

the most of any cover that was obtainable, and in point of accurate shooting quickly demonstrated our ability to cope with them.

The disposition of our force was as follows:—In the centre of the front line, and just behind the brow of the hill, was the Gatling, flanked on either side by a 7-pr. brass gun, all under the personal supervision of Major Short, ably assisted by Capt. Rutherford. The support of these guns consisted of the garrison division of "B" Battery. Immediately to the rear, resting in a slight declivity, were the horses of the police and the wagon train. These were so well placed by Capt. Neale that only two casualties occurred during the day, viz.: the loss of two horses, one of the wagon train and Capt. Rutherford's charger. On either flank of the artillery were the police; to the right and right rear was "C" Company and detachment of Guards; to the left, lying on a lower ledge of the hill, and extending nearly to the creek, was the Queen's Own, and protecting the right rear and ford was the company of Battleford Rifles. The positions thus described were, with some slight changes, retained by these corps more or less throughout the action.

Shortly after the fight became general a rush was made by the enemy for the Gatling, but was sharply repulsed by a party from the police and artillery, gallantly headed by Major Short, and four Indians killed.

The trail of one of the guns now unfortunately gave way, rendering that valuable arm practically useless. Excellent practice was, however, made by the other gun, assisted, whenever opportunity offered, by the Gatling; the other gun shared a similar fate later in the day. Our men had now fairly settled down to their work, and in the most cool, collected and praiseworthy manner went about forcing the enemy to abandon their numerous points of advantage and cover.

The right rear, which took in the ford, was menaced, and a part of the Battleford Rifles, under Capt. Nash, assisted by individual men of "C" Company Guards and Queen's Own Rifles, with Constable Ross (chief scout) of the police, undertook to clear the coulee at that point. This they did most effectually, capturing four ponies, whose riders were shot by them.

A similar duty had now to be performed on our left rear, which was entrusted to parties of the Queen's Own and Battleford Rifles, and proved one of the sharpest brushes of the day. The enemy's fire here was, however, only partially subdued, as there remained a few men whom neither bullets nor shells seemed to reach, and who were only dislodged at the end of the day by sending Ross with his scouts by a long detour to the rear, and flanking them.

At eleven o'clock, that is six hours after the beginning of the engagement, our flanks and rear were clear, but the position we occupied was not tenable over night, while both guns were useless through broken trails and the wounded required proper attention. Further, the object of the reconnoissance had been accomplished, inasmuch as he had declared his intentions, but Big Bear, or at least his men, had effected a junction before my arrival, as the number of the enemy was fully 500 fighting men, including some 50 half breeds.

I therefore concluded to withdraw and return at once to Battleford, in case a counter attack might be made on that place—placing the Battleford Rifles on the opposite side, with one of the maimed guns, the wagons, and the dead, save Pte. Osgoode, Governor General's Foot Guards, whose body, when shot, had rolled into a deep ravine and could not be recovered, and the wounded were taken safely over the creek, followed, in turn, by the various corps from their respective positions. A few of the enemy, on perceiving our withdrawal, followed to the edge of the ravine, but were quickly driven back by the Gatling, under Major Short, which brought up the rear, and two rounds from the 7-pr. with the Battleford Rifles, under Capt. Rutherford, both of which rounds had to be fired with the gun bound up with ropes and splints to keep it together. The crossing was effected without the slightest loss, and the enemy failed to follow, although had they done so much delay and loss of life might have been entailed upon us, as the country was favorable to them.

Too much praise cannot be given to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men engaged throughout the whole action, for their admirable coolness and gallantry;