

ROGUE RIVER WAR

before. We counted forty-one campfires, with plenty of evidences of their having been eating beef.

Now being well satisfied that their camp was not far off, I returned to my camp. Lt. Dryer and the Doctor were anxious to return to their flesh pots, and I assured them that I would not need their services. So they returned, leaving me again in command. Dryer very kindly left me enough of my company to give me thirty-three men all told, so the next morning I took all my men except one man, whom I left to keep camp, and proceeded to the pond where I had seen the Indian fires.

Upon my arrival there, no Indians had been there since I had left it two days before. I scouted around considerable, but could find no fresh sign. At night I took one man, and went up the side of the mountain, and climbed a tree where I could overlook the lava beds, but could see nothing.

So next morning I packed up, and marched in a northerly direction along the base of the mountain, pretending that I was going to leave the country. After getting in camp I took my gun and prospected for signs up the side of the mountain. I discovered where an Indian had been watching us, so next morning I ascended the mountain in the direction of my previous day's march, but instead of crossing the range when I got to the summit, I turned southward, and marched parallel to my march of yesterday.

We killed two Indians on our march of two days. I killed one, and the soldiers the other, but the mountain was thrust, so that our march was obstructed from view. We slipped down the side of the mountain, and camped in a ravine not far from the pond and overlooking the lava beds. That evening it rained a little, so that smoke would hang close to camp. I forbade fires till after dark, when they could be made out of sight. Just before dusk I was rewarded by seeing smoke out in the lava beds, about three or four miles distant. The night was dark, and the country ahead of me was so rough that it was useless to try to get close to them before daylight, so all was prepared to leave at daylight the next morning.

In the morning I left two men to guard the mules and camp, and as soon as we could see, we took up our line of march. I led the way. As soon as we got into the lava beds, we had to be guided by direction entirely, as the brush was too thick to see fifty yards