

was fortunate in having no killed, but of the total number returned wounded, no less than five belonged to that body. The regimental casualty list for this day, according to the official return, was as follows:—

Color-Sergeant George E. Cooper, shot through the right buttock. Serious.

Private George W. Watts, superficial bullet wound of left thigh. Slight. (Now, 1926, Colonel).

Private J. S. C. Fraser, superficial bullet wound of left calf. Slight. (Now, 1920, Manager Bank of Montreal in B.C.).

Private Charles A. Varey, shot in right side of neck. Serious.

Private George E. Lloyd, shot in back. Severe. (Now, 1926, Bishop of Saskatchewan).

The Indians fought throughout the day with considerable skill. They appeared to be the beau-ideal of skirmishers, exposing themselves but little, and moving with marvellous quickness. Frequently they exposed blankets, or other articles of attire, to draw the fire of the troops, and promptly aimed at any who allowed their zeal to get the better of their judgment and exposed themselves to aim at the decoys. During the progress of the fight, the whole neighborhood resounded with the "coyotte", a most annoyingly defiant and disconcerting battle cry; but except upon the occasion of the rushes, not a glimpse could be got of the wily foe. Such glimpses as could be had showed that the warriors were in full war paint—not merely their faces, but their bodies were painted in the fanciful designs common among the Crees and Stoneys, while their long, plaited hair was plentifully adorned with camp feathers.

An interesting historical fact about this action is, that it was supposed to have taken place precisely on the same spot as a fierce fight between the Crees and a war party of a branch of their traditional enemies, the great Blackfoot confederacy. Tradition asserts that after crossing the creek at the very ford used by Lieut.-Colonel Otter's column, a raiding party of Sarcees was ambushed by the Crees and completely annihilated, the hill and creek deriving their present names from that of Chief Cut Knife, the leader of the defeated party.

And now we will return to the diary, so copiously quoted in the preceding chapter, for an account of some of the principal movements of the service battalion, after the return of the flying column from Cut Knife Hill.

Wednesday, May 6th. The cold last night was something unbearable. One peculiarity about it was that it left us powerless to protect ourselves. We nearly froze in our tents, and the men on picquet suffered severely. Orders were given to-day that No. 1 Company of ours was to remain in charge of Fort Otter, and all the others were to come across. The Staff and the Police crossed this afternoon. We got a mail to-day and were able to enjoy our letters.

Thursday, May 7th. C. School, I.S.C., and No. 4 of ours, cross this afternoon, and No. 1 Company moved into the enclosure at Fort Otter.