

Port Lancaster, Texas

Dec. 27, 1867

Reports being attacked at
P. Lancaster by 900 Indians
(Mexicans & Renegades) on Dec.
26th. and repulse of the Indians.

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Dec. 27th., 1867

Lieut. John S. Loud, 9th. Cav.

Post Adjutant, Fort Stockton

Sir

I have the honor to report
that my camp was attacked from three directions
by upwards of Nine hundred Indians, Mexicans,
and White Renegades, about 4 O'Clock P. M. yesterday.

The horses under charge of the guards, were just
passing through camp on the way from grazing to
water, when a rapid dash was made from the
North by about two hundred well mounted (Indians), who
succeeded in stampeding the herd, and some sixty
horses through and around the camp towards the
South. The Company was immediately under
arms, successfully resisted the principal attack

...ove most of the horses to the entrance
the corral, the bars of which had meanwhile
been put up by a large party which charged
upon the Camp from the West.

The firing having now become general, I disposed
the men at intervals upon the Northern, Western
and Southern sides of Camp, and advanced to
defend and cover the horses, but such, I regret to
say, was the panic among them (horses) and so
close upon us were the savages, that it was
found impossible to control them long enough to
open the corral.

The main advance from the North was
repulsed only after reaching the ruins of the
sutler store, in Camp, when perceiving that
the parties which had dashed through Camp
and those advancing from the West were
endeavoring to close around the horses, I
proceeded with every available man against
them; but before anything definite could be
accomplished, the frightened horses rushed south-
ward through our line and through that of an-
other force numbering from three to four hundred
which was advancing upon us from that direction.

Had this stampede not occurred, it is doubt-
ful if the defense against such overwhelming

odds could have been successful; but upon the (emergence?) of the horses the savages halted and formed in lines of battle, extending over a mile, to cover them. Hoping still to accomplish something I directed a few men to remain in Camp, and with the rest of the Company deployed as skirmishers advanced upon their lines, which, relieving our fire, broke and reformed to the rear several times; always, however, keeping the horses behind them and themselves beyond the reach of our shots. The pursuit was continued about four miles by 1st. Sergt. Underwood and ten men, when their ammunition gave out and darkness came on.

Meanwhile a second charge was attempted by the force from the North, hearing the firing of which and perceiving the impossibility of recovering the horses I recalled the principal part of the Company from the pursuit and hastened to repel the attack which was successfully accomplished after sharp firing; the savages, however, reforming in line beyond the reach of our shots, where they remained for sometime evidently

waiting for a demonstration upon our rear.

Large parties had now appeared upon the surrounding hills and coming up the Cañons. Two-thirds of them were dismounted.

Every disposition indicated a simultaneous attack from all sides to have been intended; but after the stampede of the horses, their object seemed accomplished and the Indians upon the hill-sides and in the valleys South and West of the Camp made no further demonstrations, although several hundres appeared in full view.

When the first attack was made five men with the wagon were near the live-oak grove after wood and water. The teamster Wm. Sharpe saw the Indians and gave warning in time for the others to secrete themselves defense being impracticable, as the Indians were between them and Camp, but before he could get away from his team he was lassoed and captured.

The men who escaped report that there (were) white men among them who spoke English dressed in Confederate uniforms and that the Indians were all painted.

Several of the guards, after firing one or

two shots were charged upon and pulled off their horses, Corp. Pitz and Pvt. Johnson (Peter) narrowly escaped being lassoed. Pvts. Eli Bowers and Anderson Trimble were also captured or killed. I have not been able to find any of the bodies.

I saw White men and Mexicans with the Indians. The leader who charged with the first party appeared to be a White Man.

Our losses in ~~captured~~ property ~~captured~~ are Four(4) horses killed. One(1) horse wounded.

Thirty-one(31) Public and one(1) Private horse captured. six mules and most of the Harnesses captured.

The Wagon is (unimpaired?).

Enlisted men of the Company have picked up 1 Remington Revolver, 1 Private's Infantry Coat 1 stirrup, 4 Lariats, 2 Whips, several arrows and ornaments including a large silver mounted head dress dropped by a wounded chief.

It is believed that two Indians were killed, and several are known to have been wounded.

They appear to have gone South-East.

The enlisted men, especially the Non-Commissioned Officers behaved gallantly.

Bvt. Capt. Fred. W. Smith, 1st. Lieut., 9th. Cav., not only seconded my endeavors to save the horses

to the utmost, but led the charge of the
skirmish line against overwhelming odds
regardless of personal exposure.

Precautions have been taken against
surprise.

I am Sir Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Wm. T. Prohock

Bvt. Lt. Col.

Capt. 9th. Cavalry

Comdg. Co. "K"

(Letters Received, Headquarters Records, Fort Stockton, Texas,
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