

We Never Forget

Army Places Headstone Over Private Eagan's Grave

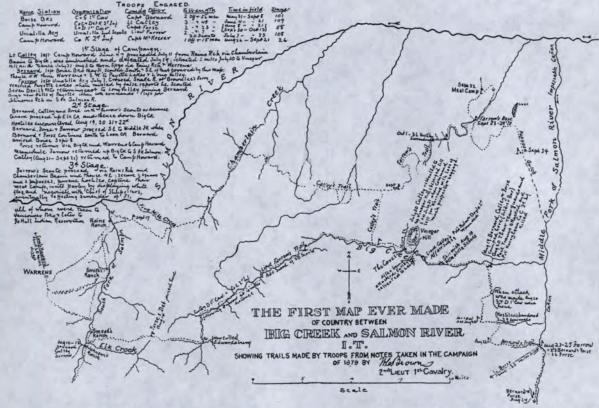
By W. C. BROWN

Colonel, U. S. Army, Rtd.

HE Quartermaster Corps of the U. S. Army can rightly lay claim to a greater variety of activities than any other branch of the military establishment, for it cares for practically all the normal needs of human beings and animals of the Army not only from birth until death, but even after death, as illustrated in the cut below. The inscription on the headstone reads:

ported 70 miles by wagon from McCall on Payette Lake and by pack mule nearly 40 miles down Big Creek to reach its destination at Soldier Bar. McCall is 32 miles in an air line southwest of Warrens. (See map.)

At the time of these hostilities this section (which even now is but little known except as a fine game country) was unexplored, and was the retreat of a



HARRY EAGAN Private Co. C, 2nd Infantry,

killed in action here during an attack by Sheepcater Indians on Rear Guards and Pack Trains of Cos. C, 2nd Infantry, and G and D, 1st Cavalry August 20, 1879

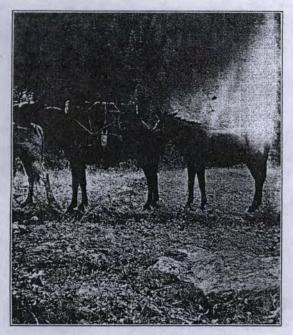
Difficult Task

This was erected by the Cemeterial Division, Q. M. C., last September on Big Creek in Middle Idaho, the location even at this date being so remote from the railhead that the headstone had to be trans-

small band of Indians known as "Sheepeaters," from the fact that they subsisted largely upon mountain sheep. They were composed mainly of renegade Barracks, Shoshones and Weisers, and had taken refuge in this almost inaccessible region, whence they made occasional raids on frontier settlers and miners.

Restoring Law and Order

It being determined to apprehend them, a Company of the 2nd Infantry was sent from Camp Howard near Grangeville, a troop of Cavalry from Boise Barracks and Farrow's Company of 20 Uma-



Army Mules Solve the Transportation Problem



Private Eagan's Monument Will Endure for Ages

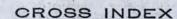
tilla Indian Scouts from near Pendleton, Oregon, for this purpose. The Infantry first struck the hostiles, or rather the Indians struck the Infantry, for on July 29th the Infantry were ambushed and defeated near Vinegar Hill, lost much of their baggage and rations, and were driven out of the country.

The combined force, with the Umatilla Scouts as an advance guard, then worked their way down Big Creek, attacked the hostiles, captured their camp, and recovered a considerable portion of the captured property which the Sheepeaters had cached in the rocks near their camp, which was located on a fine grassy plateau several hundred feet above the Creek

and watered by a spring where the main command bivouacked for the night. The following morning (August 20) after all but the rear guards and pack trains had left, about a dozen enterprising hostiles having taken a back trail, and eluded our Scouts, opened fire at short range with the unfortunate result as indicated on the headstone.

Some six weeks later the Farrow's Scouts went in alone, captured a meat camp, took a few prisoners and pressed the hostiles so hard that some fifty of them surrendered to us about fifteen miles north of where our headstone marks the site of the engagement of August 20, 1879.

ORIGINAL PAPER FILED



CM 203 A-M Bellivin, Frank D. X-203, Hagan, Herry X-201, Brown, W. C.

January 22, 1932.

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Brigadier General W. C. Brown, U.S.A., Ret., 875 Marion Street, Denver, Colorado.

My dear General:

I have your letter of January 10, 1932, relative to marking the site of an engagement on December 18, 1876 in which Lieutenant Frank D. Baldwin, 5th Infantry attached and routed Sitting Bull and his warriors.

Headstones can only be furnished by the Covernment to mark the buriel place of deceased soldiers and such headstones when furnished can only be inscribed with the regular inscription used by the Covernment. For this reason, it is regretted to have to advise you that it will not be possible for the Covernment to furnish a regulation Government headstone for the purpose indicated with the inscription suggested by you.

However, it may be possible for you to precure a headstone of the same design and specifications as the Government stone
from one of the quarries where the headstones are manufactured, at
the same price the stones cost the Government. The Lee Marble
Works at Lee, Massachusetts is the most conveniently located for
shipping monuments to Terry, Montans. It is not known just what
a headstone with the inscription you desire would cost if furnished by the firm in question. However, the shipping cost of a
headstone of the type furnished by the Government, weighing 200
pounds, would amount to approximately \$6.00. It is suggested that
you write to the above mentioned firm with a view to obtaining a
stone in the manner suggested, giving full information as to the
inscription you desire thereon.

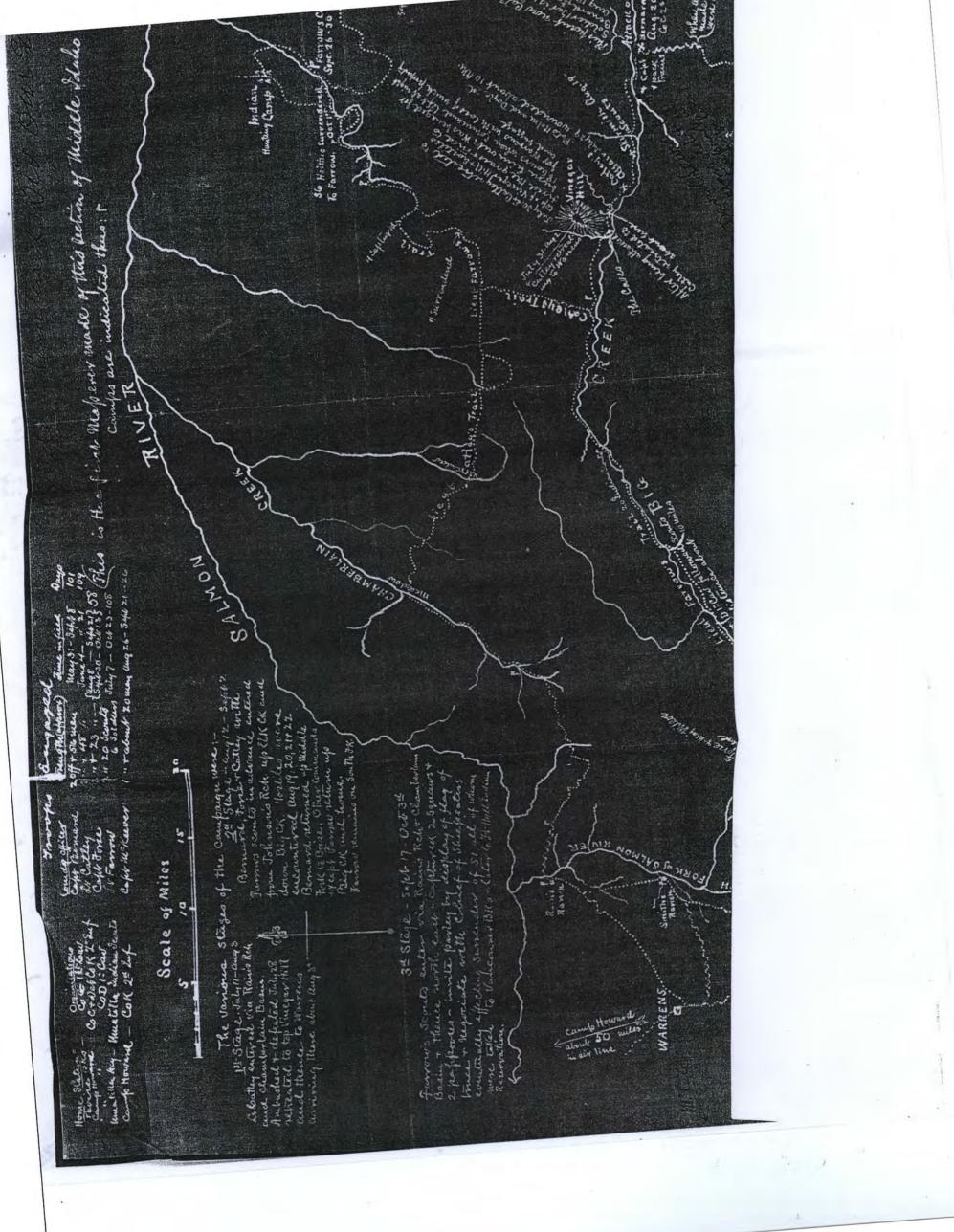
If headstones are desired for the unmarked graves of any veterans buried in the vicinity of Terry, Montana, application therefor should be made to this office on the blanks enclosed herewith which contain full instructions.

For The Quartermester General.

Very truly yours.

JAS. H. LAUBACH, Lieut, Colonel, Ct. M. Corps, Assistant.

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