



THE GREAT BATTLE AND WARRIOR DEATH FIGHT FIGHT BATTLE, WHITE MOUNTAIN, MARCH 15, 1884.—(See Page 148.)

The Fetterman Massacre

Dee Brown



The Fetterman Massacre:

The Fetterman Massacre Dee Alexander Brown, 1984-01-01 The Fetterman Massacre occurred on December 21 1866 at Fort Phil Kearny a small outpost in the foothills of the Big Horns The second battle in American history from which came no survivors it became a cause célèbre and was the subject of a congressional investigation *The Fetterman Massacre* Dee Alexander Brown, 1974 The Fetterman Massacre occurred on December 21 1866 at Fort Phil Kearny a small outpost in the foothills of the Big Horns The second battle in American history from which came no survivors it became a cause célèbre and was the subject of a congressional investigation *The Fetterman Massacre* Dee Brown, 2012-10-23 One of the best studies that has been made of any sector of the Indian wars from the 1 bestselling author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* Chicago Tribune This dark unflinching and fascinating book is Dee Brown's riveting account of events leading up to the Battle of the Hundred Slain the devastating 1866 conflict that pitted Lakota Arapaho and Northern Cheyenne warriors including Oglala chief Red Cloud against the United States cavalry under the command of Captain William Fetterman Providing a vivid backdrop to the battle Brown offers a portrait of Wyoming's Ft Phil Kearney and the remarkable men who built and defended it Based on a wealth of historical sources and sparked by Brown's narrative genius *The Fetterman Massacre* is an essential look at one of the frontier's defining conflicts This ebook features an illustrated biography of Dee Brown including rare photos from the author's personal collection **Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight** John H. Monnett, 2017-03-16 The Fetterman Fight ranks among the most crushing defeats suffered by the U S Army in the nineteenth century West On December 21 1866 during Red Cloud's War 1866-1868 a well organized force of 1 500 to 2 000 Oglala Lakota Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors annihilated a detachment of seventy nine infantry and cavalry soldiers among them Captain William Judd Fetterman and two civilian contractors With no survivors on the U S side the only eyewitness accounts of the battle came from Lakota and Cheyenne participants In *Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight* award winning historian John H Monnett presents these Native views drawn from previously published sources as well as newly discovered interviews with Oglala and Cheyenne warriors and leaders Supplemented with archaeological evidence these narratives flesh out historical understanding of Red Cloud's War Climate change in the mid nineteenth century made the resource rich Powder River Country in today's Wyoming increasingly important to Plains Indians At the same time the discovery of gold in Montana encouraged prospectors to pass through the Powder River region on their way north and so the U S Army began to construct new forts along the Bozeman Trail In the resulting conflict the Lakotas and Cheyennes defended their hunting ranges and trade routes Traditional histories have laid the blame for Fetterman's 1866 defeat and death on his incompetent leadership and thus implied that the Indian alliance succeeded only because of Fetterman's personal failings Monnett's sources paint another picture Narratives like those of Miniconjou Lakota warrior White Bull suggest that Fetterman's actions were not seen as rash or reprehensible until after the fact Nor did his men flee the field in

panic Rather they fought bravely to the end The Indians for their part used their knowledge of the terrain to carefully plan and execute an ambush ensuring them victory Critical to understanding the nuances of Plains Indian strategy and tactics the firsthand narratives in Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight reveal the true nature of this Native victory against regular army forces *The Fetterman Massacre* Dee Brown,1962 **Give Me Eighty Men** Shannon D. Smith,2008-06-01 With eighty men I could ride through the entire Sioux nation The story of what has become popularly known as the Fetterman Fight near Fort Phil Kearney in present day Wyoming in 1866 is based entirely on this infamous declaration attributed to Capt William J Fetterman Historical accounts cite this statement in support of the premise that bravado vainglory and contempt for the fort's commander Col Henry B Carrington compelled Fetterman to disobey direct orders from Carrington and lead his men into a perfectly executed ambush by an alliance of Plains Indians In the aftermath of the incident Carrington's superiors including generals Ulysses S Grant and William T Sherman positioned Carrington as solely accountable for the massacre by suppressing exonerating evidence In the face of this betrayal Carrington's first and second wives came to their husband's defense by publishing books presenting his version of the deadly encounter Although several of Fetterman's soldiers and fellow officers disagreed with the women's accounts their chivalrous deference to women's moral authority during this age of Victorian sensibilities enabled Carrington's wives to present their story without challenge Influenced by these early works historians focused on Fetterman's arrogance and ineptitude as the sole cause of the tragedy In *Give Me Eighty Men* Shannon D Smith reexamines the works of the two Mrs Carringtons in the context of contemporary evidence No longer seen as an arrogant firebrand Fetterman emerges as an outstanding officer who respected the Plains Indians superiority in numbers weaponry and battle skills *Give Me Eighty Men* both challenges standard interpretations of this American myth and shows the powerful influence of female writers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries *The Fetterman Massacre* Charles River Editors,2017-09-19 Includes pictures Includes accounts of the fighting Includes a bibliography for further reading In the summer of 1866 Colonel Henry B Carrington set out from Fort Laramie to establish a series of forts along the Bozeman Trail with the goal of protecting migrants moving along the trail The Bozeman Trail ran through the Powder River country which included the traditional hunting grounds of Lakota Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples Carrington had about 1 000 people in his column of which about 700 were soldiers and 300 were civilians likely soldiers families and migrants The colonel established Fort Phil Kearny as his headquarters and based 400 troops and most of the civilians there During the construction of Fort Kearny which lasted months Native Americans killed several dozen soldiers and civilians in some 50 separate attacks The attacks were largely focused on the wood trains comprised of soldiers and civilians harvesting lumber from the surrounding forest for the construction of the fort Though younger warriors like Crazy Horse conducted the actual attack Red Cloud and other older leaders would help plan and direct the harassment and interdiction campaign against the construction of Fort Kearny By October 1866 Carrington's officers and men pressured him to go on the offensive and take the

fight to the Native Americans The pressure was increased by the arrival of a company of sixty three cavalry troopers led by Lieutenant Horatio S Bingham in early November Civil War veterans Captain William J Fetterman and Captain James W Powell accompanied the cavalry troopers and were assigned to Fort Kearny as infantry officers but despite having a distinguished war record Fetterman had no experience fighting Native Americans Nevertheless that lack of experience did not keep Fetterman from criticizing the conservative and defensive posture Carrington had established at Fort Kearny adding to an already growing chorus of criticism Fetterman also repeatedly displayed utter contempt for the Native Americans On December 19 another wood train was attacked and Carrington dispatched a mixed company of cavalry and mounted infantry led by Captain Powell This time the cautious officer followed Carrington explicit orders not to pursue the Native Americans over the ridge and out of sight of the fort Powell was successful and returned to the fort unscathed Carrington continued to emphasize the need for caution until reinforcements and horse arrived from Fort Laramie Two days later Native Americans again attacked a wood train and Carrington dispatched a mixed force of about 50 infantrymen and nearly 30 cavalry troopers and Colonel Carrington again chose Captain Powell to lead the relieving force but Fetterman asserted his seniority to Powell and was thus given command of the soldiers Again Carrington ordered the troops not to pursue the warriors over the nearby ridge and out of sight of the fort Meanwhile the Native American warriors had deployed a group of decoying riders including Crazy Horse who lured Fetterman s troops over the ridge and into the waiting ambush About midday soldiers at Fort Kearny heard a large volume of gunfire coming from the north the direction where Fetterman had led his troops Carrington dispatched 75 troops towards the gunfire and soon afterwards sent another 48 About an hour later as the troops topped the ridgeline they saw a group of some 1 000 warriors in the valley below Warriors approached and taunted the soldiers but soon they began to disperse and disappear Captain Ten Eyck leading the relief force cautiously moved onto the battlefield and found Fetterman and his men dead stripped and mutilated Until that time the Fetterman Massacre as U S newspapers labeled the event was the greatest defeat in terms of the number of U S soldiers killed experienced by the Army at the hands of Native Americans

Sioux Dawn Terry C. Johnston,2013-07-30 No one captures the glory adventure and drama of the courageous men and women who tamed the America West like award winning author Terry Johnston His Plainsmen series brims with colorful characters fierce battles and compelling historical lore The Civil War was over and a great westward march began Settlers and soldiers poured out of the East along the Bozeman Trail cutting deep into sacred Sioux hunting grounds For Red Cloud and his warriors there would be no choice but to fight for their ancestral rights Seen through the eyes of gruff Sergeant Seamus Donegan here is the historically accurate tale of a tragic opening to the war between two great civilization the Fetterman Massacre of 1866

The Fetterman Massacre and the Battle of the Little Bighorn Charles River Editors,2025-05-01 Since the Battle of the Little Bighorn George Armstrong Custer has possessed one of the most unique places in American history Although he was a capable cavalry officer who served honorably during the Civil War he

remains one of the most instantly identifiable and famous military men in American history due to the fact he was killed during one of the country's most well known and ignominious defeats the Battle of Little Bighorn. At the same time this one relatively insignificant battle during America's Indian Wars has become one of the country's most mythologized events and continues to fascinate Americans nearly 140 years later. On the morning of June 25 Custer's scouts discovered a Native American village about 15 miles away in the valley of the Little Bighorn River. Choosing to disregard his superior's orders to wait for a concerted effort the grandstanding Custer intended to deliver his own decisive victory by dividing his command into three units an extremely bold tactic when done in the face of a much larger force. Due to their belief in the inferiority of the Plains Indians and mindful of previous Indian tactics that sought to avoid pitched battle Custer and his men were most concerned with forcing the action and failed to understand the true nature of the situation they had entered. The Native American gathering centered around the famous Sioux chief Sitting Bull numbered roughly 8 000 individuals and about 2 000 of them were warriors. Custer's forces amounted to a mere 31 officers 566 troopers and 50 scouts and civilians and they had been split into three columns in order to stop a possible retreat. Before the battle it is believed Custer thought he was facing a group of about 800 which was Sitting Bull's strength in the weeks before the battle. However the Army's Native American scouts and civilian scouts had not adequately informed the Army of the reinforcements that arrived and at Little Bighorn Custer's three pronged attack was completely overwhelmed. How Custer met his fate and whether there even was a Last Stand remain subjects of debate but what is known is that the Battle of the Little Bighorn was one of the U.S. military's biggest debacles. All told the 7th Cavalry suffered over 50% casualties with over 250 men killed and over 50 wounded. The dead included Custer's brothers Boston and Thomas his brother in law James Calhoun and his nephew Henry Reed. Custer and his men were buried where they fell. A year later Custer's remains or more accurately the remains found in the spot labeled with his name were relocated to West Point for final interment.

[Brave Eagle's Account of the Fetterman Fight, 21 December 1866](#) ,1992-03-01 Relates from the Indian point of view the events of the worst defeat suffered by the United States Army at the hands of the Indians

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