

HOW I KILLED CHIEF YELLOW HAND BY BUFFALO BILL

FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS



GENERAL PHIL SHERIDAN arranged this campaign so that detachments of the army would leave several points and with various objects to be accomplished, while the eventual objective was to concentrate and corral with a cord on strong enough to crush forever the power of the northern Sioux and Cheyennes and their allies.

die, and my horse stumbled in a prairie dog hole, but I landed on my feet. Kneeling quickly, I put a bullet through the head of his horse, coming on at speed.

The Indians, Utterly Surprised, Rush Back In Disorder—The Latest From General Crook's Army.

"Fort Laramie, July 22, 1876. "At noon on Saturday, the 15th inst., the Fifth cavalry, under General Merritt, were bivouacked on Rawhide creek, eighteen miles from Fort Laramie, to which point they were ordered in from the Cheyenne river, 100 miles north, en route to join Crook.

"At daybreak Monday morning Lieutenant King, commanding the outpost to the southeast, sent word that the war parties were coming over the ridge from the reservation. Joining him at the advanced post, General Merritt found the report correct. The command noiselessly mounted and was massed under the bluffs a quarter of a mile to the rear and out of sight of the Indians.

"At the same time the wagon train, under Lieutenant W. T. Hall, now Brigadier General Hall, was some six miles off to the southwest, slowly approaching, and the Indians were closely watching, but keeping concealed from the view of its guard. The two companies of infantry with him were riding in the wagons. At 6 o'clock the Indians were swarming all along the ridge to the southeast, some three miles away. Suddenly a party of eight or ten warriors came dashing down a ravine that led directly under the hill where Lieutenant King and his six men were watching.

"The object was as suddenly apparent. Two horsemen, unconscious of the proximity of the foe, had ventured out ahead of the train and were making rapidly for the creek. They were couriers with dispatches for the command. The Indians, utterly ignorant of the rapid move of the Fifth, were simply bent on 'jumping' the couriers and getting their scalps.

"Buffalo Bill, chief of the scouts, lay on the hill with King and instantly sprang to his horse down off the hill. 'All keep out of sight,' said the general. 'Mount now, and when the word is given off with you.' Then, turning to the officer of the picket, he said: 'Watch them, King. Give the word when you are ready.'

"Crouching behind the little butte, Bill and his party of two scouts and six soldiers were breathlessly waiting. Halfway up were the general and his staff. The lieutenant lay at the crest, watching the rapidly advancing foe. Down they came, nearer and nearer, the sun flashing from their brilliantly painted bodies and their polished ornaments. Then, just as they were dashing by the front of the bill, King shouts, 'Now, lads, in with you!'

"General Merritt sprang up to see the attack just as a tall Indian reeled in his saddle, shot by Corporal Wilkin son of K company. An answering bullet whistled by the general's head just when King, still on watch, sung out, 'Here they come by dozens.' The reserve Indians came swarming down the ridge to the rescue. Company K was instantly ordered to the front, but before it appeared from behind the bluff the Indians, emboldened by the rush of their friends to the rescue, turned savagely on 'Buffalo Bill' and the little party at the outpost.

"The latter sprang from their horses and met the daring charge with a volley. Yellow Hand, a young Cheyenne brave, came foremost, singling Bill as a footman worthy of his steel. Cody, kneeling and taking deliberate aim, sent a bullet through the chief's leg and into his horse. Down went the two, and before his friends could reach him a second shot from Bill's rifle laid the redskin low.

for the reservation, leaving behind all their provisions. General Merritt pursued them until night, when the whole command went into camp at the agency. "The Indians left their dead and admitted having more wounded. They lost six ponies. Their friends at Red Cloud say they never dreamed that the Fifth cavalry could get there in time to head them off.

"The regiment sustained no loss. It arrived at Laramie yesterday and leaves for Crook's command tomorrow.

The above is from the New York Herald, Sunday, July 23, 1876. From Captain Charles King's "Campaigning With Crook," published in 1890.

"By Jove, general," says 'Buffalo Bill,' sliding backward down the hill, "now's our chance. Let the party mount here out of sight and we'll cut these fellows off. Come down here, every man of you."

"Glancing behind me, I saw Cody, Taft and 'Chips,' with five cavalrymen, eagerly bending forward in their saddles, grasping carbine and rifle, every eye bent upon me, watching for the signal. Not a man but myself knows how near they are. That's right, close in, you beggars! Ten seconds more and you are on them! A hundred and twenty-five yards—a hundred—ninety. 'Now, lads, in with you!'

"There's a rush, a wild, ringing cheer, then bang, bang, bang, and in a cloud of dust Cody and his men tumble in among them, 'Buffalo Bill' closing on a superbly accoutered war-

rior. It is the work of a minute; the Indian has fired and missed. Cody's bullet tears through the rider's leg into the pony's heart, and they tumble in a confused heap on the prairie. The Cheyenne struggles to his feet for another shot, but Cody's second bullet hits the mark. It is now close quarters, knife and knife. After a hand to hand struggle Cody wins, and the young chief, Yellow Hand, drops lifeless in his tracks after a hot fight. Baffled and astounded, for once in a lifetime beaten at their own game, their project of joining Sitting Bull nipped in the bud, they take hurried flight. But our chief is satisfied. 'Buffalo Bill' is radiant. His are the honors of the day!"

General Cook, commanding the department, who had started early in spring, was up in the north and had fought the same Indians who afterward destroyed General Custer's command.

He fought them in the battle of the Rosebud on the 17th of May. This was a very indecisive contest—practically a severe check to him—compelling him to take up permanent camp on the Big Goose creek (where Sheridan, Wyo., now stands) and there await re-enforcements.

General Sheridan ordered Generals Merritt and Carr, with the Fifth cavalry, to make forced marches to join Crook at Goose creek.

I was with this command as chief of scouts and guide, and we had been operating in northwestern Nebraska and the southern part of Dakota to

Keep the Indians from the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies from going north to join the hostiles under Sitting Bull.

NEXT WEEK—"SOME INDIAN WARRIORS."



Not Wholly Careless. Thomas Chett was a meek but careless clerk who, through no greater fault than carelessness, was continually blundering in his work.

"Now, this has got to stop," said his employer. "Such delays waste time and money. If you had used an envelope which hadn't had our address in the corner, we might never have known where this letter went to."

"That's true," assented the humble clerk. "But I am always careful to use that kind of envelope just for that reason."

Being a little slow of comprehension, he did not understand why his patient employer bit his lip and turned away smiling.

An Impediment. "It looks as though my marriage with Miss Mullins would have to be postponed." "What's the matter, old fellow?" "She got married to young Dobson yesterday."

Advertisement for Ayer's Pills, highlighting its benefits as a blood purifier, body builder, and doctor's medicine without alcohol.

- Extensive directory of local businesses and individuals in Bellefonte, PA, including Mercantile Appraisers, Retailers, and various professionals.



They were an astonished lot of redskins, passed yet, and dust covered and weary, at 3 a. m. of the 17th of July the command to unsaddle was given on the banks of Hat creek, across the Indian front, with the Cheyennes in camp ten miles away. We had outraced and were then ahead of them, having made one of the most remarkable rides in cavalry annals.