

The Extraordinary Tale of Sergeant Windolph: The Last Survivor of the Little Bighorn

Amidst the rolling hills and thunderous echoes of the Little Bighorn Battlefield, a remarkable story unfolds – the tale of Sergeant George W. Windolph, the last surviving member of the 7th Cavalry, a regiment forever etched in American history. This article delves into the captivating life and legacy of this indomitable soldier, exploring his extraordinary experiences, bravery, and unwavering resilience.

The Road to the Little Bighorn

Born in 1851 in Pennsylvania, George Windolph embarked on his military career at a tender age. Joining the 7th Cavalry in 1867, he quickly rose through the ranks, demonstrating exceptional horsemanship, marksmanship, and leadership qualities.



I Fought With Custer: The Story of Sergeant Windolph, Last Survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn

by Charles Windolph

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In the fateful summer of 1876, Windolph found himself amidst the ill-fated expedition led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. As they approached the Little Bighorn River on June 25th, Windolph, serving as a scout under Captain Thomas Custer, played a pivotal role in the reconnaissance.

The Battle Unfolds

As the 7th Cavalry engaged in battle with a formidable force of Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors, Windolph witnessed the horrors of war firsthand. The fighting was fierce and unrelenting, with the cavalymen outnumbered and outflanked.

Amidst the chaos, Windolph's horse was shot out from under him. Unarmed and surrounded, he was presumed dead by his comrades. However, displaying remarkable willpower, Windolph managed to evade the enemy and escape into the rugged terrain.

Alone in the Wilderness

For five agonizing days, Windolph wandered lost and alone in the unforgiving wilderness, subsisting on berries and roots. Constantly haunted by hunger, thirst, and the fear of being discovered by the enemy, he clung to the hope of survival.

His perseverance was tested to the brink, but Windolph refused to succumb to despair. Drawing upon his military training and indomitable

spirit, he navigated treacherous ravines, forded swollen rivers, and endured the relentless sun and cold.

The Journey Back

On the sixth day, Windolph's luck turned when he stumbled upon a group of soldiers searching for survivors. Weak and emaciated, he was barely recognizable, but his spirit burned brighter than ever.

Rescued and taken to safety, Windolph became a living testament to the horrors of war and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit. His survival story captivated the nation, and he was hailed as a hero.

Life After the Battle

Despite the trauma he had endured, Windolph continued to serve his country, participating in various campaigns and eventually retiring as a sergeant in 1881. He dedicated the rest of his life to sharing his experiences and honoring the legacy of his fallen comrades.

Windolph became a sought-after speaker and author, publishing a book entitled "Indian Fighting on the Northern Plains" in 1908. His writings and lectures provided invaluable insights into the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the lives of the native peoples he encountered.

Legacy and Impact

Sergeant George W. Windolph's extraordinary journey serves as a timeless reminder of the human capacity for survival and the indomitable spirit that can triumph over adversity. His legacy continues to inspire generations, and his name is forever etched in the annals of American military history.

Through his bravery and resilience, Windolph played a pivotal role in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. His writings and speeches have shed light on the complexities of the conflict and the enduring legacy of the men and women who fought in it.

The story of Sergeant George W. Windolph, the last survivor of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, is a testament to the indomitable power of the human spirit. His unwavering determination, unwavering resilience, and remarkable journey have captivated generations, making him a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and the enduring bond between man and country.

As we remember the sacrifices made on that fateful day in 1876, let us be inspired by the story of Sergeant Windolph. May his legacy continue to remind us of the importance of perseverance, the power of hope, and the enduring spirit of those who have served their nation with valor.



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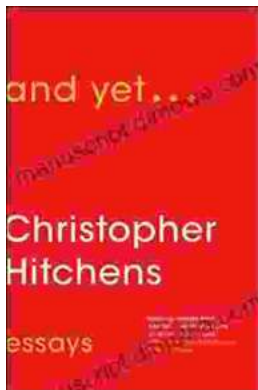
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