

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF BRIG. GEN. GEORGE CROOK
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE
FORT OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPT. 27, 1879.

"About the dead of night on the 9th of January, the Cheyennes made a sudden break through the windows and doors of their place of confinement, shooting down the sentinels with arms they had managed to obtain, and possessing themselves, in addition, of the carbines and revolvers of the soldiers killed. After this they moved in one compact mass toward the high bluffs back of the post, fighting desperately all the while, women with men. It was impossible, in the darkness, cold, excitement, and confusion, to avoid the deplorable results that might be expected. A number of the squaws were killed and wounded in the affray, although officers and men used every care to capture, where possible, without inflicting injuries, and a number of our men froze hands and feet while taking women and children back to the post.

It is unnecessary to enter more at length into this subject, as the reports, telegrams and letters already in your office are complete and voluminous."

Reference: Report of Hon. Geo. W. McCrary, Secretary of War, Executive Documents of the House of Representatives, Second Session of Forty-Sixth Congress, 1879-1880, Washington, government printing office, 1880, pp. 77-79.

According to Mike Gilmore in a letter to Nebraska State Historical Society dated July 18, 1931, Dull Knife was killed by the soldiers of the third cavalry. The fight took place at the mouth of the Indian Creek, where it empties into Hot Creek about fifteen miles from bluff station (Bluff Station, a stage

station between Cheyenne and the Black Hills). The first fight was at Fort Robinson, January 21, 1879 at 9:30 P.M. The second fight took place a few days later at the mouth of Indian Creek where they were all killed in a wash out hole by the third cavalry.

E. A. Brininstool, the author of pamphlet *Dull Knife*, published 1935 states, "some forty odd miles from Fort Robinson the remnant of these dusky Spartans entrenched themselves in a little gully. Here they lay, awaiting the approach of the troops. This was to be the last stand!"

George Bird Grinnell, the author of *The Fighting Cheyennes*, New York, 1915, gives the following account of the Fort Robinson outbreak, stating that the escaped Cheyenne wanted to get to Pine Ridge, where there were Indians who would feed and hide them, and they started down into the plains country to go there. "They did not know where the Pine Ridge Agency was----they had sixty miles to go. On the plain they were overtaken and took refuge in an old buffalo wallow. Here the four troops of cavalry surrounded them, one at each angle of a square." pp. 397-411.