

# THE FIGHT AT CHIRICAHUA PASS IN 1869

AS DESCRIBED BY L. L. DORR, M.D.

*edited by*

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ON October 23, 1869, Camp Crittenden, an adobe cavalry post resting serenely near the headwaters of Sonoita Creek in Southern Arizona, was the scene of considerable activity. Several hours before, a military courier had arrived with orders from General Thomas C. Devin at Tucson, and preparations were being made for an extended scouting expedition. On October 5 there had been a massacre to the east, near Dragoon Springs. A large body of Apaches had attacked a stagecoach and murdered the passengers and soldier escort, then struck a trail herd in the vicinity, driving off the herders, and starting the cattle south along the Sulphur Springs Valley. Troops from Camp Bowie had set out in hot pursuit, recovered the herd, and in skirmishing discovered what was believed to be an Apache stronghold near Chiricahua Pass at the southern end of the Chiricahua Mountains. Before Devin learned of these developments and could send support, a second force from Bowie had reached the pass, fought the Apaches, and withdrawn for reinforcements. On October 24 a cavalry detachment and a pack train rode out of Crittenden to add strength for still another assault on the stronghold. Traveling with the party was Dr. Levi L. Dorr, who three weeks later recorded the highlights of the expedition in a letter to Dr. George P. Hanawalt, a friend living in Des Moines, Iowa. Although

lacking the detail of a military report, Dorr's letter suggests the frightening proportions of the Apache menace in Arizona at that time.<sup>1</sup>

During the decade following the Civil War, the newly organized Territory of Arizona passed through a troubled period. The mining boom that had focused national attention on its mountain and plateau regions sputtered and died, as rich surface ore played out and the lack of capital prevented further development. A major obstacle to attracting money to Arizona mines was the Indian menace, which not only threatened travel but posed a daily threat to life in outlying districts. South of the Gila the Apaches were particularly hostile. In this region small-scale farming and ranching provided the principal livelihood, supplying the needs of Tucson, the Territorial capital, and the army posts to the south and east. The very presence of livestock on family farms bordering Sonoita Creek and the upper Santa Cruz Valley attracted roving Apache bands who struck in broad daylight, killing farmers in the fields and on the road to market. Equally attractive were the emigrant trains and trail herds from Texas passing through Southern Arizona to California. The Apaches also attacked mail riders, stagecoaches, freighters, and army detachments. In Pima County alone, for the year ending July 17, 1869, the Indians killed fifty-two people and wounded eighteen more, and stole or killed 1,000 head of livestock. Under such conditions it was virtually impossible to open mines, develop settlements, or travel the public highways in safety.<sup>2</sup>

In 1869 the army was making a vigorous effort to protect the 9,000 inhabitants in the Territory. Arizona formed a military district of the Department of California, which in turn was part of the sprawling Divi-

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<sup>1</sup>Levi L. Dorr to George P. Hanawalt, Camp Crittenden, A. T., November 24, 1869, in personal collections of Harold H. Longfellow, Sedona, Arizona. See also the account in the Prescott *Arizona Miner*, December 11, 1869, reprinted in Thomas E. Farish, *History of Arizona* (8 vols., San Francisco: Filmer Brothers Electrotype Company, 1915-18), VIII, 27-30. For the attack on the stagecoach, see [Anon.], "Col. John Finkle Stone and the Apache Pass Mining Company," *Arizona Historical Review* [AHR], VI (July 1935), 74-80. Engagements with Apaches during October of 1869 are mentioned in Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, 1789-1903* (New ed., 2 vols., U. of Illinois Press, 1965), II, 434.

<sup>2</sup>For conditions in Southern Arizona in the late 1860s, see A. M. Gustafson (ed.), *John Spring's Arizona* (U. of Arizona Press, 1966), 25-139, *passim*. For cattle drives to California, see Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of California* (7 vols., San Francisco: The History Company, 1884-90), VII, 45. Recognizing the importance of a regular western cattle trail, the army in 1867 published an "Outline Map Showing a New Route from Texas to Fort Yuma, California, for Cattle Drovers and Trains en route to California," copy in Map Collection, University of Arizona Library, Tucson. The figures on Pima County depredations are in Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of Arizona and New Mexico* (New ed., Albuquerque: Horn & Wallace, 1962), 557n.

sion of the Pacific. General Thomas C. Devin commanded the District of Arizona from his headquarters at Tucson, and answered directly to General Edward O. C. Ord, the Department commander in San Francisco. Ord urged unrelenting warfare against the Apaches. "These Arabs of Arizona," he declared in his 1869 report, "have heretofore neither given nor asked quarter; their hands have always been bloody, their favorite pursuit killing and plundering, their favorite ornaments the finger and toe nails, the teeth, hair, and small bones of their victims!" The "few settlers and scattered miners" in Arizona were the "sheep upon which these wolves habitually preyed." Believing that no temporizing policy would work, Ord had ordered his commanders to "root out" and hunt down the Apaches "as they would wild animals."<sup>3</sup>

To implement his policy, Ord maintained a force of some 2,000 troops at fourteen army posts in Arizona. Most of these posts were north of the Gila, where there was active campaigning against hostile bands. Six camps — Lowell, Goodwin, Bowie, Grant, Crittenden and Wallen — were located in the country to the south. Of these the most exposed were Camp Bowie, nestled high in Apache Pass in the Chiricahua Mountains near the New Mexico line, and Camp Crittenden, southeast of Tucson on the Sonoita. As a rule the posts were lightly garrisoned by two or three companies of cavalry and/or infantry. Undermanned garrisons, however, did not prevent Ord's commanders from taking the field. During 1869, for example, Colonel Reuben F. Bernard, commanding at Bowie, led eight expeditions on scouts against the Apaches. His most vigorous offensive was in October when he drew reinforcements from Crittenden and Goodwin to attack an Indian stronghold in Chiricahua Pass. In repeated blows, he killed a number of Indians, but his efforts did little to check Apache raiding.<sup>4</sup>

Contract Surgeon Levi Lewis Dorr, the author of the following letter, was involved in Bernard's assault on Chiricahua Pass. A native of Massachusetts, Dorr in 1861 had left his position as a clerk to enlist

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<sup>3</sup> Report of Brevet Major General E. O. C. Ord, in "Report of the Secretary of War, 1869," *House Exec. Doc. [HED] 1*, part 2, volume 1, 41 Cong., 2 Sess. (Serial 1412), 121. Despite his sanguinary approach to the Apache problem, Ord lent vigorous support to the military establishment of an Indian reserve in the White Mountains early the following year. Ord to Adjutant General of the Army, San Francisco, January 13, 1870, file 98 P 1870, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94, National Archives.

<sup>4</sup> "Report of the Secretary of War, 1869," *HED 1*, pt. 2, vol. 1, 41 Cong., 2 Sess., 166-68; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, May-December, 1869, reel 129, Microcopy 617, Returns from United States Military Posts, 1800-1916 [RMP], RG 94, NA.

in the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry; at the battle of Antietam he had been seriously wounded in the leg. During a lengthy recuperation he was assigned to the Invalid Corps and sent to the Douglas Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., as a nurse. Here he met Hospital Steward George P. Hanawalt. Hanawalt was enrolled in Georgetown Medical School, and in 1864 Dorr began taking classes there also. Dorr was mustered out of the army on July 16, 1864. Hanawalt graduated from Georgetown but Dorr apparently did not. He secured a position at Bellevue Hospital in New York City where he satisfied the requirements for a medical degree. Hanawalt served as a contract surgeon in Washington until September of 1868, then resigned and went west to Des Moines, Iowa, where he entered private practice and lived until his death.<sup>5</sup>

In 1866, Dr. Levi L. Dorr went west to California and never returned to the East to live. The following year he signed a contract for duty as an acting assistant surgeon at \$125.00 per month in the Department of California and was ordered to Arizona. Dorr remained at a temporary camp near Tubac from June of 1867 until its abandonment in March of 1868, then accompanied the troops sent to build Camp Crittenden. In May he was transferred to remote Camp Bowie, but was superseded in August. Returning to San Francisco he renewed his contract on November 20 and was sent to Arizona again. He served at Camp Wallen as post surgeon from January until July of 1869, when he reported at Camp Grant to be field surgeon for Colonel John Green's military expedition into the White Mountains. Soon after his return to Camp Wallen, Dorr was reassigned to Camp Crittenden, and arrived there on October 22.<sup>6</sup>

In his letter to Hanawalt, Dorr describes briefly Bernard's third assault (October 31) on the Apaches at Chiricahua Pass and the uneventful scout in early November along the eastern slopes of the Chiricahua Mountains. Dorr's letter lacks detail and enthusiasm, and occasionally is factually inaccurate, but it provides an interesting glance

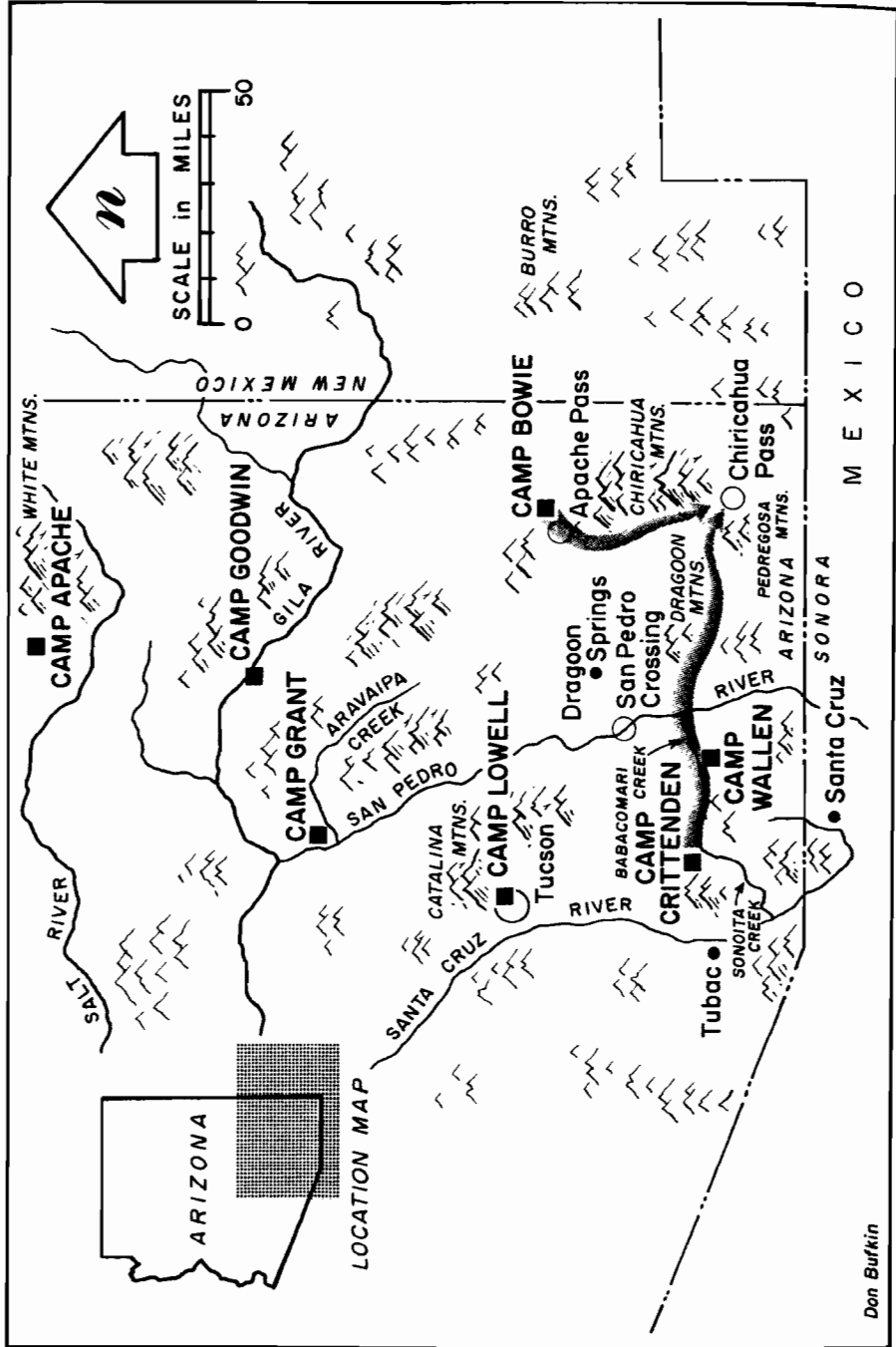
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<sup>5</sup> Pension records of Levi Lewis Dorr and George P. Hanawalt, Records of the Veterans' Administration [RVA], RG 15, NA. Medical school records, courtesy Jon Reynolds, Georgetown University, to Marian Valputic, November 23, 1971.

<sup>6</sup> Copies of Dorr's contracts, April 1, 1867, November 20, 1869, are in his pension records, RVA. See Post Returns, Camp at Tubac, Arizona, June, 1867, March, 1868, reel 1297; Post Returns, Camp Crittenden, May, 1868, October–November, 1869, reel 267; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, May, August, 1868, reel 129; Post Returns, Camp Wallen, January, June, 1869, reel 1348, RMP.



DR. LEVI L. DORR (1840-1934). — *California State Library.*



Map of Apache campaign during fall of 1869.

Don Bufkin

at one of the most sustained army operations against Apaches of that time and in a part of Arizona which heretofore has received little historical treatment. In it he reflects the frustrations of the army in trying to bring the Apache to bay. There also is a glimpse of the life and duties of a civilian contract surgeon at garrisons on a remote frontier. Moreover, Dorr's letter suggests the need for a study of the post-war trailing of cattle from Texas and adjoining states west to lucrative markets in California, at a time when national attention was focused on Texas trails to Kansas.

Editorial attention to the Dorr letter has been slight. To improve clarity and readability, the paragraphing has been tightened and punctuation added, but the author's original spelling has been retained throughout.



Camp Crittenden, A[rizona] T[erritory]<sup>7</sup>  
Nov. 24 '69

My Dear Geo.

Your ever welcome letter of the 30th ult. came this morning. I hasten to reply and enclose the desired \$100, which you are perfectly welcome to as long as you desire it, and I am only too glad to be able to loan it to you.

I sincerely reciprocate all your greetings of love and friendship, and have always felt that your attachment was more than "word deep," as instanced by our long separation with intimate and constant communication. Am very glad to know that you are doing so well as you are, and feel sure you will succeed in a long run. As fast as I get and read my Journals, will send them to you as before. Among us here we take nearly all the papers and Journals.

I must now tell you of my movements since I last wrote you; but will finish the sequele to my last scout. Col. Green's<sup>8</sup> report of it unfortunately was not

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<sup>7</sup>The construction of Camp Crittenden was authorized on March 4, 1868, by orders issued at Camp Tubac. Named in honor of the district commander, Brevet Brigadier General Thomas L. Crittenden, the post was active until the summer of 1873. Regimental commander of the Thirty-second Infantry, Crittenden was in charge of the District of Tucson, comprising six posts south of the Gila, from the early spring until the fall of 1867. From that time until the autumn of the next year, he commanded the District of Arizona. Constance W. Altshuler (ed.), "The Naming of Camp Crittenden," *Journal of Arizona History [JAH]*, VIII (Summer 1967), 137-42; James E. Serven, *The Military Posts on Sonoita Creek* (Smoke Signal 12: Tucson Westerners, Fall 1965).

<sup>8</sup>Veteran campaigner John Green was born in Germany, served in the Mexican War, was commissioned a dragoon lieutenant in 1855, won the brevet of lieutenant colonel during the Civil War, and held the regular rank of major in the First Cavalry in 1869. Retiring in 1885, Green received the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Modoc War. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 473. An extract of Green's report was in the [Board of Indian Commissioners], *Report of the Commission on Indian Affairs, 1869* (Washington, 1870), 62-63.

published, and your humble servant has not been "honorable mentioned." Gen'l. Ord<sup>9</sup> ordered Col. G. to return to the White Mts. and locate a post and reservation, so our trip there will not have been altogether useless.<sup>10</sup> Col. G. has gone there now.

Our pleasant post Wallen<sup>11</sup> was broken up at last, and I was ordered here for field duty, somewhat to my annoyance as I desired post duty & a chance to study.

I had not reported here two hours [days] before I was ordered on a scout.<sup>12</sup> Now I will tell you what caused us to go, & omit the rumors we had before starting.

Every year thousands of head of cattle are driven thro this country from Texas to the Cal. market,<sup>13</sup> and from the small number of men with them are often captured by Indians, & especially by Cachiese,<sup>14</sup> the terror of So. Arizona, who numbers about 60 warriors all told. This year there had been but few taken

<sup>9</sup>Ord was born in Maryland, graduated from the Military Academy in 1839, and entered the Third Artillery. He rose to the rank of major general of volunteers during the Civil War, was promoted to brigadier general in the regular service in 1866, and retired in 1881. Ord commanded the Department of California from April of 1868 to December of 1871. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 759; Report of Brevet Major General E. O. C. Ord, in "Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1872," HED I, pt. 2, vol. 1, 42 Cong., 3 Sess. (Serial 1558), 51.

<sup>10</sup>On May 16, 1870, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel John Green established Camp Ord on the White River. Within six months the name of the post was changed to Camp Mogollon, then to Camp Thomas, in honor of the late Major General George H. Thomas, who was commanding the Division of the Pacific when the military reservation was designated. On February 2, 1871, the name was changed to Camp Apache, as a gesture of friendship toward the Indians collected there. Ray Brandes, *Frontier Military Posts of Arizona* (Globe, Arizona: Dale Stuart King, 1960), 10.

<sup>11</sup>Post Returns, Camp Wallen, January-October, 1869, reel 1348, RMP. California volunteers in May of 1866 built Wallen on Babocomari Creek, about fifteen miles west of the San Pedro River. Named for Brevet Brigadier General Henry D. Wallen, commanding the Northern Arizona District, the post was ordered abandoned on June 30, and the garrison left on October 31, 1869. Gustafson (ed.), *John Spring's Arizona*, 56-127; Brandes, *Frontier Military Posts*, 73-75.

<sup>12</sup>Dorr reported at Crittenden on October 22, and left on the scout two days later. Post Returns, Camp Crittenden, October, 1869, reel 267, RMP.

<sup>13</sup>At the end of the Civil War, an absence of home markets and a protracted drought in California prompted Texans to begin driving cattle to the coast as they had in the 1850s. According to reliable estimates, California cattle declined from about three million head in 1862 to 630,000 by 1870. In the summer and autumn of 1869, Tucson newspapers frequently noted Texas emigrant trains and cattle moving west. Occasionally soldiers escorted herds through hostile Indian country. For example, the Camp Bowie post returns for February of 1868 (RMP) indicate that a corporal and six privates accompanied a herd from Bowie to Tucson. Bancroft, *California*, VII, 45; Tucson *Weekly Arizonan*, July 31, August 21, November 13, 1869.

<sup>14</sup>The most famous and feared Apache chieftain of the Southwest, Cochise was the leader of the Central Chiricahuas who ranged the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona. In 1872, with his followers, he agreed to go on a reservation embracing the Chiricahua Mountains, where he died two years later. Barbara Ann Tyler, "Cochise: Apache War Leader, 1858-1861," *JAH*, VI (Spring 1965), 1-10; Russell C. Ewing, "New Light on Cochise," *Arizona and the West*, XI (Spring 1969), 57-58.



until two months ago. To tell you all. The southern overland coach,<sup>15</sup> with a driver, one citizen & four soldiers, left Camp Bowie for Tucson. Soon after passing a herd of cattle, they were attacked by many Apaches and all killed by the first fire, striped and mutilated & the mail captured.<sup>16</sup> The Apaches then attacked the herd, killed one man and took 150 cattle.<sup>17</sup>

This was reported to the Cav. Co. at Camp Bowie<sup>18</sup> some hours after, when Lt. Winters (a Buck Eye and gallant soldier)<sup>19</sup> took 25 men and was soon on their trail south. Three days after, he killed three of five Indians he overtook, and pushing on came up with the cattle with many Indians in an open rolling country. This was a chance Cav. officers pray for, and Winters done the opportunity justice. He killed 12 before they reached the [Chiricahua] Mts., and retook all the cattle but a few, & restored them to their owner. He will get his well earned brevet.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The Southern Overland had recently begun operations. On March 28, 1869, the Tucson *Arizonian* announced that this company would soon begin running a weekly stage from Tucson to Mesilla, New Mexico, to connect with other lines.

<sup>16</sup> The stage was attacked about three miles west of Dragoon Springs. The passengers included Colonel John Finkle Stone, president of the Apache Pass Mining Company, the driver – a Mr. Kaler – and four soldiers riding as an escort: Privates W. H. Bates, M. Blake, J. W. Slocum, and D. B. Shellabarger, of Company D, Twenty-first Infantry. William Sullivan, who arrived at the massacre scene soon after, wrote in 1915 that the stage apparently was stopped by the first volley, then attacked by a large band of Apaches who finished the killing. Stone was Deputy Collector of Customs at Tucson for the El Paso District. Prescott *Miner*, October 30, 1869; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, October, 1869, reel 129, RMP; [Anon.], "Col. John Finkle Stone," *AHR*, VI, 74–80.

<sup>17</sup> Brevet Colonel Reuben F. Bernard testified that the herd comprised three hundred head of cattle, and that one man was killed and another wounded. *Memorial and Affidavits showing Outrages Perpetrated by the Apache Indians in the Territory of Arizona during the Years 1869 and 1870* (San Francisco: Francis & Valentine, Printers, 1871), 28. The post returns, Camp Bowie, October, 1869 (RMP), gave the number of cattle as one hundred and twenty. The Tucson *Arizonian*, October 9, 1869, estimated the herd at about two hundred head of cattle. The Apaches killed one herder, but five others escaped. The name of the murdered drover was not given.

<sup>18</sup> Camp Bowie was established on July 28, 1862, by California troops to protect travel through Apache Pass. In early 1869 it was garrisoned by Company D, Thirty-second Infantry. In May Troop G, First Cavalry, arrived under Bernard, who became the post commander. In August he was superseded by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Thomas S. Dunn, whose regular captain's rank was senior to Bernard's. Company D, Twenty-first Infantry, was added to the garrison and consolidated with Company D of the Thirty-second. The Thirty-second was deactivated. Brandes, *Frontier Military Posts*, 14–21; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, January–September, 1869, reel 129, RMP.

<sup>19</sup> Born in Ohio, William H. Winters rose from private to captain in the Ohio Volunteers during the early months of the Civil War, then resigned in 1862. Re-enlisting in the First Cavalry in 1864, he rose from private to first lieutenant in two years. Winters retired from the army as a captain in 1873. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 1051.

<sup>20</sup> On October 6, the day after the massacre, Winters left Camp Bowie with twenty-two men of Troop G, First Cavalry, inspected the massacre site, then hurried south through the Sulphur Springs Valley. By the time he returned to Camp Bowie, Lieutenant Winters had covered two hundred and sixteen miles in his operations. The owner of the cattle has not been identified. Post Returns, Camp Bowie, October, 1869, reel 129, RMP. Winters received no brevet for this scout. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 1051.

Many Indians were known to be wounded, and so Col. Bernard<sup>21</sup> of the same company thought to get them at our advantage, [and] started out at once with 50 men & Lt. Lafferty.<sup>22</sup> In two days from the post, he found a fresh trail & following it up into a bad cañon suddenly came on all these 60 to 100 Indians, well posted in rockes and with the arms & amunition they had taken from the stage, finely armed. He fought them with 35 men from noon until night & gained but little ground, so had to retire with the loss of two men killed, one officer & two men wounded, & kill & wounding of 8 horses. He killed 18 Indians and must have wounded many more. I forgot to say Winters had three men wounded. Of both, none were mortally wounded.<sup>23</sup>

Bernard came back to the post, reported the facts to Gen'l. Devin,<sup>24</sup> took all the men he could get from Bowie (70)<sup>25</sup> and found the Indians in the same

<sup>21</sup> A native of Tennessee, Reuben Frank Bernard entered the First Dragoons as an enlisted man in 1855. Promoted to lieutenant in 1862, he emerged from the Civil War with the brevet rank of colonel. In 1866 he was raised to the rank of captain in the regular service, and served in this grade at Camp Bowie in 1869. In 1890 he received the brevet of brigadier general for gallant service against the Apaches at Chiricahua Pass on October 20, 1869, and for later field action in Oregon. He retired in 1896. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 214; Don Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights and Scrimmages: The Story of General Reuben F. Bernard* (Washington: United States Cavalry Association, 1936), *passim*.

<sup>22</sup> Bernard met Winters returning with the herd and immediately notified General Devin at Tucson of the events. Devin ordered reinforcements to Bowie from Camp Crittenden, and Dunn requested troops from Camp Goodwin; but Bernard marched on October 16, before they arrived. In his column were Troop G, First Cavalry and Troop G, Eighth Cavalry — a total of sixty-one men — and fifteen days' rations. Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 71-72. Born in New York State, John Lafferty entered the service as a lieutenant in the California Volunteers in 1864. Two years later he was assigned to the Eighth Cavalry and promoted in 1867 to the rank of first lieutenant. He retired as a captain in 1878. In 1890 Lafferty received the brevet of captain for gallant service against Indians in engagements in Nevada in 1867 and at Chiricahua Pass on October 20, 1869. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 611.

<sup>23</sup> Marching at night, Bernard came upon a recently abandoned Apache rancharia on October 20 near Chiricahua Pass. Locating the Apaches on a rock-strewn mesa above the pass, he ordered Lieutenant Lafferty to advance. The soldiers encountered heavy fire and were obliged to withdraw, leaving behind two men dead — Sergeant Stephen S. Fuller of the Eighth and Private Thomas Collins of the First Cavalry. Lafferty and two privates were wounded. At dark Bernard returned to Bowie for reinforcements. Prescott *Miner*, December 11, 1869; Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 71-78. Russell stated (page 76) that with sixty men, Bernard had "inflicted upon a hundred or two hundred Apaches the severest punishment ever suffered by Cochise. . . ." The wounded men with Winters have not been identified.

<sup>24</sup> Thomas Casimir Devin was born in New York, entered the New York Volunteer Cavalry as a captain in 1861, and attained the rank of major general of volunteers in 1865. Assigned to the Eighth Cavalry in 1866, he assumed command of the District of Arizona and also the Sub-District of Tucson in September of 1868. John Spring, who served as interpreter for Devin, remembered him as "rather deaf, and at times somewhat blunt." Promoted to colonel of the Third Cavalry in 1877, Devin died in the service early the next year. Heitman, *Historical Register*, I, 370; Gustafson (ed.), *John Spring's Arizona*, 211.

<sup>25</sup> Bernard left Bowie on October 24 with Troop G, First Cavalry, and Troop G, Eighth Cavalry, hurrying south again to Chiricahua Pass. Finding no hostiles, he buried the dead from his last engagement. The following dawn he entered a canyon, leaving Lieutenant Winters with the pack train. Advancing up the canyon, he saw Indians circling toward the rear of the column, drove them to the crest of the range, and then made camp. That evening the hostiles approached his Indian scouts to parley, but Bernard would offer no terms except unconditional surrender. Meanwhile, he had sent back to Bowie for aid. Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 77; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, October, 1869, reel 129, RMP.

place. He advanced up the cañon but found Indians all around him, & but for Winters coming up would have been cut off and slaughtered.<sup>26</sup> He had fought them before on one Mt.; now they were on both sides, with their stock and families on the first Mt. Bernard thought he must have more men. In fact, heretofore officers have not tried to fight Indians in such impregnable mountain passes, but their late doings & it being Cachiese was a stimulus.

He [Bernard] came out of the Mts. and met us, who had been ordered to join him with 35 men.<sup>27</sup> That night we returned to the Mts., and at moon rise on foot advanced up this ridge of Mt. he had had fight number 2 on, expecting we would have a hard fight. At daylight [we] were at the top and [went] over in three columns, down into the cañon. They knew we were coming and had horses hitched along the creek, in easy range from the right hand Mt., where they had gone. We astonished them by coming over the Mt., instead of up the cañon. We thought they had all gone, but soon saw the horses & their rancheria. Our company advancing to take the horses, they [were] run off by Apaches, only an old one left. As soon as we advanced, the ball opened from both sides, but the Indians did not care to show themselves much, as two of them were killed while getting into position.<sup>28</sup>

We could not now advance up the Mt. without fearfull loss of life, so we withdrew, having been out two nights without sleep & 12 hrs. without food. It was impossible to drive them from such a place, as they were armed.

We came back to Bowie & were joined by 75 more Cav.<sup>29</sup> and [went] after them again. But on arriving at the place, they were gone. We followed them on from Fight 3 over the Mts. East, and [continued] two or three days behind them among the smaller Mts., but they could travel on the inside track faster than we could. We one day killed another Indian & got one of the soldier rifles. At last

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<sup>26</sup> Bernard was not reinforced by Winters but by Dunn, who left Bowie on October 28 with nineteen men of Company D, Twenty-first Infantry, and reached the battle site the following day, having covered fifty miles in twenty hours. Believing that Dunn's force was too weak, Bernard hesitated to attack. With this impasse, Dunn left for Bowie with six cavalymen. Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 77; Post Returns, Camp Bowie, reel 129, RMP.

<sup>27</sup> Dorr's party from Camp Crittenden reached the vicinity of Chiricahua Pass on the afternoon of October 30. Included in the group, besides Dorr, were Captain Harrison Moulton, Second Lieutenant Albert J. Garrett, thirty-three men of Troop C, First Cavalry, and a guide named Gallego. Bernard now had a total strength of one hundred and eighteen men. Post Returns, Camp Crittenden, reel 267, RMP; Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 77.

<sup>28</sup> On the night of October 30, Bernard's forces climbed from the canyon to an adjoining ridge, and at dawn crossed over to strike the Apaches. The Indians scattered into the rocks, and opened fire on the descending soldiers, but Winters kept them at bay, and Bernard reached safety. Still fearful of being overwhelmed, Bernard abandoned the battlefield and returned to Bowie. In his three fights in October, his men had killed over thirty Apaches, wounded many more, and killed or captured twenty mules and horses. Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 77-79.

<sup>29</sup> Bernard was persistent. On November 2 he set out again for the pass, with a column reinforced by troops from Camp Goodwin - Troop L, First Cavalry, and Companies B and F, Twenty-first Infantry. Finding no Indians he crossed to the east side of the Chiricahua range, scouting north, and eventually reached Bowie on November 14. Post Returns, Camp Bowie, November, 1869, reel 129, RMP; Russell, *One Hundred and Three Fights*, 78-79.

we came to Bowie & home, having been gone a month.<sup>30</sup> All are glad to get home again, but in a few days or weeks we shall be on the war path again.

The worst of the wounds I saw was Lt. Laffertie's, who was wounded in the lower jaw, fracturing it and cutting the face fearfully, but it healed kindly without much deformity. My hospital experience stood me a good turn here, and, I flatter myself, was of much benefit to L., who was very grateful. The surgeon there [Bowie] was a good physician but a crazy dutchman, & knew little of wounds & their proper dressing. I am trying to get to Bowie as post surgeon, but think it will not be effected, now they have just changed.<sup>31</sup> Do not like field service as I have been on it so much during the last year and but little time to study.

Next spring will try and leave the army. How much should I have, to warrent my starting as you did? About how much must expences be in a city like Counsil Bluffs? I have some cousins living there, but do not know their married name. One of them I have never seen. San Bernardino, Cal., still looks attractive to me & is fast filling up.<sup>32</sup> I hear from Harry often, and will soon get a copy of his trip with Colfax.<sup>33</sup>

I start for Tucson on a pleasure & business trip, and will post [this letter] there.<sup>34</sup>

Hoping this will find you well & in good spirits & that you will have a good time home,

I remain

Sincerely your friend

L L DORR

<sup>30</sup> Dorr and the troops under Captain Moulton reached Camp Crittenden on November 19. Post Returns, Camp Crittenden, November, 1869, reel 267, RMP.

<sup>31</sup> Acting Assistant Surgeon Henry G. Tidemann had relieved Dorr at Camp Bowie per Special Orders 83, Headquarters, Sub-District of Tucson, dated July 30, 1868. Dr. William H. Smith became post surgeon at Bowie in late November of 1869, by Special Orders 208, Department of California, dated November 11, 1869. Post Returns, Camp Bowie, August, 1868, November, 1869, reel 129, RMP.

<sup>32</sup> The Tucson *Arizonan* of November 13, 1869, noted that rich gold placer diggings had been found thirty miles northwest of San Bernardino, California, and miners were rushing to the area.

<sup>33</sup> "Colfax" may have been Vice President Schuyler Colfax, who in August of 1869 came west by rail with a party over the recently completed Union Pacific-Central Pacific railroad. Willard H. Smith, *Schuyler Colfax: The Changing Fortunes of a Political Idol* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1952), 321-22. The person Dorr mentions as Harry has not been identified.

<sup>34</sup> Dorr remained at Camp Crittenden until February 22, 1870, then went to San Francisco, and on March 31 had his contract annulled. Two weeks later he signed a contract to accompany a detachment of recruits to Fort Hall, Idaho Territory, only to learn on April 21 that the agreement was cancelled, because Brevet Major General George Crook, commanding the Department of the Columbia, had requested another surgeon for that duty. From May until November, 1870, Dorr served at Camp Warner, Oregon. His last service was at Warner from June of 1871 to June of 1872. On April 3, 1873, Dorr married Jeanette Raymond in Oakland, California, and settled into private practice in San Francisco. He died on September 10, 1934, at the Garden Nursing Home in that city and was buried in the National Cemetery at the Presidio. Dorr's pension records, RVA. Post Returns, Camp Warner, 1870-1872, reel 1352, RMP.