After the Battle of Big Hole

Fighting

After the battle at Big Hole, the Nez Perce fought on. Each time the military caught up, they escaped. “Every day we were fighting,” said luuloxsejútwé’t (Matthew Whitfield). “Fighting to live. Fighting to travel further, or too badly shot to ride.”

On September 29, they camped at cáynım (Young Joseph) said, “I could not bear to see my wounded men suffer any longer; we had lost enough already. General Miles had promised that we might return to our own country. . . . I thought we could start again. I believed General Miles, or I never would have surrendered. . . . We could not have made any other terms with him at that time. . . . On the fifth day I went to General Miles and gave up my gun and said, ‘From where the sun now stands I will fight no more.’ My people needed rest—we were worn out.”

ESCAPE TO CANADA

Those who did escape during the battle, did so with heavy hearts. “With women’s hearts breaking, children weeping and men silent, we moved over the divide,” said puyóuyó (White Bird), “and closed our eyes upon our once happy homes. We were wandered on the prairies. . . . The white men wanted the wealth our people possessed; he got it by the destruction of our people. We who yesterday were rich are beggars today. We have no country, no people, no home.”

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ESCAPE TO CANADA

The attack began the next morning and the siege lasted five days. Lt. Woodruff recalled: “General Miles struck . . . attacked and sieged. . . . He could not have made any other terms with us at that time . . .”

ESCAPE TO CANADA

Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on. Faint for food; tired with the hurrying on.