt. U.S. Col. A courier from Laramie brought me a telegram from Major Genl. Pope, dated at Jalisco, requiring said companies, which belong to his command to move to Cottonwood, I have therefore issued an order relieving them, and directing their movement without delay to Laramie. During the latter 20 miles of march I found indications of conner coal, and I have specimens of a very superior quality. For 20 miles about this post no hay can be cut, and sagebrush and cacti form the great feature of the vegetation, while the grasshoppers are rapidly destroying what else is valuable. Mr. Bridger, and Mr. Brannan (Genl. Conner's guide) as well as officers and citizens indicate the vicinity of Tongue river as on direct route, as abundant

in wood, water and rich meadow grass, well protected from winds. I am of the opinion however, until test
the matter by personal examination, that I shall find out at Pine Fork or near it, the elements of a good
pasture. The Indians were met en route and the packing of trains, and system of pickets must be
kept them out of sight. The day before we reached the ferry, three Indians drove away two horses, within
half a mile of the ranch at midday. The command came through in good order.

I am very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Herington

Col. 100th of Cavalry, 10th Dist.

Litchfield

H. G. Bos Major

Head Eastern Mountain District, Dept. Platte

No 28

A. A. A. General

Fort Reno, Powder River, July 1st 1866.

Omaha.

I have the honor to report, that about 2.0 clock p. m. yesterday a messenger reported
that a party of Indians descended a ravine, about two miles down Powder river, and drove off a herd of
mules, belonging to citizen A. C. Leighton. Mr. Leighton is sutler at this post, and has hitherto grazed his
stock in security, without guard. My own herds were not touched having armed men in charge.
A mounted detachment was started in pursuit, with all possible dispatch, but as the night was dark and
cloudy the trail was lost. After a march of nearly 50 miles they returned this morning. The interpreter, who
is a good scout, and from marriage with a Sioux squaw, is familiar with their language, pronounced the band
to be Sioux and seven in number. He captured one pony, with saddle, a new frock for squaw, of goods simi-
lar to that recently sold at Laramie, 5 lbs of sugar, one army stable frock, one army blanket and some navy
blanco. It is certain that this party secured their goods at Laramie, and they should be compelled by the
chiefs to return this property, or the same should be charged to them on account of any grand made by the
government in ratification of treaty stipulations and paid to Mr. Leighton. The courier, who will take this
letter to Laramie, will also convey to Col. Maynard, or the commissary if still in session a statement
of the facts and copy of schedule of Mr. Leighton's loss, which I also furnish herewith. It is very fortunate
that I procured horses at Kearney, for while Genl. Pope's order directed the rendezvous of horses of vol-
unteers at Laramie and the issue of 200 for the Mountain District, I could not even find horses
to make an exchange of twelve at that post. In nearly all respects, I find that I did not err in
anticipating deficiencies, and indifferent quality of supplies en route. I was unable to draw
sufficient hardtack to last from post to post. Much that was procured was musty, flour drawn
at Laramie was musty, cakes and very poor to a considerable extent, with no supply of baking utensils.
At this point and for several marches there has been no grass, and for nearly 100 miles no good water except
by digging. I propose as soon as possible to revise and shorten the route, having on one day's march by
following a ridge, breaking off from Connor's trail, lessened the distance 6 miles. I shall communicate
fully, and often as possible. I am of the opinion that I should have a larger force, and from conver-
sation with General Sherman at Kearney, though it is not unlikely that he would obtain the 2^d Dist.

now at Laramie, and I then receive the support of another Battalion of the 18th Infy. It cannot be im-
proper for me to add that my facilities for communications, and the general welfare of my District, would
in my judgement be enhanced, if the whole line of the Platte, now intervening between Laramie and General
Headquarters, were in the Department of the Platte. This is a question for the action of the General commanding
the Military Division of the Mississippi of course, but affects this command.

I am very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Henry H. Henshaw

Col. 18th W^{est} Co^{ndy} Dist^{ct}

Sub

Major Genl,
No. 29
Col. Henry E. S. Eldredg
Commanding District of the Platte
Laramie. S. T.

Headquarters, Mountain District, Dept. Platte
Fort Reno, July 1st 1866.

Colonel.

I am very desirous to hear from the commission and send by courier for information
Yesterday at 2 p. m. a party of Indians came through a ravine, two miles from the fort, and drove off 33 head of
horses and mules belonging to Mr. A. C. Lighton the settler. My own stock, out on herd, under guard, was left in-
fact. A force of mounted men was at once, as soon as possible, placed on their trail, but after a circuit of 30 miles
failed to overtake them. One pony was captured; one army blanket (new) one stable frock (new) one square
dress of Henry, such as were recently sold at Laramie, some navy tobacco, about 5 lbs of sugar, and other little
things indicated that they were Sioux, not long from Laramie. Bridger, Brammer and Stead are of the same opinion.
In my judgement the chiefs, who sit in council, or who really desire peace, should verify their good faith by pro-
viding the return of the stock, or stipulating for its payment. The party seem to have doubled on their trail and to
have gone down Powder River. It is true that the party came from their trail to have been small, and but
for evidence that they had recently been at Laramie, it would not reflect upon any there who have responsible
positions, but they have power and influence enough to return the stock, or else a very poor show of title to
make the consideration of any very large bonus from the U. S. I enclose schedule of loss.

I am very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Henshaw

Col. 18th W^{est} Co^{ndy} Dist^{ct}

Sub

W.B. for schedule of loss see papers on file (Lighton A.C.) Ph

Assist. Adj. General
No. 30
Dept. of the Platte
Omaha. S. T.

Headquarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte
Fort Reno, Powder River, S. T. July 1st 1866

for

district for the month of June 1866.

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of the Mountain

I am, very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Henshaw

Col. 18th W^{est} Co^{ndy} Dist^{ct}

Sub

Raymond, Henry Capt. 18 Dr.

No 31 Conway 2^d Batt. 18 Dr.

Gen.

I am directed by the Col. commanding, to inform you, that no details from the mounted force for any purpose, are hereafter to be made by you. Owing to the details made today by your orders not five mounted men could be procured a short time ago, and the Head Quarters Pioneer Party was also almost absorbed by those details. The 200 horses procured for the command at Kearney are for the purpose of mounting as many effective men; no officer's servant will therefore be mounted after this, and only one orderly for your services, and one for the Battalion Adjutant is to be taken from the mounted force. Should an attack have been made, or a mounted force of any extent have been required an hour ago, no men would have been disposable at all.

I have the honor, to be, very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Geo. Thurston

1. Lt Col Adj. 18 Dr.

Bot Capt. 18 Dr.

Inds

Ten Eyck. Tenison, Capt.

No 32 Conway 1st Batt. 18 Dr.

Captain

By direction of the Col. commanding, I have the honor to inform you, that after this you are not to obey any orders for any detail whatsoever, which does not come from or through the office of the District Assist. Adj. Genl. You will also have ^{ready} 20 men and horses ready at any moment day or night to leave the camp for services.

Very respectfully, Your obed^t Serv^t

Geo. Thurston

1. Lt Col Adj. 18 Dr.

Bot Capt. 18 Dr.

Inds

Litchfield H. G. Post Major

No 33 a. a. s. Omaha.

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Platte

Rens Station, Platte River S. T. July 3/66

I respectfully ask that an officer be detailed to act as Chief Quar. M. and Commissary Subsistence at New Fort Reno, and that he or two if possible, come from the Quarter Master and Comm. Staff. It ~~now~~ would be of great benefit to the district and seems almost indispensable.

I am, very respectfully, your obed^t Serv^t

Henry Hamming

Col. 18th US Dr. Conway 1st Batt.

Inds

Magruder, O. S., Medical Director
No. 29 Dept of the Plate.

Headquarters Mountain District, Dept. Plate.
Fort Reno, Powder River, D.T. July 3rd 1866.

Dear Sir,

I wish to testify of the excellent good conduct of Dr. Baalow, and to assure you that so far, he seems to have abandoned the use of ardent spirits, and having been put on duty at this post for want of sufficient medical officers, otherwise he has won the respect of his superiors. As his contract is but for six months I recommend that the contract remain in force, during good behavior, and the scarcity of medical officers.

I am Very respectfully, Your obedient Servant,

Henry W. Hamblin
Col. 18th Inf., Army of the West

No. 26

Litchfield, H. G. Braver Major
No. 21 - a. a. a. G. Omaha.

Headquarters Mountain District, Dept. Plate.
Fort Reno, Powder River, July 4th 1866

I have the honor to state, that advices of the departure from Omaha, of Lieut's Bennett and Bible, were received. They are now on Post staff duty at Fort Sedgewick, under orders of Genl Pope. I do not see how this is, but so it is. Captain Neil 13th Inf., commands that post. A large force was designated to occupy it. He is fully competent to discharge all functions devolved on him with the aid of officers, other than those who belong to the Department of the Plate. The result is, that at Upper Yellow Stone post a Lieut, must be Battalion Adjutant, Batt. 2nd Inf., Post Adjutant, Post 2nd Inf. and Company, standing officer of the day, and standing officer in charge of all scouts. He also commands a company. If Genl Pope obtained permission of the General commanding the Dept. of the Plate, I have no official notice thereof. On the other hand, I cannot from my present position see why Fort Sedgewick must draw upon my command for so many officers of it, as do all my Regimental and District Headquarters work. Besides this, my courier, and escort, started with a mail yesterday, have just returned on account of Indian depredations on the road. I am obliged to have a company here, until I can move the store, and I shall find constant occasion for a spare officer to a company. I need not say for the General commanding will appreciate the facts, that I regard it as my right, and as due to him, that I have for duty, every officer ordered by the War Department to report to me, and that I am bound to respect no orders, unless those legitimately issued by the Division General, without the direct action of the Department commander. I have also orders of the War Dept. directing Lt Col W. Wessells to report. I need him at Yellow Stone Post, but he arrived at Harney and I believe is there assigned to duty. I respectfully protest against any interference with my command, if it has been done by any Department commander, to whom I do not report, and with proper respect for Genl Pope I present the facts for the consideration of the Genl Comdny, whose orders I observe and through whom I am entitled to receive due notice of important changes. The Post Commander of Fort Sedgewick notifies me of Genl Pope's order. I apprehend the Genl Comdny receives herewith his first notice of this

16
I shall instruct the officers referred to, to report forthwith, unless their original orders are countermanded by the War Department, the Division Commander or the Genl Comdr of the Dept. of the Platte.

I am very respectfully, Your obedt Servt

Henry H. Huntington

Col. 18th Inf. Genl. Mts. Dist.

End

Assistant Adjutant General

No 36 Department of the Platte
Omaha, D. T.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dep. Platte

Reno Station, on Powder River D. T.

July 5th 1866.

for

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Report of Commissioned officers serving in the Mountain District Dep. Platte for the month ending June 30. 1866.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, Your obedt Servt

End

Col. 18th Inf. Genl. Dist.

17 Commanding Officer

No 37 2nd Battalion 18th U.S. Inf.

for

Head Quarters Mountain District Dep. Platte

Reno Station, Powder River D. T.

July 6. 1866.

I have the honor to inform you by direction of the Colonel commanding, that Lieut's Bennett and Dibble of your Battalion are to be considered absent without leave, until it shall be made to appear, that having been ordered by the War Department to report to their Regiment and having been furnished with transportation by the General commanding the Department of the Platte, to hasten said movement, they had, under regulations or orders from a superior authority to said Department Commander, assignment to duty or leave of absence, interfering with said order to report as aforesaid.

Very respectfully, Your obedt Servt

J. W. Christian

1st Lt. Regt. 18th U.S. Inf.

Post Capt. U.S. A.A.S.

End

By Courier from, Fort Aves July 7th 1866

By Telegram

Louisburg 19th Co. Post Negot

to be a a a l. Omaha

#

hours, and hours of Indians. They were once, horses things, not affecting general things, but they are also had thirty three heads stolen day after my arrival, near this Post, I have a company here until I have supplies. I believe the companies, at once, on duty here; but find Lieutenants, Dibble, and Bennett are on Post Staff duty, at Julesburg, by special Field order of General Pope, letters by mail. I cannot watch Indians, guard our assets, and build Posts as satisfactorily as I desire with our Officers for duty in the whole district. There must be a number of Officers, second Lieutenants, at Casamouths who ought to do. My Master says tomorrow. Move on Monday. Will send Courier to Larabee with dispatches, when needed, or if important changes take place, or hostile movements occur. Congregation large, conducted in good order, and seats safe, for well disposed compact parties.

Henry Hanning

Col 18th Infy. Comdg District

Col A. E. Maynard
Comdg Dist Platte
Fort Larabee.

Head Quarters Mountain District, Platte
Fort Aves July 8th 1866.

Colonel.

I am advised that my Grain Saw Mills have reached Larabee. Will you please direct the Post Com & Co. Mr. to see that the trains are promptly sent on. I have the Invoices, and need them as soon as possible. So many mistakes were made last year, that I wish to ensure getting the Mills that are consigned to me.

Truly and Respectfully
Your Friend

Henry Hanning

Col 18th U.S. Infy.

Comdg Mount. District

#

End

To The Great Chief
of the Cheyennes Friend

No. 40



Head Quarters Mountain District
Piney Fork, July 12th 1866

A young white man tells me that you wish to come
and have a talk with me.

I shall be happy to have you come and
tell me what you wish. The great Father at Washington
wishes to be your friend and so do I, and all my soldiers.

I tell all the white men that go on the road
that if they hurt Indians or steal their Ponies I will follow
and catch them and punish them. I will not let white men
do hurt to the Indians who wish Peace.

I wish the Indians would also find who stole
mules and horses on Powder River and who stole mules
and horses at Rock Creek two nights past

You may come and talk and no one shall hurt
you and when you wish to go you may go in peace and
no one shall hurt you

You may come and see me with two other chiefs
and two of your big Fighting Men when the sun is over head
after two sleeps

I will tell all my chiefs and soldiers that
you are my friends and they will obey

Your white Friend

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U.S. Infy, Comdg Mountain Dist

End

To Military Officers
Soldiers and Emigrants

Fort Reno July 16th 1866

Similar letters furnished
to Party Band, District
Red Ann, District, etc.
The man that stands
alone on the ground,
Truff that lies down,
Rabbit that jumps
Bear White Leg, Brass
Soldier,

Black Horse a Cheyenne chief, having come in and shaken hands and
agreed to lasting peace with the whites, and all travellers on the Road. It is
my direction that he be treated kindly, and in no way emboldened in hunting
while he remains at peace

When an Indian is seen who holds up this paper he must be treated
kindly

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U.S. Infy

Comdg Mountain District

End

To the Asst. Adj. Genl.
Hd. Qrs. Dept. Platte
Omaha, Neb.

Sir.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept. Platte.
Fort Philip Kearny (N. T.) July 26th 1866

No. 42
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of Two (2) copies of each of the following General Orders, Headquarters Department of the Platte, current series numbers 7 - copies of numbers

are still wanting to complete the office file

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Hanning

Col 18th U.S. Infantry

Comdg. Mt. District

In d.

To the Asst. Adj. Genl.
Hd. Qrs. Dept. Platte
Omaha, Neb.

Sir.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept. Platte
Fort Reno, Piney Fork Neb. July 25th 1866.

No. 43
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of 2 copies of each of the following General Orders, Headquarters Mily. Div. of the West, current series, numbers 2. Copies of numbers

are still wanting to complete the office file.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Hanning

Col 18th U.S. Infantry

Comdg. Mt. Dist Dept. Platte

In d.

To the Asst. Adj. Genl.
Dept. of the Platte
Omaha, Neb.

Sir.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept. Platte
Fort Reno, Piney Fork Neb. July 25th 1866.

No. 44
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of Two copies of each of the following General Orders, Headquarters Mily. Div. of the West, current series, numbers 3rd & 4. Copies of numbers

are still wanting to complete the office file

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Hanning

Col 18th U.S. Infantry

Comdg. Mt. District

In d.

By courier from
Fort Philip Kearney July 27th 1866

By Telegram
Major H. J. Sitsfeld
a. a. a. g.
Omaha

No 45

#

After thorough reconnaissance of Goose Creek and Tongue River and riding sixty miles I selected a fine site between and near junction of the two Piney Forks. Water, Timber grass abound. The military position is superior, about sixty six miles from Reno nearly half way to Big Horn. In ten days besides, various defensive and aggressive movements as to hostile Indians have hauled for stockade and buildings a thousand logs and shall soon have a fine post perfectly defensible by a small force

Copy by Mail
respectfully furnished

Henry Hensinger
Col 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg Mt District

Inde

By Telegram

Major H. J. Sitsfeld
a. a. a. g. ent
Omaha.

No 46

Copy by Mail
respectfully furnished

By Courier from
Fort Philip Kearney D.S. July 29th 1866.

Dr Herman Paaton in a skirmish with the Sioux and in care of my wounded has shown great capacity and judgement. In all respects his conduct commands consideration. His services are aided.

Henry Hensinger
Col 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg Mt Dist.

Inde

Adjutant
General
W. S. Army
Washington
D. C.

Fort Philip Kearney, July 29th 1866

Letter of June 30th as to Recruiting Detail received and
Complied with, I have to give Sergeants important duties
having for a line of one hundred miles active Indian
Hostilities. Lieut. Daniels en route to join me with escort
of fifteen men, was scalped and horribly mutilated. I
have ~~also~~ lost three ^{men} killed ^{and} wounded besides Lt. Daniels
I need Officers ^{and} Indian Auxiliaries or men of
my Regiment to build gny posts, prepare for Winter
and Clean out the Indians, I can resist all attacks
and do much active fighting, but I have a long
line to watch ^{and} cover. The Indians are aggressive
to stop the new route

Henry Hengeler
Co. V 18th W. S. Inf

Maj. H. C. Hitchcock
A. A. G.

By Courier from Fort Philip Kearney to
Piney Fork. July 30th 1866.

Omaha Character of Indian affairs hostile. The treaty does not yet benefit this
route. Major Raymond with four companies halted to burn Charcoal and
repair wagons at Crazy woman's fork but joined and on the fifteenth
The next day Indians drove off his herd, all but seventy head were
recovered. He lost two men killed and five wounded in pursuit.
Same night small train consisting with Cheyenne were attacked
by Sioux and all Whites were murdered. Col Sawyer arrived with train
and sixty men, but for one hundred miles had been constantly threat-
ened and compelled to camp on hills away from water. A
supply train from Reno with a company was unable to cross an
emigrant train behind them until I send additional force. Six
Officers and one Officer's wife with escort of fifteen men coming to
join me, were attacked at Crazy woman's fork. Lieut Daniels
a little in advance was shot, scalped and barbarously
tortured with a stake inserted from below.

An Indian put on his clothes and
advanced in sight of the Party. The Citizens train arrived yesterday
having had trouble below Reno. The Sioux shook hands and
then shot one of the Party. There is no safety for Emigrants
armed only with Revolvers. they should have rifles or

shot guns and have double the usual force, my ammunition has not arrived neither has any Leavenworth supply train. Working parties keep arms in constant readiness for use and with this dispatch I send an escort to look for advice and guard emigrants and supplies.

My Infantry make poor riders and as I can only fight Indians successfully on foot, my horses suffered in pursuit and in fight.

I am equal to any attack they may make but have to build Quarters, and prepare for winter, escort trains and guarantee the whole road from the Platte to Virginia City with eight Companies of Infantry. I have to economize ammunition and get from Kearney what I picked up all I could get. I send two officers on Recruiting service under peremptory orders from Washington leaving me crippled and obliged to entrust too much to non Commissioned Officers.

Telegraph fully as there is at Saramie and elsewhere a false security which results in emigrants trans scattering between posts, and involving danger to themselves and others.

The Sioux of Tongue River a few miles distant threatened by Cheyenne messengers to drive out the troops, but will not dare make the venture. Eight Cheyenne Chief with his hundred of their tribe met me in Council and promised peace. It is yet a question I can only believe by a visit in force to their village whether they have public stock and have kept their faith. They are however at war with the Sioux. I submit that I should have either Indian auxiliaries or additional Companies from my own Regiment. It is a critical period with the road and many more outrages will injure it. Still if emigrants will properly arm and keep together, having due warning, I have confidence in the route.

I am very much desirous that a telegraph be sent to Virginia City and answered to me at Saramie, whether Col. Sawyer's train and others that proceeded my arrival here went safely through. My Couriers will remain three days at Saramie for dispatches and mail.

I should have the names of the Chiefs that signed the treaty to secure their services in return of stock to Emigrant or in otherwise testing their good faith.

I am Very Respy
Wm. H. Garrison

Col. B. 2^d Regt. Cond. 3^d U. S. Army

End

Fort Philip Kearney, Dakota Ter.
Piney Forks July 30th 1866

Major H. G. Detach
aa aqul Sir

I have the honor to furnish copy of telegram to be sent from
Laramie, and more fully to present the progress of my movement
and the status of surrounding Indian Tribes.

1st Movement

Owing to large supplies at Reno I left Co. I, Captain
Croton in Command, (twenty two of the new mounted).

On the 9th inst. I marched to Crazy woman's Fork, 26
miles (nos 23).

This march, without water, succeeding a dry route from
Laramie, and the mercury reading 113° in the shade, and the
atmosphere highly rarified loosened so many tires and
crippled so many wagons that I left Col. Maj. Raymond,
to burn charcoal and repair, as he was under orders
for Upper Yellowstone Post at the time.

On the 13th inst at noon I reached a point within two
miles of this post and camped. During the afternoon I
visited the source of Piney Forks to determine the eligibility
of the location. On the 14th at 5 a.m. I started with a small
party to visit Goose Creek and Tongue River valleys, having
received very flattering reports as to their resources from
my chief guide James Bridger.

After a ride of thirteen hours, and nearly seventy miles,
I found, less Cottonwood, on the streams, and that the
pine region would be 18 miles distant. Neither in respect
of grass, timber, water or fuel, nor in any military sense,
could I find any position, even proximately equal to
this. Besides all, it was too remote from Reno, as will
appear more fully from further details.

II Location of Fort Philip Kearney.

As will be seen from Map, the two Pineys, have deep
gorges of the Big Horn Mountains, about 5 or 5 1/2 miles
from the Rock, and make that exit about five
miles apart. Between the two, shortly before they unite
and surrounded by fine grass and gradual slopes is

over

a singular plateau about 900 x 600 feet in extent with a natural glacis from each side of the parallelogram falling of about 60 feet at an angle of 45°.

An Engineer would hardly make a more perfect grade for the sweep of fire.

On the crest I place a good stockade of pine, of which the quantity is inexhaustible and near enough for two loads per day. The south east slope is so near the little Piney⁺ can be carried through the fork.

No rifle can reach the garrison, but hills and slopes are commanded by artillery which I brought from Reus for each post. A signal hill a 1/2 mile distant where I keep a day picket, commands a view of the road eastward for 11 miles to the north east overlooks the "mauvais terres" and over the Tongue river valley takes in the Panther mountains. Within eight and less than ten miles from the post I have opened an exhaustible bed of Cannel coal. The water is clear cold and rapid. I had previously examined Clear Fork, but it was low, remote from timber and without military elements of any value. ~~But~~ Philip Kearney, is in all directions familiarly related to the Indians.

1st It occupies the very heart of their hunting grounds. In my ride of the 14th I saw Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Deer Antelope, Rabbits and Sage hens.

2. It is the natural middle and semi neutral ground of Crows Snakes Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapahoes. Not that all claim equal right to, or in fact equally visit the track, but it is to all a favorite field.

3rd It is a natural source of recuperation and supply to moving, hunting and roving bands of all the tribes, and their lodge trails cross in great numbers from north to south, between Piney junction near the post, and the mountains that lie behind. Independent of, but related to these elements is another, which gives me a *active* duty but makes the post very valuable.

The mountains five miles distant are precipitous, but the gorges are full of pine, Hemlock, Balsam Fir and Spruce. This Ridge is about 800 feet above the Piney Bottoms; but behind, and stretching to the foot of the next or snow capped range is a sweep of prairie as rich in game as it is in grass and flowers.

Here Indians hunt unmolested by Travel and from this great basin, or plateau, they move unexpectedly north, south, east or west; Their fires are visible and I doubt not I shall find their much stolen stock. From Clear River to Big Horn, ~~here~~ is the point most vital to the Indian and it will be seen that ^{while} ~~until~~ the Head Quarter Post is so located as to command the Indian haunts and hunting grounds it lends easy support to all others. In fact the Crows and Snakes near the Upper Yellowstone, while at war with the Arapahoe, Sioux and Cheyennes, are still friendly with the whites, and emigrants will find little trouble after the permanent establishment of Big Horn post, if troops and ammunition be furnished to give me the means of punishing Indian marauders.

In thirty days, this post can be held by a small force against any force, giving me the means of more offensive measures. I trust my supply trains will come up and that your full expectations will be realized as to the success of the new route, so direct and important to all emigration to and from Montana. When I expected to leave Kearney with only two hundred men I mounted them and drew Spencer Carbines for my band, so ^{as} to see every man. I found Spencer ammunition at Reus, and thereby am relieved from some trouble on that account; but having drawn, en route, all I could I have not room for my Springfield rifles, fifty rounds to the man.

III. Respect of Indian Affairs

In Tongue river valley, on the mountain plateau north-east of me towards the 'mauvais terres', eastward to the Black Hills and down Powder river, the Indian

will steal and murder when they can.

The only apparent exception was in a visit of eight Cheyenne Chiefs with 115 lodges, who agreed upon permanent peace and desire to leave this part of the country, being themselves threatened by Sioux and at war with the Snakes and Crows. I am not yet fully satisfied as before stated in telegram, that they keep faith. I shall put them to the test and learn whether they have stolen public or private horses. The Indian Commissioners, before they adjourned, passed a resolution which they sent me by the courier who brought my mail, advising me that a treaty had been signed by them and left at Laramie, with certain presents for Arapahoes and Cheyenne, requesting me to inform and trick within my command of the fact, that they might go and sign and receive their presents. Having received no copy of that treaty and no names of chiefs who have already signed it, I do not see how I can give to the Indians, if they wish peace, any indication of what they are to sign, or receive. The commissioners announce a satisfactory treaty with the "Ogallala" and "Brule" bands; and yet some of them Sioux are in my command, hostile.

The Indians who are about me, who are most interested in this route, and who carry barbarity as far as almost any savage precedent, either have not signed a treaty or fight me with the donations of the United States. If it be true as Mr Bridger and other gentlemen affirm that they saw Indians with kegs of powder, presents I can only say that some of that powder I could now use, and I found at Laramie only 1,000 rounds of Infantry ammunition for Springfield or Enfield rifle, for United States troops.

I know very well, that, when, on arrival at Laramie I was introduced to certain chiefs, as the white chief who was to advance on the new route, that the introduction was not agreeable to the Indians and they could not conceal it.

Of "Red Cloud" and The man afraid of his horses signed

the treaty they have the power to restore much stolen stock. The Commissioners did all they could, but, as, when I left, I wrote you, so since, my impression derived from closest scrutiny of the Indians I saw, are confirmed that I shall have to whip the Indians and they have given me every provocation. My policy has been to treat them kindly. I do not allow emigrants to scatter, or to trade whiskey or other commodities and so far as travel has reached me good order is preserved generally; but the present status is one of war, and I shall expect of Indians professing friendship that they show it in other manner than begging. Every murder and robbery has been reported to me with exact particulars by Indians, conforming to accounts given by sufferers.

Lieut. Daniels' party was saved by the fact that Capt Burrows whom I had sent with 80 waggons to Reno for supplies, overtook them, while yet the Indians were in sight. Kirkendall's train was worn out by camping on the tops of hills away from water. Col. Sawyer, Dunningham, Chealey and others have either lost stock, or men, or been forced to settle precautions and defenses. With Daniels I lost a Corporal.

In the skirmish at Reno Creek one teamster and one soldier were killed and five men wounded. Gossiaux "Friend Pete" whose wife is a Sioux was murdered with his three teamsters and his partner from St. Louis, Henry Arrison. A party of deserters from Fort Caspar four in number crossed the mountains for the gold regions, were attacked near Reno Creek, lost one of their number and starting back for Reno, surrendered themselves at this post. It will be seen that the range of hostile action is from the Black Hills (Col. Sawyer's route) to about thirty miles west of Fort Philip Kearney. I have no means of learning whether trains that passed before my arrival have reached Virginia City, but from the Indians seen, their arms, dress and their statements I expect to hear of other depredations.

IV Emigration

This is large. All, however, reported that they were assured at Laramie of perfect security and therefore neglected to procure proper arms and ammunition. I, of course, can spare neither, except when they have Spencer arms in which case I furnish a moderate supply.

I do not believe migrants should abandon the route. It is too late for hundreds of them and I have so disposed my small force and that the outrages perpetrated in my rear must be less rare.

I saw no Indians on the march - corvalling so closely and picketing so carefully that no force could have done harm. Their very absence and observations at Laramie led me to mistrust danger. But not less than 60 well armed men should leave Laramie; and if Indian women are at all to be believed they expect to harass the whole line.

V My present Force.

I establish Big Horn with two Companies. It is necessary to do this for two good reasons, independent and confirmatory of your own actions.

A large force of miners from Virginia City, have recently located in the Mountains furnishing no mean auxiliaries in fighting Indians. It is near the western limit of the best hunting grounds.

It assures Indians that this movement is no temporary expedition, but a substantial, fixed occupation.

It covers outgoing trains and escorts and puts me in more ready possession of facts above and beyond.

But my 8 Companies of 80 effective men each, with Quarters to build and 560 of them new recruits from General Depot (although largely from old Volunteers) do not give me a fixed adequate command for the present emergency. My own supply trains are to be guarded, trains are to be escorted, a courier line is to be maintained. Whatever my force I cannot settle down and say I have

not the men, I must do all this however arduous.
The work is my mission here and I must meet it.
But when, with this dispatch I send two Officers from
the tow; on recruiting service (four being already on
the same service) when two officers, for ten days alternate
as officer of the day and in turn command detachments
when I am my own engineer, draftsman, and visit
my pickets and guards nightly, with scarcely a
day or night without attempts to steal stock or
surprise pickets; you will see that much is being done
while I ought to have all my officers and some Cavalry
or Indian Auxiliaries at each post.

I do not as you will see, consider every post in
danger; neither do I at present apprehend any
general outbreak. I do not think the tribes can
agree well enough; but I shall have 50 veterans
whose term will expire about February and with
casualties my force must diminish much by spring.
I need not say, ^{I repeat} men, as the General Commanding
has had experience in the same warfare

II My personal relation to the Command
The passage of either Army bill will make one of my
Battalions the 18th Infantry. I desire to elect this
Battalion and that the General Commanding if
he shall deem best to furnish the War Department
or Lieut. General with copy of this report will urge
my request. The 2nd Battalion consolidated all the
veterans when the others were recruited. I filled my
24th leg. regiment in one year; the only one filled.
I have entered upon an important duty which I
desire to fulfil, and take its risks and discomforts
with the purpose and confidence that the result will
neither disappoint the General Commanding
or the authorities at Washington

III I have the honor to forward.

1. Plan of Fort Philip Kearney
2. Plan of Log Buildings.

3. Sketch of Location
4. Report of Capt. & Bvt Major Haymond, of skirmish with Indians at Pens Creek.
5. Report of Capt Burrows of encounter with Indians when relieving Lieut Daniels' party.
6. Report of Lieut. Templeton of murder of Lieut Daniels.

I am very respectfully
 your obedt servt

Henry Mancinger
 Col. 18th US Infantry
 Comdg Mt Dick Dept Platte.

In. 6

511

Head Quarters Mountain Dist. D. P.
 Fort. Philip Kearney July 31st 1866

Procter
 Captain I. L.

The Colonel commanding directs that trains hereafter sent from Fort. Reno must be sent in accordance with established regulations.

The last had a permit: not signed by anyone, no "Roster of men" has yet been received, for endorsement at subsequent posts. Hereafter no trains will proceed to this post with less than thirty guns, additional to revolvers, and the men must number fifty at least.

An escort of twenty Infantry will be furnished to every train which has less than thirty guns: and ten Infantry if they have more than thirty and less than fifty.

You are informed that Indians are threatening the line, and emigrants must corral closely and guard watchfully.

An additional company is sent with an experienced Quarter Master and efficient officer to aid yourself and Lieut Kirkland in your duties. You will have 8 wagons sent you. If you do not need them: if they furnish too much stock to care for you can return the surplus over your wants.

Make complete report of all Indian operations and

and your Adjutant prepare for your Transmittal a daily Journal of all depredations or hostile display, Vigilance is required and if any general outbreak is ^{to} threatened, take all possible measures to communicate

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

John D. Lewis
1st Lieut and Regt. Adjt. 18th U.S. Inf
130th Capt. U.S.A. A.A.A.S.

Inds

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Texas

Fort Thos. Kearny D. T. August 6, 1866

Comdy Officer

Fort Fort Thos. Kearny

No. 52

DS

Sir

By direction of the Col. commanding I have the honor to inform you that: the Monthly Statement of Quartermasters property, on hand, including Clothing Camp and Garrison Equipage, and the Monthly statement of Commissary supplies on hand, at your Post, required to be forwarded at the end of each Month to these Head Quarters, in accordance with General Orders No. 6 from these Head Quarters, has not been received for the Month of July 1866. You will cause the missing papers to be forwarded to these Head Quarters without delay

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your obedient Servant

John D. Lewis
1st Lieut and Regt. Adjt. 18th U.S. Inf
Fort Kept. Tex. A.A.A.S.

Inds

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept. Texas
Fort Philip Kearney D. C. August 9 1866

Commanding Officer
Post Fort C. F. Smith
No 52

Sir

By direction of the Colonel commanding I have the honor to inform you that the Monthly Return of your Post, and the Monthly statements of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, Quartermasters Property and Commissary Supplies on hand at your Post have not been received at these Head Quarters for the month of July 1866, you will forward the missing papers to these Head Quarters with the least possible delay

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

John D. Adair

1st Lieut. Regt. Artillery 18th Inf.

Post Captain U. S. A. A. G.

No 52

Head Quarters Mountain Dist., Dept. Texas
Fort Philip Kearney D. C. August 15th 1866

Comdg Officer
Post Philip Kearney D. C.
No 53

Sir

By direction of the Colonel commanding I have the honor to inform you that copies of Special Orders No 4 C. S. and of General Orders Nos 5, 9 & 10 C. S. Head Quarters Post Fort Philip Kearney D. C. required to be forwarded weekly to these Head Quarters, in accordance with General Orders No 7 D. C. from these Head Quarters, have not been received.

You will please cause the missing papers to be forwarded to these Head Quarters without delay

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

John D. Adair

1st Lieut. Regt. Artillery 18th Inf.

Post Captain U. S. A. A. G.

No 53

Hazen Wm B. Bat Brig Genl. U.S.A. Head Quarters Int Dist. Dept Platte
Acting Insp Genl. Dept. Platte. Fort Philip Kearny 2.1. Aug 27/64.
54. General Fort Reno. B. F.

Your note came safely with the mail and I am very much pleased that you will visit this Post on your trip. I shall ^{and} the escort down to morrow night and they can bring you up if you prefer.

I have established successfully the Big Horn Post and all the late skirmishes, have ^{cost} me nothing and the Indians some loss. I have no doubt of the ultimate perfect security of this route. The Indians have ~~lost~~ since my arrival at least thirty five men killed and wounded, and an attack upon my timber train on wednesday cost them one killed and one so badly shot in the hip as to be carried off with difficulty.

Any train with fifty well armed men and with proper prudence I regard as perfectly safe. and I do advise the General Commanding, All the Indians in the Territory cannot take this Post when completed, and it will be completed in a week.

If you think best to ^{send} the guide back to morrow night with any wish you desire to. Communicate as to your movements he has orders to meet the case.

I will send a mail down after you reach ^{with} here, so that you will have communication if you wish. Dept Head Quarters, and will detain the mail for that purpose. this will also tend to recuperate the horses at Reno. Should you not require them as escort.

Your Very Truly
Henry H. Henshaw
Col. 18th Inf. Inf
Comd'g Int. Dist.

Director J. S. Captain
Condy's Fort Reno.

Head Quarter Dist Capt Plate
Fort Philip Kearney D.T. Aug 22/66

55-

Captain

I regret to learn you have lost some stock
1st Let me know whether you can put up some hay.

2^d If not, how many mule teams do you need for the winter to haul wood &c that you can support

3rd If you can support none advise me how many are indispensable if hay is furnished from this post for the animals

4th Report to me every Indian aggression. I have had nothing from you of the nature of a report, of any kind. All my information comes from citizens & by accident. I am as ignorant of what has transpired at Fort Reno as if the post was in Texas.

5th Western's trains had 24 men besides escorts. They had to wait here two weeks. This is not in accordance with orders of the General Commanding, or myself.

6th Permission to pass, came - uncained - reading by Order of the and ^{there} Endicott's Advice you adjutant of this Omission.

7th Send me by first opportunity detailed report of any Indian outrage, and every loss of government property, at or near your Post since you assumed Command.

Yours Very Truly

Henry H. Henshaw

Col 18th Inf Cond's Dist.

Cond's

Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. Platte
Fort. Philip Kearney D. T. August 23rd 1864

Commanding Officer

Fort Fort. Reno D. T.

56

Sir

I am directed by the Colonel commanding to enquire why you have not complied with the instructions contained in General Order No. 6 C. S. from these Head Quarters, of which you have been furnished a copy, and to state that your non-compliance therewith has been a source of great delay in preparing the Returns from the A. A. A. Genl. Office of the Dist. to the Department. Head Quarters

You will immediately cause all Returns and papers required by the terms of such order to be forwarded to these Head Quarters, to be forwarded as therein directed

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

John D. Nelson

1st Lieut and 180th Capt. U.S.A.

Regt. Ad. J. 18th U.S. Inf. A. A. A. G.

Ans

Proctor

Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. State

Provt. Philip Kearney August 29th 1866

Captain J. L. Tucker 15th Infy

57 I find that my through mail bag from District
Head Quarters, was opened at Fort Reno.

This is a violation of orders and at a time when
I wished to examine the mail first myself.

You know that I will do as much for my Officers,
posts ^{and} men as any one could ask: but after
securing good locks and entrusting a mail to my
own command, I wish the bag for Head Quarters
to come through.

The best plan ^{used} will so instruct the
Post Master at Saramie is to make up a direct
mail for Reno ^{and} to have the courier take a ^{mail}
back.

When a mail arrives, after examining
your mail, if anything is for this post, it can
be entrusted by the courier.

I know that you would take a good care
of my mail as your own ^{and} yet you see the
embarrassment, when I know that between Cincinnati
and this post the mail for this post has been
violated.

With the kindest feelings I must say
that I shall ~~not~~ ^{treat} the opening of my mail bag
hereafter by any one, as punishable under ^{the}
act of Congress and make a signed example
By this I do not censure you for the last as
you did what you thought best. I shall send
weekly mail so that if anything comes here for
you I will have it promptly sent. But bear in
mind that I am held responsible for the whole
District ^{and} must control communication.

Truly Yours

Nemy Hamington
Col 8th U. S. Inf.

Comd a Dist

Commanding Officer Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. of the Platte
Fort Fort. Reno D. T. Fort. Philip Kearney D. T. August 23^d 1866

58

Sir

By direction of the Colonel commanding I have the honor to request that you forward to these Head Quarters Descriptive Lists and account of Pay & clothing of men of the 18th U. S. Inf on duty at District Head Quarters, and belonging to companies stationed at Fort Reno at your earliest convenience.

Capt. Doby ^{often} having escorted the courier to Fort Reno D. T. you will cause ~~him~~ to return to these Head Quarters as soon as practicable

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

To Capt. J. S. Proctor

John D. Selars

1st Lieut. 13th Co. Capt. U. S. A.

Regt. Adj. 18th Inf. A. C. A. G.

Ind

To the Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. of the Platte
Assistant Adj. Gen. Hd Fort. Philip Kearney D. T. August 24th 1866
Drs Dept. of the Platte
Omaha D. T.

59

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of 4 four copies of a circular No. 1 Hd Drs Dept of the Platte, current series

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U. S. Inf, Comdg

Ind

To the
Assistant Adj. Genl.
Head Quarters Dept. Platte,
Omaha, N. D.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Platte
Fort. Philip Kearney N. D. August 24th 1866.

60

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt this day of (11) eleven copies of each of the following Genl.
Orders War Dept. A. S. O. current series numbers 3 (and 37)

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U. S. Inf. Comdg

Ind

To the
Assistant Adj. Genl.
Head Quarters Dept. Platte,
Omaha, N. D.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Platte

Fort. Philip Kearney N. D. Aug 24 1866

61

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt this day of (11) eleven copies of General Orders c. s. as
follows. War Dept Nos 38 & 39. c. s.

Respectfully

Your Obed. Servant

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U. S. Inf. Comdg

Ind

To the
Assistant Adj. Genl.
Head Quarters Dept. Platte,
Omaha, N. D.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Platte

Fort. Philip Kearney N. D. Aug 24th 1866

62

Sir:

I have the honor to acknow-
ledge the receipt, this day of One copy of General Order c. s. as follows
Ad. Ors Dept. of the Platte No 9

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington

Col. 18th U. S. Infy

Comdg

Ind

To the
Asst. Adjt. General
Ad. Gen. Dept. of the Platte,
63
Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. of the Platte
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. August 24th 1866
Omaha N. T.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt this day, of 21 eleven copies General Orders U. S. War Dept.
Nos 40 and 41.

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant,

Henry Harrington
Col 18th U. S. Inf., Comd'g

To the
Asst. Adjt. General
Ad. Gen. Dept. of the Platte, Omaha N. T.
64
Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. of the Platte
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. August 24th 1866

I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt this day, of One Copy of Circular Dept. Platte dated July 27/66

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant,

Henry Harrington
Col 18th U. S. Inf., Comd'g

Adj. Gen. U. S. Army
Washington D. C.
65
General
Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. Platte.
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Aug. 24/66

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt
of Guide Order No. 111 War Dept. A. G. Office. dated Washington
D. C. June 25th 1866.

Yours General Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt

Henry Harrington
Col. 18th U. S. Inf.

Comd'g Dist

Ind

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept Platte
Fort Phillips Kearney Aug 28. 1866

Post Brig Gen
W B Hazen USA

Act Dist Gen Dept Platte

66

General

A mounted escort is at your service, and I shall be happy to accompany you at any time you will suggest to visit the surroundings of this Post.

Please give me your wishes as to inspections and I will conform to the hour or purposes you suggest.

Yours Very truly

Henry Manington.

Col 18th Regt Infy

Comdg Mountain District

67

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept Platte
Fort Phillips Kearney D.S. Aug 28th 1866.

Comdg Officer
Fort Reno D.S.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the following General Orders viz:

War Department A. G. O. Nos 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, C. S.
Departments of the Platte, No's 8, C. S. also Circular, No 49. Dept of the
Platte, Inspector General's Office dated July 13th 1866.

You will please acknowledge the receipt of said orders as soon as possible, I am also directed by the Colonel Commanding to call your attention to the provisions of Genl Order No 6, C. S. from the Head Quarters, which requires the prompt acknowledgements of all orders and communications.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

John Nelson

Private and Post Capt USA

Adj Adjt 18th Regt Infy. D. S. & G.

Revised looking to
C. O. of Ft Phillips
C. O. of " " " " "

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Alaska
Fort Philip Kearney D.S. August 26th 1866

Commanding Officer
Fort Reno D.S.

68

Sir

By direction of the General commanding
I have the honor to call your attention to the provisions of Genl
Order No 46, War Dept. A.D. and to request your prompt
compliance therewith. You will please forward a list of the
Prisoners discharged from custody, in terms of said order,
who may have been confined at your Fort, to this Head Quarters
as soon as possible.

Dear Sir

Your obedient servant

John D. Stevens
1st Lieut. & Co. Capt. USA
Regt. Sig. 18th Inf. U.S.A.

Similar order to
C.O. Fort Philip Kearney
C.O. " " " "

Bot Major H Litchfield
a a a
Dept of the Platte

Head Quarters Mt Dist Dept Alaska
Fort Philip Kearney D.S.
August 27/66

69

Major

I have the honor to report as to the
condition of Indian Affairs within this Command up to
date, with the remark that I shall endeavor to keep up
a weekly mail, and send intermediate couriers if em-
ergency shall require the same. And
1st The Route

After due reflection I
deemed best to establish the post on the Big Horn
River. I was led to this conclusion by the fact that
the Sioux had given me notice ^{that they} would not leave a
"hoop" and that I should go no further, and
by the consideration, that having established a
perfectly secure base, I had ~~that~~ means at
Command, seasonably to support the advance
and find out, whether I had substantial

opposition on the line.

The movement was without opposition, and timely: as the Indians had robbed a citizen's train of one hundred mules just before the arrival.

The post is well located, and has already proved of substantial value to Emigration. I shall be able by the next mail to furnish a map of the route with full details; as to water courses see

D^r Hostile Operation

Indians have molested trains as far Eastward as Wind River, in one case leaving one man of twelve to escape unhurt. The total number of Whites killed has been thirty three (33), so far as advised, and I have carefully sifted all the ^{or} exaggerated reports so - Current at such times

In no instance, do I know of a train of good size, having been attacked, when prudence was exercised in guarding stock & stores.

In the case of Mr Dillon, above referred to the Sioux showed more wickedness than usual his eleven men had Henry and Spencer rifles.

The Indians pretended friendship ^{short range} with the party; and suddenly turned to shooting their entertainers

At Fort Reno the Indians have stolen ^{and} frequently.

At this post there have been but two demonstrations since last report. In one case an attempt was made to show friendship towards our drivers of timber train; and then they attacked the rear wagons, cutting lose a few mules.

Upon report of our picket on this western Lookout a few men were started in pursuit, rescuing the mules. Killing one and wounding in the hip, second Indian

They equally failed on their second visit. We have good assurance of thirty.

Several Indians killed and wounded on the line, and they now avoid it.

They Equally realize that the occupation of this line is certain and permanent, and I feel Certain that Emigration next Spring can safely follow this route.

Indeed a train of emigrants of fifty to sixty men which now organize with prudence, is safe.

They must be cautious; but they need not avoid the route.

3^d Sub Posts.

I deem it highly important that I be able to establish the following Sub Post under the control of nearest Post Commander viz:

At South Fork of Cheyenne midway between Ferry of the Platte and Fort Rice.

There timber, grass, & water, ample for the purpose on the spot.

At Crazy Woman's Fork, where similar advantages obtain.

At mouth of Goose Creek on Tongue River, having similar advantages.

I also present the importance of establishing the Yellow Stone Post this fall.

In view of the importance of the route, and the Character of the Indians operations I do not believe a large force will be necessary to maintain it; but natural connected sequence of supporting posts will guarantee its safety.

4th Character of Indian operation

They are bent on robbery. They only fight when assured of personal security and remuneration Stealings.

They are divided among themselves.

For example the Sioux whipped, with horses several Cheyenne's chiefs who refused to unite in an attack upon me; and on the other hand, nearly all the old men oppose any Contest with the whites.

The young warriors are repugnant to the surrender of the ground I occupy; but this Saramie Treaty has still more alienated some who received presents, from others who received none.

The hereditary Chiefs are no more, and there is no possibility as it seem to me of any Indians Alliance that will bring on a general war. They are too late! When my ammunition arrives they may threaten all winter; but I shall be able to communicate with ~~Head~~ ^(at) Quarters and extend a good Spring route for emigration, to all who seek it.

5th Force required

My first opinion formed at Fort Kearney confined on the march and since assured I find no reason to change.

If I had left Saramie with two Batt^{ns} (16 Companies) there would have been clear road.

To ensure the route against all but a general war I need five Companies of Infantry and four of Cavalry, to complete the route suggested.

For the Winter, if I establish ~~the~~ the Yellowstone Post I can protect posts and stores, and keep open my Communications. (on this same basis) with two of Infantry and two of Cavalry.

With two Companies of Cavalry (not establishing the further post) I can keep open my Communication, protect all posts and hold my own with positive injury to the Indians.

6th Expedition

You may be assured that I will ~~run~~ ^{run} no hazardous risk. I am daily obtaining information of the Country, the Character of the opposing and antagonist tribes such as will enable me with a moderate force to find out the exact relation of all Indians on Tongue River and its tributance, the Big Horn, and the Valley below Reno.

I will make methods of Communication ^{secure} so that you
may be fully advised, and knowing well ^{your} anxiety
as to the route, will ^{endeavor to meet} most fully your expectation

7th Present Mail facilities
Learn that a mail will leave Fort Saramie for
the Ferry each Wednesday, and will make my
arrangements accordingly.

8th Genl Hazen leaves to morrow
with ~~escort~~ of Mounted Infantry. He will probably
report by this mail of his visit to this post.

Henry M. Cunningham
Col 18th U.S. Infantry
Comd'g.

Fort Philip Kearney

August 29th 1866

Major H. G. Litchfield
Asst Supt Genl

70 Omaha

Estimates for additional (600,000) pounds
of corn forwarded by mail. There is corn at Sidgwick
which is going to ruin. I shall need it for Cavalry
now en route.

Henry M. Cunningham
Col 18th U.S. Infantry
Comd'g. U.S. Dist

Fort Philip Kearney D. S.

August 29th 1866

Major H. G. Litchfield
Asst Supt Genl

71 Omaha

It is competent in me to order a
General Court Martial, in urgent cases, and act there on.
Some desertions in the face of the enemy seem to make
this prerogative; but shall not assume the authority.

Henry M. Cunningham
Col 18th U.S. Infantry

10th Telegram

Fort. Philip Kearney
Via Fort. Laramie, August. 29th 1866

Major R. B. Sitchfield
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Omaha

72
A
Mail received, Indians were hostile early in the month. But have lost at least thirty seven men in their operations ^{and} kept more distant. The aggregate of whites killed does not exceed thirty three. Their demonstrations upon my post have cost me nothing, but have cost them men, ^{and} horses. I send report by mail. ^{and} shall communicate weekly, if I can keep up horses. Trains with fifty well armed men who are prudent, are safe. I think Yellowstone post should be established this fall. The Big Horn Post is successfully established. I need Cavalry, but they will be here soon. If I had five more Companies of Infantry, it would be well to establish a sub post of Reno, at South Fork of the Cheyenne, half way to the Dry with one company; next to divide a company between crazy woman fork, ^{and} Dry Fork of the Cheyenne ^{and} to place one company at mouth of Goose Creek on Tongue river ^{and} two at Yellowstone. Genl. Hazen leaves to morrow with escort I furnish. He will report to you in full, I have a saw mill in full operation but need a shingle machine very much. Be assured the public need not fear to follow this line of travel; using proper care ^{and} being well armed.

Very Respectful

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington
Col 15th U. S. Inf

Inds

Head Quarters W^h Dist. Dept. Platte
Col J. A. Potter rfa. Fort. Philip Kearney C. T. Sept. 10th 1866
Fort. Leavenworth

Dear Sir

Mr J. A. Chandler U. S. Contractor,

which encamped upon this Military Reservation, had nineteen
head of stock stolen by Arapooe Indians, on Saturday the 8th
Inst. during a severe storm about 4 o'clock in the morning.

The night had been terrific and the animals, though
properly corralled broke forth and were pursued. The Indians
evidently had been secreted in bushes as they came up
within a few minutes, and within half a mile of the place when
the snules broke forth. - Mr Chandler's party promptly
followed, had a skirmish in which they lost three horses

Upon notice I sent Capt. Adair with all avail-
able force in pursuit but after a sharp ride of twenty
miles failed to recapture the stock, soon after my
own herd were attempted but the Indians failed
entirely -

The storm was such as to render any further
efforts at pursuit with my few hard worn horses
impossible. -

I seriously submit Mr. Chandler's care as one
of great merit, if in any case the government without action
of congress can give relief.

Upon careful inquiry I am
satisfied that he was diligent and prudent and in no
way at fault.

I am Very Respectfully,

Your O^bd^t Servant,

Samy. Kearney
Col^l W. S. Inf.

Comd. W^h Dist

74.
X

Prof Major H. G. Stockfield
Asst Adjt Genl
Supt Platte

Head Quarters Mountain District Supt Platte
Fort Phelps Kearney D. T. Sept. 10. 1866

Sir

I have the honor to send by bearer Mr. W. B. Co
Smith, who desires to organize a band of Minnabago Scouts the
following Report, as he goes by Stage, and may anticipate a war
He is a good man for the work, if it has not
been farther attempted

The Arapphas yesterday during a cold, and
terrible storm attempted to cut off one of my herds without success

About 4 O'clock A.M. the mules of Mr. Chand
Government contractor, broke from their corral, and within a half
mile were attacked by Arapphas, losing altogether twenty two head
of Stock

Upon report of the matter, I sent Captain Adair
with a party who pursued twenty miles, without success, as the Indians
divided, and with the force disposable, it was impossible to
make the stand. & persistent pursuit which ensures success.

I sent twenty five of my best mounted men with
Genl. Hazen. have no guns and with all pains to keep up my stock can
not pursue successfully until I have more Cavalry; but in one case
got near the scouts made, and trail followed, failed to show that if
the single company of Indians which were sent down for mischief out
on my way here had been with me I could have furnished the Indians
and regained much stock

I know that you appreciate the case fully & feel
fully warranted in assuring you that the exaggerated stories in the
press are injurious, and will do no good, I have given all the back
news from time to time in all its details, and with the force you propose
to send shall be able to make the next spring trail secure -

I am learning what the Old ages are and
will consult you before taking any steps involving extraordinary
action

I am very Respectfully

Yours obdt. Serv

Henry M. Smith
Col. 11. 2d Dist. 6 miles

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Flatta
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. September 10th 1866

Commanding Officer
Post Fort Philip Kearney D. T.

75.

Sir:

By direction of the Colonel commanding,
I have the honor to state, that it does not appear by any of the orders
published at Head Quarters of your Post, ^{and on file at these Hd. Qrs.}
that Paragraph 193 Revised Army Regulations has been complied with
^{and} to request that you state the reason for your non-compliance
therewith as soon as possible, also to direct that you immediately
convene the Post Council of Administration as there in directed

Inc.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

John I. Adams
1st Lieut. ^{and} 1st Br's Capt. U.S.A.
Reg't. Adj't. 18th Inf. 4th A. S.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Flatta.
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Sept 12th 1866.

Comdg Officer
Post Fort Philip Kearney D. T.

76

Sir

By direction of the Colonel Comdg,
I have the honor to request that you furnish these Head Quarters
with a statement of your reasons for your non-compliance
with Paragraph 2^d Special Orders No 62. C. S., from these
Head Quarters.

I am Sir Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servant

John I. Adams
Lieut. and 1st Br's Captain U. S. A.
Regimental Adj't 18th Inf
A. A. A. S.

Adj't Genl U.S. Army
Washington D.C.

Head Quarters Mt Dist Dept of the Platte
Fort Philip Kearney D.T. Sept 18/66

General

77

I have the honor to request to be furnished with one years supply of the following Blanks for the use of Two Regiments of Infantry & two Companies of Cavalry.

Non Commissioned Officer Warrants.

Musters Rolls for field Staff & Band.

Regimental Monthly Returns

Quarterly returns of Deceased Soldiers.

I am General Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Manigault

Col 18th U.S. Inf't Comdg Dist

Chief of Ordnance Dept
Washington D.C.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist D. P.

Fort Philip Kearney D.T. Sept 18/66.

General

78

I have the honor to request to be furnished with Ordnance Blanks for one year, for the use of the two Regiments of Inf't, and two Companies of Cavalry, also one Ordnance Manual.

I am General Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt Serv't.

Henry Manigault

Col 18th U.S. Inf't. Comdg Dist

Comdg Officer
Fort Reno D.T.

Head Quarters Mt Dist Dept Platte

Fort Philip Kearney D.T. Sept 18/66

Sir

79

By direction of the Col Comdg. I have the honor to inform you that there are 2000 rounds of ammunition send you by the present train. which together with 3000 rounds you have rec'd from Major Van Voast, and the 5000 already furnished you will fill requisition

I am Sir Very Respectfully Yours Obedt Serv't

John D. Adaro
Lieut & Dist Capt U.S.A. Reg't Adj't 18th U.S. Inf't
a.a.a.

By Telegram - Special
Headquarters Mountain District U.S.
Fort Philip Kearny U.S. Sept. 17th 1864.

Major H. J. Litchfield
Ass. Adj. Genl
Omaha.

80

#

Mail has arrived I send directly back. Genl. Sherman wrote me from Saranac to endeavor to keep you more frequently advised I am doing all I can with my broken down and famished horses not having received a pound of corn yet. The urgent necessity for the two companies of Cavalry, and the Indian scouts will appear from this report. General Hazen took for escort one officer, and twenty seven horses expecting the Cavalry would arrive, and he could relieve my men in ten days. He writes, he will need them to Virginia City.

The last week has been one of active duty. On the eighth (8th) during a blinding storm of wind, and rain a citizen herd broke from their corral, and before the herders had followed one mile the Sioux took liberty of their stocks. About noon same day they attacked a government herd but without success. On the tenth (10th) a large force attacked wagon master Hill's train cutting off a few horses, and nearly seventy mules. Upon signal from the ticket hill Captain Adam followed the trail. I took fifteen men and wrote to the head of Rock Creek and Bear Creek to cut them off from their usual retreat. Fifteen miles out found they had gone north of the lake seven miles north. Both parties failed to come within reach of them. A Board of Officers is investigating the course of herds and guards as to the sufficiency of the defence and precautions exercised.

On the thirteenth (13th) at one (1) A.M. I was called up by courier news for aid, a hay party of eighty four (84) citizens, near Tongue River, having been attacked, and struggled killed the hay stacks fired, and six mowing machines broken with hatches hay heaped upon them and fired. I sent Captain Adam with forty men to relieve them, in waggon. Six miles out a small body of Indians rode towards the train. Prompt deployment of the men sent them galloping to the hills. Capt. Adam reports

Copy by Mail unhelpfully furnished.

from two to three hundred Indians on the hills following his course. He found the Indians had driven two hundred head of cattle into a lot of Buffalo, and they were irrecoverably lost. Twenty men were left to guard the hay - the machines were promptly repaired, and put in motion. With the citizens who are well armed, I hope to have in one week a winter supply of hay for all contingencies.

Same day band of Sioux attacked convalescent herds of mules, and horses. One picked cannon with arrow in his hip another with unbroken ball in his side. Capt. Stev Egan, Lieut. Brown and Bisher pursued riding for fifteen miles within half a mile of the Indians but the latter took to the red buttes where our horses could not pursue.

On the fourteenth (14th) a soldier named Johnson riding three hundred yards ahead of a hay train was cut off by a party of Indians. Pursuit showed twenty Indians but after twenty miles riding they night-cut off their track.

This morning Mr. Sidgeway Glover, citizen artist, who went out on geological tour Saturday, without permission, and unarmed, was found two miles from the forts naked, scalped, and his back cleft with a tomahawk.

This morning about ten (10) o'clock a body of Sioux suddenly broke from the valley at the junction of the two Pineys, passing westward of Coal Hill galloping swiftly for the pickets on the east Lookout, as indicated in map I furnished. Their capture seemed inevitable, but they stood firm. I loaded and fired a twelve pound field howitzer, having no one else experienced, bursting the first shell in their midst. This drove them back to the creek. A second shell dismounted one Indian and all crossed to the hills.

Simultaneous with this movement at least fifty (50) appeared in front of the forts within two miles north of Piney. Two shells burst directly over them, the second dismounting a second Indian. Both were carried away by their friends and their ponies, without riders took to the hills.

This body then moved westward, when a third body showed themselves near the angle of Big Piney, where it bends to the mountain. Suspecting an attack upon the timber party

a sufficient force was sent in time and the Indians disaffected.
Baileys' ^{Trigging and} military party of forty men, have just come
in from Helena. They hunted two of their party yesterday
who were hunting and were scalped near Tongue river -
The two men were not stripped of clothing, jewelry, or money,
a compliment from the Indians to their bravery.
The indications were that they had fought behind their
dead horses, and blood makes show that many Indians
were killed. They are splendidly armed with equip-
ment and if authorized to hire them in Quarter Master's
Department, or otherwise until reinforced, they will do
good work. Most of them have been eleven years in the
western Territories.

Messenger from Fort G. Smith brings
message that at request of Mr. Bridger a party of Crow
visited that Crow reporting five hundred lodges of
Sioux in Tongue river valley, all hostile. They name
chiefs, viz, Black Horse, The man that stands alone
on the ground, Red Arrow, Little Wolf, Owl Knife and others
with whom I held council in July, and who went
beyond the mountains, South as they promised, brought
me the same report. Previous telegram of this date, will
show the same facts. Another village must be South east
of Lake Smith, towards Bonduel River.

The following facts are important by way
of review -

- 1st The Indians are well armed, with revolvers as well
as rifles.

- 2nd Red Cloud is known to command the parties,
was immediately engaged. White flags were used as signals
between the different bands. Thus covering a line of at least
several miles.

- 3rd There are men with them who dress and appear
to be white men, and swear and talk, in good English.

- 4th They are determined to know the country,
cut off supplies, and hamper every movement.

I believe the force I have is well disposed

and effective, for its strength, and I did not deem the presence of the Indians, to stop the hay waggons from going back to the hay field.

The men are learning to receive part of their fire, and the Indians will hardly venture again, under fire of the fort; but they are in the field in force.

Sixty thousand round of Springfield, came with a contract commissary train. I ought if possible to have a hundred thousand more, and from Laramie more ammunition for my twelve pound field howitzer, and mountain howitzer.

Be assured I will send reports as fast as possible. I have bought a few bushels of corn, to restock horses for the purpose. I cannot chase Indians with these.

D.ux

Henry Mannington
Col. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg District.

"Tetogaam"
81

Head Quarters Mt. District
Fort Philip Kearney Sept 17th 1866

Major Henry J. Litchfield
Asst. Surg. Genl.
Omaha

Reports from Forts L. & Smith and Beus, run up as follows. A few mules were run off as the former belonging to a hay party. Indians appear frequently. A fresh trail of fresh shot mules was crossed by Baileys party eighty miles west of Smith bearing towards Salt Lake Valley. At Beus Indians appear on the hills almost daily and stock has to be kept close. They have lost some mules and horses. Next courier from that post will bring full report.

Respectfully

Henry Mannington
Col. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg District.

By order of the commanding officer

82

Telegram

For Philip Kearney Sept 17th 1866
Major Henry G. Little
Asst. Surg. Genl
Omaha.

Copied by Mrs. W. C. Adams

Thermometer at Skitymine with snow. Steamers being advised that forty five dollars is paid at Sarawie refused to work. Firm measures restored them to duty; but with high price of clothing it is but just that their wages should be raised. They cannot live on thirty five dollars.

Please ask General Myers to telegraph, as courier will bring back reply. These men die at great risk and are still needed.

Henry H. Huntington
Co. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg. Depot District

Telegram

Head Quarters Mountain District
For Philip Kearney Sept 17th 1866

Copied by Mrs. W. C. Adams

83
Major H. G. Little
Asst. Surg. Genl
Dept of the Matter.

No women nor children have been captured or injured by Indians in this District since I entered it. No killing has passed without being well cared for and protected to their full satisfaction.

No fort has been besieged or so threatened that it could not drive off offensive Indians and at the same time protect itself.

While more troops are needed I can say and I am in the very heart of the hostile district - that most of the newspaper reports are gross exaggerations. I gather and furnish you as requested all the bare news - neither coloring nor disguising facts.

Henry H. Huntington
Co. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg. Depot Dist.

84
Commanding Officer Head Quarters, Mountain Dist. Dept. Platte
Fort. C. D. Smith Fort. Philip Kearney D. T. Sept. 19th 1866
M. T.

Sir:

By direction of the Colonel commanding I have the honor to enclose Invoices & Receipts for 5,000 rounds of Springfield Rifle Ammunition cal 58. which latter you will please sign & return.

It is impossible to send you at this time more than 2,000 rounds: but the remaining 3,000 will be sent you by next mail

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

John D. Kelari

1st Lieut. and Det. Capt 2nd Regt.

Regt. Adjt 18th Infy A. A. S. I.

85
Major H. G. Litchfield

Asst Adjt Genl. m. t. o.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist West Platte
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Sept 25/66.

Omaha

Since reports of last week Indians have been hostile, but a signal success attended my last movement, and for two days no Indians have appeared; Wednesday nineteenth (19) a large force attacked the miners encamped across big Piney losing one pony. A shell from the Fort scattered them. No stock was lost. Miners pursued several hours in vain.

Friday the twenty first (21st) a large force surrounded the hay party on Tongue river. The snow, and rain prevented hay cutting, and the party came in under escort of forty Infantry for instructions. On the next day they were corralled six hours by a force of nearly three hundred Indians but a small mounted party from the fort sent out to learn the cause of the delay, induced the Indians to leave, and train arrived safely. This was five miles from Fort. Apprehending hostile movements, early Sunday morning during a storm, the Garrison was on the alert. The Indians dashed

with contractor Chandler's herd, diving off ninety four head upon their appearance Captain Brown, with a party of mounted men, and fifteen miners, who volunteered, dashed out of the east gate, and after a pursuit of thirteen miles overtook the Indians, and fought them an hour. At one time the whole party was surrounded. Diminishing the Infantry, Captain Brown, and a few men charged the Indians with revolvers, killing five Indians, and one white man, I think Bob Worth, who has led them in every case, and wounding sixteen. One of our party was wounded slightly, with an arrow, which grazed the temple, and six of our horses were wounded by revolver and rifle shots. All were brought from the field, one chief carried from the field by his men, wore an elaborate feather head dress, and proper ornament of the same kind upon his person. They retired to a high hill silently, and without their usual war-whoops, they felt the blow. Every head of stock was rescued, and brought back to the fort. It has inspired my men, with new courage, with cavalry we should have brought in the bodies, and have followed them. One week's feeding on corn has given new life, also to my horses.

The rain, and snow quenched prairies fires, and I intend to follow up the hay business as it is vital.

Operations along the line for the past week sum up as follows. Gull's contract train returning from Fort Smith was constantly harassed. Gull with two wagons, riding in advance, were burned, and the two men and himself killed, and scalped. At Fort Smith a force demonstrated, and guide Jo Beckwith who went to see them said they were Crows; but changed his mind, and declared them Sioux. They pretended friendship, but getting no presents, and not being admitted near the fort, they scalped a white man within sight of the garrison; they pretended they with the Arapahas had made peace with the Crows. I do not believe it.

Indians still harass around Fort Reno, but get nothing. I have changed company buildings to eighty four feet in length kitchen in rear: this will allow four buildings each side; and these four ~~four~~ will be roofed this week. A large Commissary building with plank floor, and good roof will be equally advanced. Everything moves well.

The men cheerfully come off guard, and go to work, and respond to alarm instantly, and eagerly by night and day. Sickness is almost unknown. Sometimes one and often more at sick call. Antiscorbutic arrived in good time, as scurvy began to appear. I trust fresh potatoes will be sent us, on my apul requisition. I shall have a cellar ready.

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Henry W. Harrison
Col. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comd'g Dist.

Matson W.S. Lieut
18th U.S. Inf't

81

Head Quarters Mt Dist Dept Ratta
Act'g asst Adjt Genl Office
Fort Philip Kearney 31 Oct/66.

Lieutenant

I have the honor to enclose herewith the Orders and Papers which accompanied your Report of date Sept 16th 1866 to these Head Quarters, there being no further need of detaining them longer in this office

I am

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
John D. Adams
Lieut & Bst Captain U.S.A.
Regt adjt 18th U.S. Inf't
a. a. a. g.

Commandy office

Post Ft Philip Kearny S.F.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist Dept. Platte.

Fort Philip Kearny D. T. Sept 29th 1866.

87

Sir

By direction of the Colonel Commanding, I have the honor to inform you: that complaint has been made by Dr Baalon, late Post Surgeon of your Post, that since he has been relieved from that duty, he has been unable to turn over to, and obtain receipts from Asst Surgeon S. W. Horton u.s.a. his successor, for the property for which he was responsible when relieved.

You will please state the reason why such is the case, and take immediate measures to enable Dr Baalon to turn over to & receive receipts from ^{Asst Surgeon} Horton for such property, as he was responsible for at the date on which he was relieved by ~~Asst Surgeon~~ Horton.

I am Sir very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

John T. Selars

Lieut & Post Captain u.s.a.

Regt adjt 18th Inf. a.a.a. G.

4

Post Major W. J. Litchfield
Asst Adjutant

Head Quarters Mountain Dept Platte.

Fort Philip Kearny S.F. Sept 26/66.

Omaha S.F.

Major

I have the honor to furnish the following data, respecting the mineral, Agricultural, and other resources of the new route to Montana, upon which I am engaged.

I. Mineral

Coal abounds in exhaustless supply. I have recently opened a vein of Cannon Coal, that will yield iron, within fifty feet of the Quarter Master Coal, east of the fort.

The buttes - northward, are colored by the red oxide of iron; but no ore has yet been found, neither have I yet found the proper signs of fine iron, susceptible of application to use. They are, however, full of Coal, in veins, and lamina varying from five to many feet

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in depth. There is much "Lignite", approximating Wood coal, but the Canaan coal predominates in varied quantities, and quality. "Gold color" is given from the sands of adjacent creeks; but I have had no leisure for such research in the mountains as would give reliable assurance, as to remunerating gold operation.

The indications offer a favorable prospect for emigrants, and miners, through all the sources of mountain streams from this post to the Yellow Stone; but this opinion is formed from color given, and the general Geological features of the country.

Limestone, can be reached, with some labor, and I shall attempt a kiln, at the earliest possible opportunity;

No Fossils have been found in the immediate range South of the Fort; but Specimens have been brought from the second chain of mountains, which culminate in perpetual Snow.

One good Specimen of Lead I picked up at the gorge through which the Piney passes the mountain,

II Agriculture

The valleys of Piney, Clear, Goose, and Pine Creek, also of Tongue, and the Big Horn rivers, with their numerous tributaries, afford fine grass, with wheat, and oats.

Their Soil is a rich loam, and susceptible of full culture with rich returns.

The grass range is directed and established by the following general formation of the Country.

1st The northern range of the Big Horn Mountain, five Miles South from this post, is cut by many gorges, through which flow the many streams, that verigate the grass region, as far westward, as the "Yellowstone", and Clarke's Pass. Crazywoman Fork is Eastward of this line, is a muddy stream, and is of the same class with Powder river, and is not a true flow from Big Horn Mountains. It will be seen by reference to the map that the Big Horn Mountains terminate nearly South from the stream mentioned, and that Clear

Fort 10, is the first genuine mountain stream of the northern slope.

Behind this northern slope, southward, is a tract varying from eighteen to twenty five miles (now difficult of access), but luxuriant in vegetation. The valleys of all the small streams, are equally luxuriant, as they follow the mountain currents, northward and ^{East} southward to the main tributaries of the Mississippi.

Between these valleys, and bearing from fifteen to twenty miles, northward, from the abrupt, or northern range of the Big Horn Mountains are back bone ridges, hills, and rolling lands, which also afford good grass. The soil of these upland ridges would however indicate, that in an extremely dry season, the crop would be meagre. This season all have furnished a fair feed for stock.

But the valleys, sometimes narrowed to a fine belt, and then spreading out from one to five miles retain their prolific yield.

Gross Creek, Pine Creek, the larger Piney and Tongue river are of this character, the valley of the last named being more than twenty miles wide and of great fertility. Big Horn, and Little Big Horn valleys, furnish fine grass, and mild cereals inferior to none.

Driving still northward of the series of hills referred to, and extending a great distance, are the Mauvais Terres, or barren, red buttes impassable except by tedious detours. - cropped and slashed by gullies and ravines, impassable for cavalry (absolutely) and hardly attempted by Buffalo.

And yet, even there, the rivers crossing to the Mississippi, feed small and rich bottoms, so that the country is not lost, when intelligent civilization shall bring its mineral resources into use.

^{2nd} Irrigation of these grass regions is most ample. Late in the season as it now is, while the Cottonwood is yellow from frost, the hills and slopes bear innumerable patches of green shrubs, marking the work of the last lingering snows of Spring and the abounding Springs which are everywhere found.

Westward from this post, ^{so far} as Big Horn, running water can be found, at distances of from three to five miles, and there is no half day march without it.

This peculiarity of grass, and this supply of water, begins near Clear Creek, and even six miles westward of Crazy woman's fork, so soon as the true northern slope of the Big Horn Mountain is reached, the change is so marked, that the traveller seems to have been transferred to a different land.

The water of these streams, is either snow derived, or flows from aggregated springs, and while in some cases, at a low stage, it is slightly affected by the ^{disintegrated} coal beds it washes, it is pure and wholesome.

The following fruits abound: viz; wild Prunes, Cherries, Strawberries, raspberries and grapes, - the last named bearing close affinity to the Fox grape, so called, and proving very grateful to the taste and an excellent anti-scorbutic.

Wild hops, as fine as ever grew. Blunt the Cottonwood and ^(gorr) in profusion.

The following timber, additional to exhausted supplies of evergreen varieties, is found upon various creeks, and mountain slopes: viz Ash, Box Elder, Willow and Cottonwood in all its forms.

The pine timber has furnished novel results, the trees of one mountain have been girdled by fire apparently two years since. The boards from these take the plane and polish equal to No 1. merchantable seasoned pine lumber. The pitch has dried out, the grain is close, and the material is sound. Shingles that are sived from it furnish bolts three feet in diameter and of the best quality.

III. Climate & Meteorological facts.

The peculiarity of most pine bearing regions, viz; salubritiy of climate, is realized fully, sickness is rare. Often but one or more attend sick call. Hospital cases are surgical, either the result of accident or Indian Skirmish.

The attitude of the post I find to be 5790 feet by barometer giving 30° as Fair at sea level.

The mountain range nearest rises abruptly from 850 to 900 feet more

The perpetual snow range has been given for these mountains heretofore at 9,200 feet, which I regard as excessive. I have not had opportunity however to reach exact scientific results, and those attained has been incidental to other duty.

The ordinary snow line, however includes, even the nearest range and the summit of the east lookout. It has rained at the Post when snow was falling within two miles; and again we have had snow when on the creek, 160 feet below, there was rain.

Tongue river Valley is much lower and warmer and has had no snow. The fall of water since arrival in July, has not exceeded $\frac{85}{100}$ of an inch. Of course there is no dew.

The mercury at Sunrise in August seldom rose above 60° and the nights were cool. The maximum range was 93° but at Reno, while enroute, it stood 112° at Meridian, and 91° at Sun Rise. This doubtless depended upon radiation from a dry, heated and barren surface.

Geological facts, which would be of any sterling value must be the result of future labor when we have less building and fighting on hand.

There is no treatise that furnishes any detail upon which to predicate an opinion of previous examination.

Peck & Hayden does not reach this region. Professor Silliman and Dana of Yale College, Professor Huxley of the Smithsonian Institute, and the Department of the Interior and Agriculture have sent me books and drawings, and I expect to turn them to practicable uses.

There is so much interest felt in this route that I shall furnish you all possible means of communicating the facts as they are.

IV Summary

This country is susceptible

of the highest development. There is no land on the Patta
that will rival the average bottoms of Creeks referred to.

I doubt whether corn will mature; and yet,
the season has been as favorable as many I have known in
New England.

I shall try several plantings in the Spring If I remain
here. The angle of the two Pineys will make a fine government
farm, and is readily irrigated.

Barley will do well; so will vegetables,
and the small cereals.

The inducements to substantial emigration
and permanent home, for people who do not hunt gold,
as the final consideration, are unquestionably great.

Neither do I think the Indian troubles
will be permanent or general.

Having no opportunities to ascertain facts
respecting their animus towards the whites, and their relations
to each other. I can see no indications of harmony of action,
or combined operations.

They have a common antipathy to the loss
of this Splendid Hunting Sphere, this center of natural advantage
where all game is found and whence they can at all times
replenish their supplies when elsewhere unsuccessful.

But the occupation by the troops has so
far advanced this fall; the defenses are so stable, and the
purpose of the Government is so decided that they must yield.

It is true that much risk will still attend
an indiscriminate careless emigration; and that the present
garrison will be maintained in an efficient condition,
only by exact discipline constant watchfulness and ample
support.

All these considerations have however
fully received the attention of the Genl Commr &
and I wish to express my full appreciation
of his Confidence and promptness in all matters
looking to the success of this Expedition.

I am

D. R.

Your Obedient Servant
Henry Hamington.
Colonel 18th U.S. Inf.
Comd'g Mt. Dist.

Wm J. S. Kinney & others
Fort Philip Kearney &c.

Head Quarters Mt. Dist. Ft. Platte.
Fort Philip Kearney S. Oct 2^d 1866.

Dear Sir

89
X
Responsive to yours of 1st inst, which tender
the service of "from fifty to one hundred citizens," to support such number
of soldiers as I may detail for ^{an} expedition to chastise Indians, who
have stolen stock and murdered citizens, and soldiers. In reply,
thanking all, for their tender of service; but assuring you, that I
have no purpose of present movements upon Indian villages. I
shall wait for re-inforcements, unless passing events, shall
demand ^{such} unprompt measures, as forbid any delay, that
contingency does not now exist.

Knowing however your sentiment of feeling
against the barbarians, who annoy us daily, and which I
fully share, I will give you such information, as I deem proper
to communicate, as to Military movements.

And: 1st. My first duty is to maintain
the line I have occupied; so that no advantage gained shall
be put in jeopardy. This is vital to emigration, which will be
renewed in the Spring, and necessary for its moral effects, ^{even}
upon hostile Indians. This includes completion of suitable
Quarters, the establishment of regular communication with
the Department Head Quarters, and the protection of
my supplies against the contingencies of winter. The neglect
of these, for the destruction of an Indian village, would be
poor economy in the end.

2nd. The General Commanding, and the
General of the Military Division, understand fully the
state of affairs, as they exist, and are determined to furnish
ample forces for timely action. It is not wise to precipitate
a general Indian war, until the Government can not only
hold its own; but take the aggressive. That time will come

if Indian will violate treaties and take up the war cry. I shall
then do my full share of duty in that regard. Enough to say
that I am adopting a course towards Indians, whether hostile
or seemingly friendly, that has for its end, the future peace
and permanent security of the District; and ^{that} I am acting
under the orders of the General Commanding, with full assurance
that he has every interest of public value, in careful considera-
tion, and is advised, weekly, of our existing status.

3^d I could not avail myself of the tender of
services proffered, for another reason. The number who volunteered,
does not exceed the number, that with one officer and forty regular
troops abandoned a hay contract when threatened by Indians.

When I sent those troops to their support the guard
of the Post alternated, every other day, Messrs Carter and
Creary, who sign the letter were the contractors. Mr Beckwith's
teams, they have bought. Mr Bailey had twenty four of
his party, who are brave and experienced men, under ^{a month} ~~months~~
contract, at \$60 (for a few day work) as it was estimated.

If this force could not keep scattering Indians from
their hay work. I could not expect that their addition
to the small command I could move, would attain
signal honor in pursuit of Indian Villages, the lowest estimate
of which is five hundred lodges, on Tongue river alone, and
more on Powder river.

This very hay matter, is worth more to the expected
Cavalry, than many dead Indians; and the completion
of that contract will give me more support, than a success-
ful expedition; But in all this, I wish to be understood
as fully appreciating the readiness of the transient Citizens
at this Post, to furnish the Indians who are on the war
path; But the stock stealing, and petty warfare, which
disturbs, by day and night, cannot stop our work.
The Indians would like nothing better than to wear
us out. They cannot do it, and I shall risk no sub-
stantial acquisitions, for doubtful adventures, and
herein, I know I consult the best interest of the security
its permanent, substantial well being, and no less

the judgment of my superior officers.

In conclusion, I will say that I hope to guarantee a secure Spring emigration. I intend to hold every inch of ground acquired. I shall never fall back from the advance made, and will strike the Indians in their villages or elsewhere, whenever I have opportunity, and the means, appropriate to the opportunity. Of course I cannot, as you yourself appreciate, approve outside expeditions; but all who wish to share, in common defense will have the privilege, whenever the issue is made up for settlements with our enemies.

With sincere respect

I am very Truly Yours
Samuel M. Armstrong
Col 15th U.S. Inf'ty Comdg, Dist.

Litchfield W. G. Major
Asst Adjt Genl

Head Quarters Mountain District D. T.
Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Oct 11/66.

Omaha.

96
X
The success in fight with the Sioux, reported last week, has prevented further movement in force. I think they suffered even more than I reported on the twenty sixth of September, however a party of sixteen coming from Big Horn, scalped one soldier of the wood party who straggled, they lost two men in the attempt.

Same day "Little Moon", "the Rabbit that leaps", "the Wolf that lies down", who were here in July, returned from Fort Casper; they report as I had already learned from other sources, that "Red cloud", and "the man afraid of his horse", were operating on Tongue river; that "Buffalo Tongue" was operating on Powder river.

Also that the "Big Bellies", "Bad Arrow's", "Bone in the nose", and "they that put meat in the pot", are on Big Horn, at peace with the crows; but hostile to whites, and this new road,

Also that twenty five lodges of Arapahos, with Bob North, white man, with one thumb; united with the Sioux in August; this confirms my report of last week.

Also that the Indians, or North Missouri, are fighting whites
near Fort Panmuck, in that region, and will do so this fall. In this time

I had trouble to keep my men from killing the Cheyennes
they are so bitter against all Indians. I do not put full confidence
in them yet, but those that came, seemed faithfull to their
agreement of July. They are great beggars, and I give them every
little, as they can find plenty of game, but they seem to fear the
living.

When I get cavalry I can test them, but they have too many
mules, and American horses for their number, while I have not
even a reasonable force to visit them, and take decided ground.
I gave the three chiefs, one days ration of flour, but refused
any luxuries, and told them they must hunt for their living,
and if they kept away from the road and trains, I would
keep peace with them.

Mail from Big Horn, is not in, neither from
Laramie, though both are due, and I shall not delay this,
I wish to visit the other posts, and inspect them as soon
as I can get a few mounted men. I fear Captain Proctor is
too ill, and nervous to command, but have no one to
succeed him. He has lost nearly all his stock, has arrested
his adjutant, Lieut Kortland, without notifying me, or furnishing
me, or the Lieutenant with copy of charges; he may have sent
them up direct to you, as he follows no regulations in corre-
spondence with these Head Quarters. If so, please return
them for my action, General Hazen told me that he found
the same inefficiency. I hope to go there in a few days, and
judge for myself.

Very Respectfully

Henry B. Hanning
Col 18th U. S. Infantry
Comd'g Mt. Dist.

Head Quarters Mountain District A. D.

Asst Adjutant General Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Oct 5th 1866

Department of the Platte

91 Omaha N. T.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith
Roster of Commissioned Officers of this District for the
Month of July 1866

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U. S. Infantry

Comd'g Dist

Head Quarters Mountain Dist. Dept. Platte

Fort Philip Kearney D. T. Oct 5th 1866

Asst Adjutant General

Department of the Platte

92 Omaha N. T.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit
herewith Monthly Return of this District for the Month of
July 1866 and to state that as no Returns from the different
Posts have been received for that month, I am only able to
give, as on previous Returns, the consolidated strength of the
Troops within the District, without accounting for them
at the different Posts to which they properly belong.

On future Returns this difficulty will be removed
as ^{new} Posts are now fully established.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U. S. Infantry

Comd'g

Head Quarters Mountain Dist. D. M. 30
Major G. S. Litchfield, Fort Philip Kearney Oct 25th 1866
Asst Adjt General
Omaha N. T.

93
I have the honor to transmit copy of
correspondence with Hon J. D. Kinney, late chief justice
of Utah, now acting sutler of this post, under warrant
of Secretary of War issued to one Bateford ^{and} represented by
power of attorney.

Judge Kinney is an intelligent gentleman, who
anticipated the appointment of Governor of this Territory;
^{and} therefore looks rather upon political features of events
than the military necessities of a region, hardly yet
substantially occupied. I am frank to say that I should
have preferred to have had only military neighbors at the
post, until spring: but, of course, while protecting, all
shall govern my action by what I regard as best,
whatever the judgment of transient travel or citizens.

I find that miners, contractors with trains ^{and} all
indeed, who have followed the troops for speculative
purposes, ^{and} almost every citizen here is after contracts, or
other profit incidental to government patronage, present
or future, are impatient at any forbearance with
Indians; regarding all Indians alike, ^{and} incline
to destroy them whatever their station, or relations toward
the whites.

For example. The Cheyenne Chiefs with whom I made
amicable arrangements in July, giving them permission
to hunt upon the mountains ^{and} southward; sent in "Little
Bear" ^{and} "Little Moon" last week, to say they wished to
return to Tongue River where they could winter ^{and} find
game. They had letters of the 2nd September from
Major Morris, Commanding at Fort Casper, which were
conclusive proof, that they were not parties to outrages
in this District. Their whole demeanor purported good
faith maintained, ^{and} their few numbers showed that they
were hostile with Sioux.

And yet, so urgent were the representations of Citizens ^{and} miners, (all transiently here, for want of profitable employment elsewhere, or for hope of better profit here,) to treat the Cheyennes, as enemies ^{and} the source of previous outrages, that nearly one hundred of my men, late at night passed a gate, and but for prompt intervention would have murdered seven Cheyennes ^{and} one squaw encamped near by. Their arms were cocked while the Indians sat by their fire patiently awaiting their doom: when the guard, ^{crossing} their muzzles, threw them up ^{and} ordered them back. Then they refused to obey orders to halt at the gate ^{and} only halted, when I intervened, in person, discharged my revolver ^{and} gave instant death, or obedience as the alternative to every man; All were abashed ^{and} realized the disgrace that would have resulted, if their end had been accomplished. The murder of one of their men, that day, by Sioux, naturally irritated the men; but they had been worked ^{up} by outside rumors until they forgot all but revenge.

I mention this, in this connection, that I may give to the General Commanding a full outline of my policy, which I believe to harmonize with his instructions ^{and} wish ^{and} to receive other instructions, if he does not concur in my interpretation of those he has already established.

If the Indians will be peaceable; then I wish to keep them peaceable, if some, will still be hostile, I still regard it as wise policy to keep faith with ^{all} who honestly ask peace. Discrimination is important; but the government is not prepared neither does it wish for a general ^{Indian} war, Lieut General Sherman, in letter sent from Laramie dated at that post August 30th 1866, especially urges that I discriminate, however difficult it may be, between friendly ^{and} hostile Indians, but to kill the latter; ^{and} to avoid a general war until the army could be recruited.

Again; I do not regard my occupation of this line, as a temporary expedition to chastise Indians; but, as designed to establish solid bases for ultimate operations, to whatever extent they may be required. Expect to be

harassed ^{and} to have constant skirmishing, ^{and} minor fights:
but I propose to follow up a constant, persistent purpose,
to make permanent, every progress ^{and} not to hazard all,
for the uncertainties attending the invasion of distant
Indian villages with an inadequate force, leaving an
inadequate garrison behind.

Understanding well that I have to bear the
responsibility, I propose respectfully to receive any com-
munications that ^{citizens} may furnish: but ^{to maintain} the general views
laid down, whether acceptable to them now or otherwise.

I know it will bring ~~sure~~ results in the end: while
hot impulses ^{and} rash expeditions, will only bring dis-
credit ^{and} make the emigration next spring doubly
dangerous.

Inasmuch as movements have already been set on
foot to induce Congress to organize this territory, ^{and}
as the country itself commands high vantage ground
for political ambition as well as inexhaustible resources
for the agriculturist ^{and} speculator, I will refer again
to Judge Kinney's letter. It may seem a trivial
matter to communicate to Head Quarters: but while
I know that you would never assume that I decline
to pursue Indians in fair show, it is not impossible
that my refusal in this instance, will find as public
a voice, as the exaggerated stories of Indian hostilities
have during the past summer.

The parties to the letter are

Judge Kinney, who wrote in good faith
and with good intentions, and will prove a valuable
citizen

Carter ^{and} Cray, hay contractors, referred to
in my response

Baily, in charge of miners wintering here
or near by: ^{and} hired by Carter & Cray

Kelly, son of judge, ^{and} clerk at store

Danety, with a train

Leighton, sutler at Big Horn, returning

thence with one or two men.

Beckwith, who has sold his teams to Carter & Gray.

These men have all had more or less difficulties with Indians: but I already see sign that many Indian difficulties on the plains have been aggravated if not caused by indiscriminate abuse of Indians, ^{and} either the recklessness or carelessness, of whites, who care less for the permanent prosperity of the whites, generally, and the settlement of the territory, than for immediate profit, ^{and} general slaughter.

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedt Servant,

Henry Hamington

Col 18th U.S. Infantry

Comd^g M^o Dist. A. T.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dep. Sta
Commanding Officer Fort Philip Kearney A. T. Oct 6th 1866
Post Fort Philip Kearney A. T.

94

Sir:-

By direction of the Colonel commanding I have the honor to suggest: that in making future Post Returns of your Post, those Staff Officers who are also line Officers ^{and} accounted for in those columns with their respective companies, be not included in the Totals & aggregates of the Field & Staff of the Post, or Regimental: but that in said Totals & Aggregates appear only the exact number of Officers to be accounted for in those Columns ^{and} who properly belongs to the Field & Staff of Post or Regiment ^{and} who are accounted for as belonging there to ^{and} who do not appear elsewhere on the Return.

This suggested with a view to obtain at a glance the exact number of Officers to be accounted for in the various columns to which they properly belong.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant
John I. Selair
1st Lieut. ^{and} Brig. Capt. U.S.A.
Regt. Adjt 15th Inf. U.S.A.

Captain J. S. Proctor
Comdg Post
95 Fort Reus.

Head Quarters Mountain District A.C.
Fort Philip Kearney D.C.
October 5th 1866.

The Colonel Commanding is officially advised of the following complaints of the post commander of Fort Reus, made to the Assist. Inspector General of the Department of the State.

1st "That the garrison colors of Fort Reus were carried away." Remarks.

There were no garrison colors except a tattered Storm Flag, which being the only flag in the District, was taken to Head Quarters of Fort Fort Reus, the former Fort Reus having then no existence, save as temporary depot for stores, and Captain Proctor having been left with company as temporary guard until supplies could be moved.

2^d "That a Hospital Fund of \$107 ²¹/₁₀₀ balance of June 1st 1866, was taken away from the post in Captain Brown's safe." Remarks.

The same explanation was within the knowledge of the present Post Commander of Fort Reus; viz that the fund referred to, was in account, by credit, and not in money.

That the removal of Fort Reus made it incumbent upon Captain Brown to take with him all important papers, and especially these for the very purpose of properly applying the account credits:— and

That the commanding officer of Fort Reus, appointed as such, upon the reestablishment of Fort Reus, not only has ~~made~~ made the foregoing matters, a subject of correspondence with these Head Quarters, but has left the complaints to have its source from the

Assistant Inspector General

It is deemed proper therefore that Captain Proctor's attention be called thereto for any explanation within his power, to be made by return mail.

By Order of
Col. Banington

Comidy District

John D. Adams
1st Lieut and Bvt Capt USA
Regt 10th Inf. Ar. A. A. C.

Telegram # 1

Bvt Major H. G. Litchfield
46 Assist. Adjt Genl.
Omaha.

Fort Philip Kearney D. C.
October 13th 1866.

Since last week's mail Indians have avoided the fort. Their signal of punishment and loss of life, before reported, had its effect. On Saturday last nearly one hundred attacked the wood party, five miles distant, killing two and wounding one. I went out with thirty men and comrade cleared the woods and ravines and no trouble has occurred since. Two comms who started for Big Horn, from which I have had no reports for several weeks, returned on account of Indians. I shall force communication and report by next mail.

The change to fine weather fills the valleys with Indians who are getting winter provisions and I expect some trouble with them, but can meet it. Supplies have arrived except ammunition and forage train which should be here to-morrow. I delayed this mail one day for report from Big Horn, but will do so no longer.

Henry Manington
Col. 18th Id. Infantry
Comidy District

Copy by Marshall copying journal

1896
2884

"Telegram" 2

Fort Philip Kearney D.T.
October 13th 1866.

Brig. Major N.G. Litchfield
Asst. Adj. General
Omaha.

Order abolishing Mountain District received.

I had previously decided to assume command of Fort ~~at~~ Fort Philip Kearney: the only Captain present, being physically unfit for the duties. At Fort Reno Captain Proctor is awaiting result of application to go before Retriving Board, and is not equal to the duties of that Post.

The whole success of this summer's movement depends upon the ^{best} judgment of expected officers, among whom I know Fetherman and Sowell to be equal to the duty expected of them.

Any relaxation of the present vigilance will I assume you involve great hazards to the whole line.

Henry Manugeter
Col. 18th th U.S. Infantry
Comdg District.

"Telegram"

Major Genl. P. S. G. Cooke
Comdg Department
Omaha.

Fort Philip Kearney D.T.
October 13th 1866.

If consistent with interests of the service please advise me whether my regimental Head quarters will be changed before spring and if so to what place, and when, and whether as senior Colonel in the Department I have any suggestion in the matter. Having yourself a family you will see it is of some import whether wife and children move in winter. The change of third battalion companies from Morgan's ^{camp} seems to imply Camp Douglass for 18th U.S. Infantry. If Head-quarters of 2nd Cavalry are at Laramie, if second battalion is not the 18th U.S. Infantry, you will appreciate the personal import of this despatch, unless my Head quarters remain here until spring for completion of present work, I can go to Salt Lake by the

Copy to Mr. Webster and
97
Mr. Webster's journal

95 route, or elsewhere, before winter, but, with a family I know you will justify their personal application for any information you are at liberty to impart.

Mary Hamilton
Capt. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg.

Comdg Officer
Fort C. F. Smith
N. T.

Head Quarters Mt. Dist. T. P.
Fort Philip Kearney N. T.
October 14/66

Sir

By direction of the Col commanding, I have the honor to forward by the presents mail 13,000 rounds Springfield Rifle musket ammunition Cal. 58. which with the 2,000 Rounds already sent, will make 15,000 Rounds.

Enclose are invoices & receipts for 10,000 rounds Springfield Rifle musket ammunition you will sign, and return the receipts by return mail

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servt
John S. Adams
1 Lieut & Port Captain U.S.A.
Regt. Adjt 18th Inf a.a.o.g.

Fort Philip Kearney Oct 22nd 1866

99
Majr Geo. Litchfield
Asst Adjt Genl
Omaha.

Since last mail ammunition has arrived also Galbraiths corn train. Indians have appeared twice, once attempting to drive off stock without success, once attacking hay party seven miles distant also without success. Heavy snow storms now embarrass travel, but all work progresses well. I have distributed their full supplies to the other posts and to day send ammunition to Fort C. F. Smith. Have directed its commanding

Officer to send me for transmittal a full report of all local and general matters.

Five of second cavalry came with ammunition and I sent them as escort to Fort Smith to return at once with mail

Henry Manington
Col. 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg

101

Head Quarters Mountain District S.P.
Fort Philip Kearny Dakota Ter.
October 15th 1866.

Assistant Adjutant General
Department of the Platte
Omaha N.T.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Monthly Return of the Mountain District for the month of August 1866.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
your obedt servt.

Henry Manington
Col 18th U.S. Infantry
Comdg District

102

H

Head Quarters Mountain District S.P.
Fort Philip Kearny Dakota Ter.
October 15th 1866.

Assistant Adjutant General
Department of the Platte
Omaha N.T.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith Roster of Commissioned Officers serving in the District for the month of August 1866.

I am Sir

Very respectfully
Your obedt servt
Henry Hamington
Col 18th US Infantry
Comdg District

Richd H. G. Post Major
a. a. a. Omaha.

Fort Philip Kearney D. T.
Nov 5th 1866.

Spent mails October sixth, fifteenth and twenty second. My mail just in, was twelve days from Saramie, from know, bad roads, and necessary causes. I try a new route to morrow by Casper, and will report it next week. I have sent mail every time I had horses. Have done all that could be done. I realize importance of prompt returns, and have made them as soon as data reached me. Scouts from Crows, and from Virginia City are in. I mail full statement. Lieut Bradley has returned from Fort Benton. Brannan who went as guide with Geul Hazen, was shot and scaped on his return. Surgeon McLeary had his horse shot under him.

Fort Smith has stockade done and is secure. In several encounters with Indians who are in force on Tongue river valley, have been successfull. Crows reports that the Sioux had eight killed including the well known Roaring Wind, at the skirmish before reported. Five men died of wounds, and twenty three wounded will recover. The Crows are in the main friendly. They have had mutual visits with Red cloud. They saw in their last visit Ogallalies from the Missouri; Minnecasias from Black Hills, Anopohoes, Utkpapaws, Cheyennes, and Big Bellies in the villages. They estimate the lodges at fifteen hundred. Bridger deem it larger. I do not think it as large as many have gone to Powder River below Reno.

While I may send this mail to Casper it is perfectly clear to my mind that the route by Bridger Henry is the true one. Another Company of Cavalry and two new companies of Infantry, one at Reno and one at

Smith, would enable me to establish the intermediate Block
Houses, and keep up the main emigrant line, and line
of supplies. Company C² Cavalry comes with a second
Lieutenant. I should have the other officers at once.

Henry Manington
Col 15th U. S. Infantry.

Fort Philip Kearney D. T.
Nov 5th 1866.

Litchfield H. G. ^{B. G.} Major
Asst Adjt Genl.

Omaha

X I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt of telegram of the General Commanding, dated Oct
23rd which overtook mail party, at Bridge Ferry.

I am confident that my letters and
dispatches cannot all have been received. I fully appreci-
ate the necessity for the General Commanding,
to be punctually, and often advised of the movements,
and status, of troops under his command; and I
have as far endeavored to realize a weekly mail, that
I have scarcely had horses to keep up my main picket.

I sent a mail Sept 26th Oct 6th Oct
15th and Oct 22nd

Meantime, I had to open communica-
tions with Fort C. T. Smith.

Twenty six picket men, and horses were
with Genl Hoagen.

One contract train with supplies
for Fort C. T. Smith (31) wagons, had but five arms
with the party. I had to furnish an escort, especially
as I had to send ammunition to Fort C. T. Smith, then
reduced to ten
rounds pr man

My mail just received having additional
escort of sixty men. Company C² U. S. Cavalry was,

Smith, would enable me to establish the intermediate Block
Houses, and keep up the main emigrant line, and line
of supplies. Company "C" 2^d Cavalry comes with a second
Lieutenant. I should have the other officers at once.

Henry Manington
Capt 18th U. S. Infantry.

Fort Philip Kearney D. T.
Nov 5th 1866.

Litchfield H. G. ¹⁸⁶⁴ Major
Asst Adj. Genl.

Omaha

I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt of telegram of the General Commanding, dated Oct
23rd which overtook mail party, at Bridger Ferry.

I am confident that my letters and
dispatches cannot all have been received. I fully appre-
ciate the necessity for the General Commanding
to be punctually, and often advised of the movements
and status, of troops under his command, and I
have as far endeavored to realize a weekly mail, that
I have scarcely had horses to keep up my main picket.

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15th and Oct 22nd

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tions with Fort C. T. Smith.

Twenty six picked men, and horses were
with Genl Hazen.

One contract train with supplies
for Fort C. T. Smith (31) wagons, had but five arms
with the party. I had to furnish an escort, especially
as I had to send ammunition to Fort C. T. Smith, then
reduced to ten
rounds per man

Major mail just received having additional
escort of sixty men. Company "C" 2^d U. S. Cavalry was,

twelve days, on account of snows, bad roads, and weather; & this on their return's trip alone.

~~our snow~~, which ^{among which lies} ~~our snow~~ the hills have, fill this intermediate ravine, valleys, and gulches; so that no one can ^{travel}. While I had no snow at this Post owing to its position, there were four feet within a mile of it.

By reference to report of operations since last mail, it will be seen that I am actually risking much, by the details for escorts and mail parties, and that I look to the whole line of operations for basis of action; and not at the necessities of this Post, which is itself almost impregnable with my infantry force.

I believe that the General Comd'g would prefer to lose a mail occasionally with the assurance, that, in an emergency I will advise him at all risks, rather than embarrass me in any skirmish, or temporary encounter, which calls for use of my present force.

With respect to Return, I make my own, as soon as I have the data; and I know that if the General Commanding could see what has been done, on this line, he would say, it has not its parallel. In this I assume nothing; but speak of facts. My work has been well done; sparing myself by day, and might less than I have others.

I am very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Henry Hamington
Col 15th U. S. Infy
Comd'g

Fort Philip Kearny D.C.
November 4th 1866.

Adjutant General Assistant
Department of the Platte
Omaha

105

Sir

I have the honor to transmit
herewith Roster of Commissioned officers serving in the
Mountain District for month of September 1866.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Manington

Colonel 10th U.S. Infantry
Commanding

Adjutant
106

General Assistant
Dept. of the Platte
Omaha

Headquarters Fort Philip Kearny
November 5th 1866

Sir

I have the honor to transmit
herewith Roster of Commissioned officers serving in the
Mountain District for part of the month of October 1866.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Henry Manington

Colonel 10th U.S. Infantry
Commanding

Fort Philip Kearney D. T.
November 5th 1866.

Hickfield H. G. Bvt Major
Asst Adjt Genl

Omaha

I have the honor to report that while Commanding the Mountain District Department of the Platte, I sent James Bridger, Chief guide, and guide Williams, to examine the whole line, hence to Virginia City, with view to an exact reports of its condition, and resources, and no less, its susceptibility of being shortened, by proper cuts off.

I shall embody their reports in map form, by next weeks mails.

Lieut Bradley, in charge of escort to Captain Hagen, Bvt Brig Genl U. S. A. and Inspector Genl D. P. has also returned from Fort Benton.

The following is summary of events since last report.
1st Mail Party of twenty men, with seventeen miners, returning westward, were attack by nearly three hundred Indians on the Valley of Tongue river. The miners abandoned their packs, lost four horses, but proceeded on the march.

2^d Lieut Bradley's party, returning from Fort Benton, and about thirty miles from Fort C. F. Smith, were attacked by a large force of Sioux, about noon. Mr. Draxman, guide, detached for special duty, on the trip, while leading the advance with Asst Surg Genl M^r Cleary, was suddenly attacked by a party of Indians. Draxman was killed and scalped. Dr M^r Cleary had ~~been~~ ~~shot~~ and escaped. A skirmish fight lasted for several hours, resulting in supposed loss to the Indians, and their retreat, but no soldier killed. Private Brooks Co. "H" was wounded, but not fatally.

3^d Bridger, and Williams visited the Crow Indians, as instructed.

This was at Clark's Fork, the village numbered five hundred men.

"White Mouth", "Black foot", "Kotters", "ail" (Chiefs) insisted, they were at peace, and wished to be always. The young men, in some cases, wished

to join the Sioux, and compromise their old title to this Country, of which they had been robbed by the Cheyennes and Sioux. Red Cloud had visited their village and they had returned the visit; but declined to join them, on the war path, against the whites.

The "man" afraid of his horses, who visited them, saying, "Tobacco had been sent" i.e. he had been invited to go to Saramie, to sign a treaty, that he would go, that they must wait for his return.

This corresponds with statements in letter from Major Van Voast Commanding Fort Saramie.

Then Crow chiefs report that it took a 1/2 day ride to go through the villages of the war parties on Tongue river. That - the Sissetons, Bad Faces, Ogallalies (from the Mission) Minicosias (from Black Hills) Unkpapas, Cheyennes, Arapachoes, Gros di Vertres (Big Bellies) were together, indicating that they would not touch the fort on Powder river. (Last year fort) but would destroy the two new forts, in their hunting grounds, meaning, Fort Philip Kearney D.S. and Fort C. F. Smith, as these were encroachments which they had not agreed to. To quote they say, they will have two big fights, with white soldiers, at Pine Woods, and Big Horn.

"Iron Shell," is with the Minicosias. The Boules, are also with them, in part; though they made peace at Saramie, as it is claimed.

The "Snakes" "Hesperes" and "Flatheads" are persistently friendly; but, reports the "Pagans" and "Bloods" as hostile.

The "Blackfeet" "Kassinibouis", and "Crees", are reported to be at peace with the whites, and at the same time, on fair terms with hostile tribes. With all the friendly signs from any - all have government stock, and intertrade stolen property.

#7. Beckwith "Mudlat's" guide, has made a visit to the same band of Crows. They send for him,

as he was formerly with them. He says that 250. Crows will join me, on the war path this winter. If I wish it, he talks much, I doubt his influence with them; but shall soon know the result of his visit. Mr. Bridger thinks them ready to enlist.

5th The Crows, represent, that a treaty was made with them, on the Pepper Mipouri, on board, of the Steamer, "Ben Johnson" whereby for the sum of twenty five thousand dollars. They surrendered a route to Montana, south of the Big Horn Mountains, that "Iron Shell" of the Crow nation was present at such treaty, and that he does not regard the same as covering the present road north of the Big Horn Range, but will keep peace untill the same is settled by intercourse with the whites. It is not unlikely that an attack will be made this winter, early; but I have no doubt of their failure. If I had the two Companies of Infantry, and the two Companies of Cavalry, I shall be able to assure communication, unless a general war shall ensue, which I do not think the Indians will venture upon in winter.

6th The Crows, also says that the Sioux report a fight with the whites at this Fort, and give date and place correctly.

I reported five Indians, and one white man, killed. They say, they had eight killed, five wounded, who died of their wounds, and many shot who will be well again.

I know their loss was heavy, and the effect has been felt ever since.

7th Along the line there has been general Indian hostilities; but few aggressive acts of any large force, on the night of the 3rd inst. a citizen party gathered about a fire playing Cards, near the fort, and were fired upon, three being wounded. I sent out a skirmishing party, as soon as the shots were heard who found no Indians, and a case shot, exploded in the midst of a signals fire soon lighted on a peak, west of the fort, scattered them. They have not appeared since.

There is no doubt of this bitter hatred of our every movement, but they do not understand the nature of our resources. For example Red Cloud informed the Crow that by cutting of Communications when bad weather set in he would starve us out this winter.

He does not comprehend the idea of a years supplies: nor that we are now prepared, to not only pass the winter but next Spring, and Summer, even if he take the offensive.

On the whole, the Condition of affairs is more favorable than I expected would be the case when I left Saramie. I had not the slightest confidence in the results of the proposed treaty, and so wrote you.

And in fact the whole result of the negotiations here, was a mere temporary suspension of hostile acts, if it even amounted to that.

I look for this month to determine their purpose: and hope, yet, to be able to strike a blow, which they will feel more than the last, and not risk a single post on the line in the attempt.

In no case will any rash venture be made or any, that will not meet the favor of the General Commanding.

What was intended, and understood his views, and those of General Sherman, and the purpose I held on the March will be realized and the increase of troops which will undoubtedly be furnished will ensure a safe Spring emigration and open a fine Country, as well as a short route to the far West.

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
Henry Herington
Col 18th W. S. Infantry,
Conrad's

Comdg officer
Fort Philip Kearney
D. F.

Head Quarters Mountain Dist D. F.
Fort Philip Kearney D. F. Nov 8/66

Sir

By direction of the Col Commanding I have the honor to enclose herewith Descriptive List, and account of Pay & clothing of men who were transferred to your Post from these Head Quarters per S. O. No 86. C. S. from these Head Quarters.

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant

Lieut & Bot Captain v. s. a.
Regt Adj 18th Inf
a. a. a. Genl

Comdg officer
Fort Philip Kearney
D. F.

Head Quarters Mt Dist Dept Platte.
Fort Philip Kearney D. F. Nov 8/66.

By direction of the Col Commanding. I have the honor to forward herewith for file in your office Land claim of Jno W. Hughes. The Mountain District being discontinued, it can no longer be kept on file at these Head Quarters, and there is no land office to which it can be sent.

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant

Lieut & Bot Captain v. s. a.
Regt Adj 18th Inf

Head Quarters Mountain District D. T.
Fort Philip Kearny D. T. Nov. 24th 1866

Det Lieut Col. J. C. Nimmy
Comdy Post
Fort C. F. Smith

Sir.

I am directed by Col. Carrington
to call attention to the fact that the return mail from
your post did not bring receipts for 15,000 rounds
Springfield (Calss) ammunition, for which invoices
were furnished and the supplies forwarded.
Please send the same by present mail, returning.

By order of Col Henry P. Carrington
Comdy

1st Lieut 2^d Det Capt W. W.
A. S. A. G.

Head Quarters Mountain District Dept Platte
Fort Philip Kearny D. T. Nov 25th 1866

Commanding Officer
Post Reno D. T.

Sir

By direction of the Col commanding I
have the honor to inform you, that you are required to make on the en-
closed Blanks, tri Monthly Reports of your Post, on the 10th 20th & 30th
last of each Month. These Reports to be made from the date of the organiza-
tion of your Post untill October 15th 1866, the date on which the
Mountain District, Dept Platte was discontinued

Pursuant to Department Orders, these Reports
are to be made and forwarded to these Head Quarters immediately, with-
out delay, and day untill they are completed

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Serv

1st Lieut 15th Det Inf. A. S. A. G.

Similar blank 60. Det C. F. Smith

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Flatts
Fort Philip Kearny D. T. Nov 25th 1866

Col. Maj. Genl. L. Thomas
Adjutant General
U. S. Army
General

I have the honor to herewith forward Monthly Returns of the Mountain District, Department of the Flatts, for the Months of May, June, July, August, September, and October 1866, in accordance with your communication of Nov 6th 1866; they are made on Post blanks, in consequence of there being no proper blanks at these Head Quarters; suitable ones have this day been applied for.

They were not sent, as the command embraced but one Battalion, and had not been declared a Brigade District, in order

I respectfully report, that the Mountain District was discontinued, Oct 18th in obedience to General Orders, No 15, 68, Head Quarters Department of the Flatts

I am, General

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Henry M. Manning
Col 18th Reg Infy
Comdr

Head Quarters Mountain District, Dept. Flatts
Fort Philip Kearny D. T. Nov 25th 1866

Col. Maj. Genl. L. Thomas
Adjutant General
U. S. Army
General

I have the honor to request that twelve blank District, or Department Returns be sent you to make up the proper Monthly Returns of this District

I am, General

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Henry M. Manning
Col 18th Reg Infy