

COUNCIL BLUFFS

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AN APACHE RAID.

How Indians are fought by the Soldiers in Arizona. One morning in Florence in the summer of 1877 some Pima Indians brought us intelligence that the general Apache had called on them the night before and relieved them of a large amount of surplus stock, women and other easily conveyed articles.

The boys said: "Let 'em raid; more fun and less Indians for one tribe or 't'other," and went to breakfast. But when a Mexican came to town on a foaming pony and announced that a thousand Apaches were coming right up the valley, we thought something was up. Then dashed in a white man on a horse covered with sweat and dust, and yelled: "Apaches right here; more'n five thousand of 'em, raising--; all hands and the cook turn out;--you!"

We turned out. From the Pimas we learned that there were not over a hundred Apaches, and of course, any ten of our young chaps thought we could make a hundred Apaches skip. Guns, ammunition, horses and saddles were bought or seized from the public, and some government mules were ruthlessly pressed into service.

By the time we reached the agency a crowd of men, variously armed and mounted, were on hand, and we met a small force of soldiers. The friendly Indians easily found the trail, and the Mexicans made first rate fellows to ride ahead and yell. We went near Superstition Mountain, and then the Mexicans camped. Riding up to the officer-in command "Colorado Jack" asked, "What in -- are you camped for?"

With military haught the Colonel drew himself up and replied, "To wait for provisions, pack-mules and reinforcements, sir." "If you expect the Apaches to wait for us? If you push on we could give 'em fire before morning."

The officer explained that his men could not go on without rations, and he had to wait. The best mounted and most desperate of us prepared to go on, provisions or no provisions, and only a few remained with the troops. Cursing the U. S. Government, the officers, the army and the Indians, we went on. The officer called out, "When you are repulsed you can fall back on this command and you will be sustained; we will follow as quickly as possible."

A BLOODY TRAIL. All night we rode on, over the hills through canyons, and twisting in and out, constantly expecting to be attacked. Some men joined us from the Globe and Pinal districts, and about daylight we stopped to eat our scanty breakfast of bread, bacon, pickled beef and a little coffee. The trail began to grow hot; horses were found dead, or hamstringed, as well as many articles that the fleeing Apaches were forced to throw away to insure greater rapidity of movement.

The Pima guides found a man of their tribe that the Apaches had captured. They had hanged him to a tree, dismembered him, scalped him and tore his tongue out. After that, we found on the path the body of a young girl mutilated. We continued a north-easterly course, going on both sides of every canyon for fear of an ambuscade.

Just as the Pimas were going down a canon ahead of us, and we were straggling along behind, they were fired on; then we were fired on from the hill above us, and as the men in front poured their fire, a young chap broke into a run pell-mell, every man for himself. The older men fell back a little way to a good position as to rocks and trees, where the Apaches were held in check. Jack and several others came after us, and back we went. Led on by him, with the help of the "old-wheel horses," we drove Indians back to their old previous position, regaining the ground we had lost. After a brief rest, we were again attacked and a charge and down they went through the canon to their main body. Here, occupying a good position in a brushy gulch, they compelled us to keep well in order. From brush to rock they skipped, and we did the same; finally, under the able leadership of Colorado Jack we beat them back.

The Apaches are good shots; they have brave men, and had they not been wary with a week's marching, we should have received a good dressing down at their hands. A HANS TO HAND FIGHT. Every man was quite independent, and did not consider he was obliged to obey any other man. Most of us had Winchester rifles. Some had other kinds of rifles, and some had shotguns. An Irishman had a Winchester given him long before, and he clubbed it in several charges instead of firing it. Lying behind a rock with him, I asked him why he did not fire. "Oh," he replied, "you may take aim 'n' take aim until your eyes are blind, 'n' you don't get the red devil; but when I take aim with a club, begor, something cracks."

At one time five of us were behind a rock, and a fallen tree was held by an Indian, who kept us from the main fight below. Many shots were expended in the endeavor to get him. At last one fired, followed immediately by two shots, one on each side of the tree, resulting in one dead and consequently good Apache. When an Indian was killed or wounded, desperate efforts were made by the others to keep him out of our hands; and so generally were they successful that it was impossible to know how many Indians we killed. Every one of our party claimed to have killed one or more of the Indians; but as we greatly outnumbered them, it is not obvious how so many dead Indians were supplied. These Indians were armed with government needle guns, Winchester and Remington rifles. They fought almost or quite naked. One had a sword, and was said to be a chief of the remnants. The whites were as brutal as the Indians in many respects, such as scalping and mutilating the prisoners and the dead.

Towards evening, while going through a narrow pass, the Apaches sent a volley of well-directed shots at the advance column, killing one or more men and wounding several. Springing up an almost impassable trail, we reinforced the flankers, and drove the Apaches down to the next canon. Here we camped by a spring, and cooked our supper of horse meat. Several wounded were sent back by the Pimas and Mexicans, and three dead were buried.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SOLDIERS. An Indian runner came with a letter from the officer in command of the soldiers before mentioned, stating that he could not follow any further, but was camped at a place designated, where he would wait three days for us to come back. We decided to go ahead, if not whipped, and sent runners for more ammunition and provisions, firmly believing that to-morrow we would "overhastily" clean up the Apaches. All night across the canyon the guards exchanged shots whenever one fired or a noise was made. So close were we that if a person on either side did not step very carefully, shots were dropped all around him.

Early in the morning we poured over the hill and canyon, only to find the main body of Indians had fled, leaving only a few to hold us back through the night. Many were weary, all hungry and dirty, and not a few thirsty. If we had not caught up with the main body of Apaches by noon, we should have been fighting each other. As it was, many turned back, and only the most determined, not over 75 in number, kept on.

The most exciting incident of the day was a hand-to-hand fight, lasting about five minutes, between Jack and about ten men, with a chief and probably twenty Indians, resulting in the chief's death. This was followed by a desperate fight for his body and to kill Jack, who was scalping him. A wild and whooping crowd of us then dashed down the hill, most of us on horseback to the relief of Jack and his party. My pony was shot in the knee, and on jumping off his back, I found myself in the thickest of the fight. My rifle was wrested out of my hand by a hit and strong young buck, but before he had time to clench, Jack stabbed him in the side with one hand, and dragged me out with the other, holding the scalp of the chief in his mouth. The boys having the body of the chief had to drop it, and slipping into a gully, we kept off the infuriated Apaches until all the fellows could come together and "give 'em a rifle."

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CITIZENS BANK, Organized under the laws of the State of Iowa. Paid up capital, \$75,000. Authorized capital, \$250,000. Interest paid on time deposits. Drafts issued on the principal cities of the United States and Europe. Special attention given to collections and correspondence with prompt returns.

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