

14th Year



Remembering the 1877 War and Flight

Flight Route: 1,170 miles



250 Warriors led, fought for, and protected the fleeing bands. Nez Perce or, in their language, Niimípuu, means "the people."



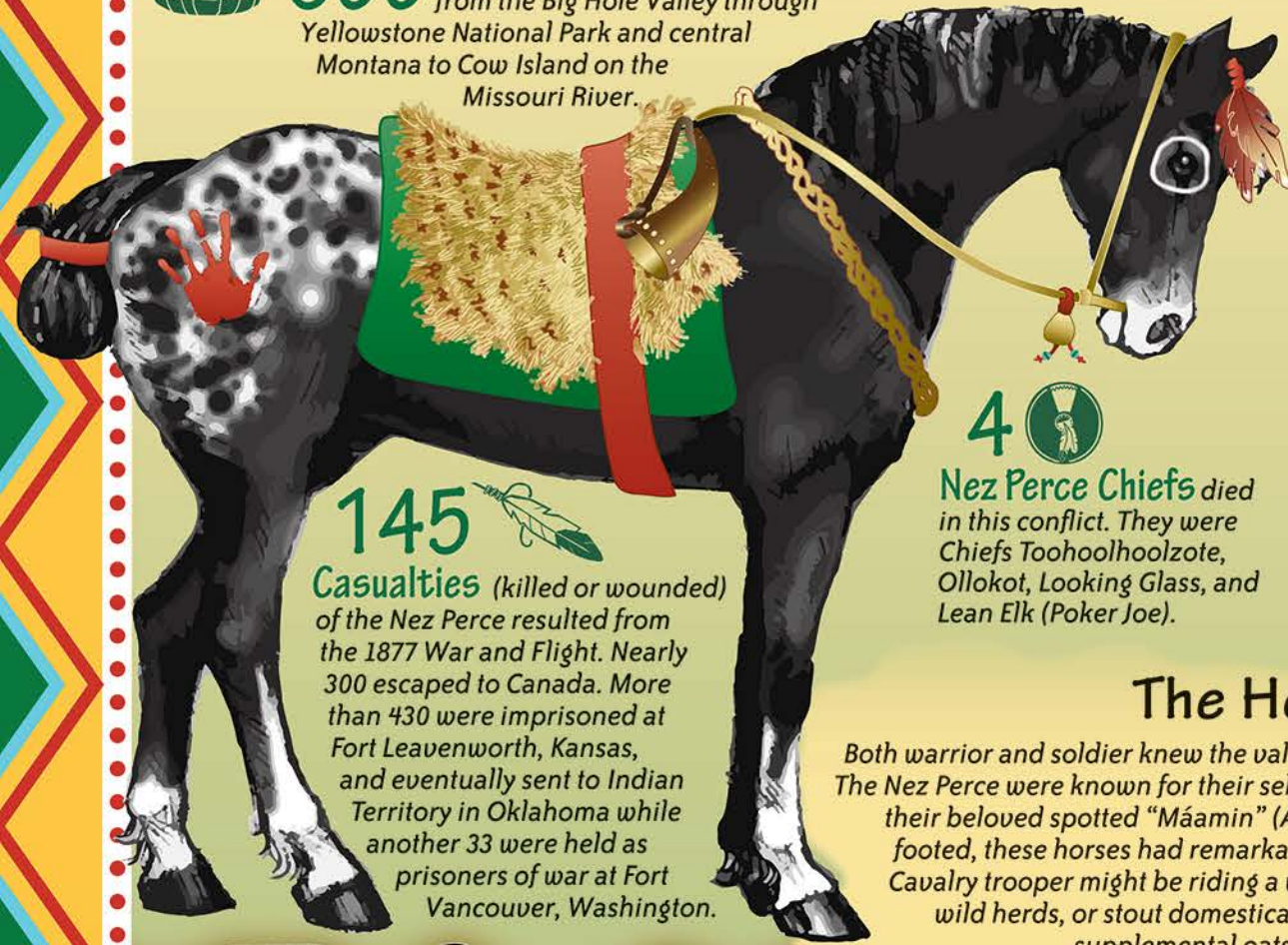
550 Elders, women, and children (est.) made the historic flight. Two thousand horses and hundreds of dogs accompanied the entourage.



106 Days during 1877 the Nez Perce escaped capture by the U.S. Army. Warriors carried bows and arrows, knives, and an assortment of frontier firearms.



500 Miles Chief Hotóoto (Lean Elk/Poker Joe) led the Nez Perce from the Big Hole Valley through Yellowstone National Park and central Montana to Cow Island on the Missouri River.



145 Casualties (killed or wounded) of the Nez Perce resulted from the 1877 War and Flight. Nearly 300 escaped to Canada. More than 430 were imprisoned at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and eventually sent to Indian Territory in Oklahoma while another 33 were held as prisoners of war at Fort Vancouver, Washington.

4 Nez Perce Chiefs died in this conflict. They were Chiefs Toohoolhoolzote, Ollokot, Looking Glass, and Lean Elk (Poker Joe).



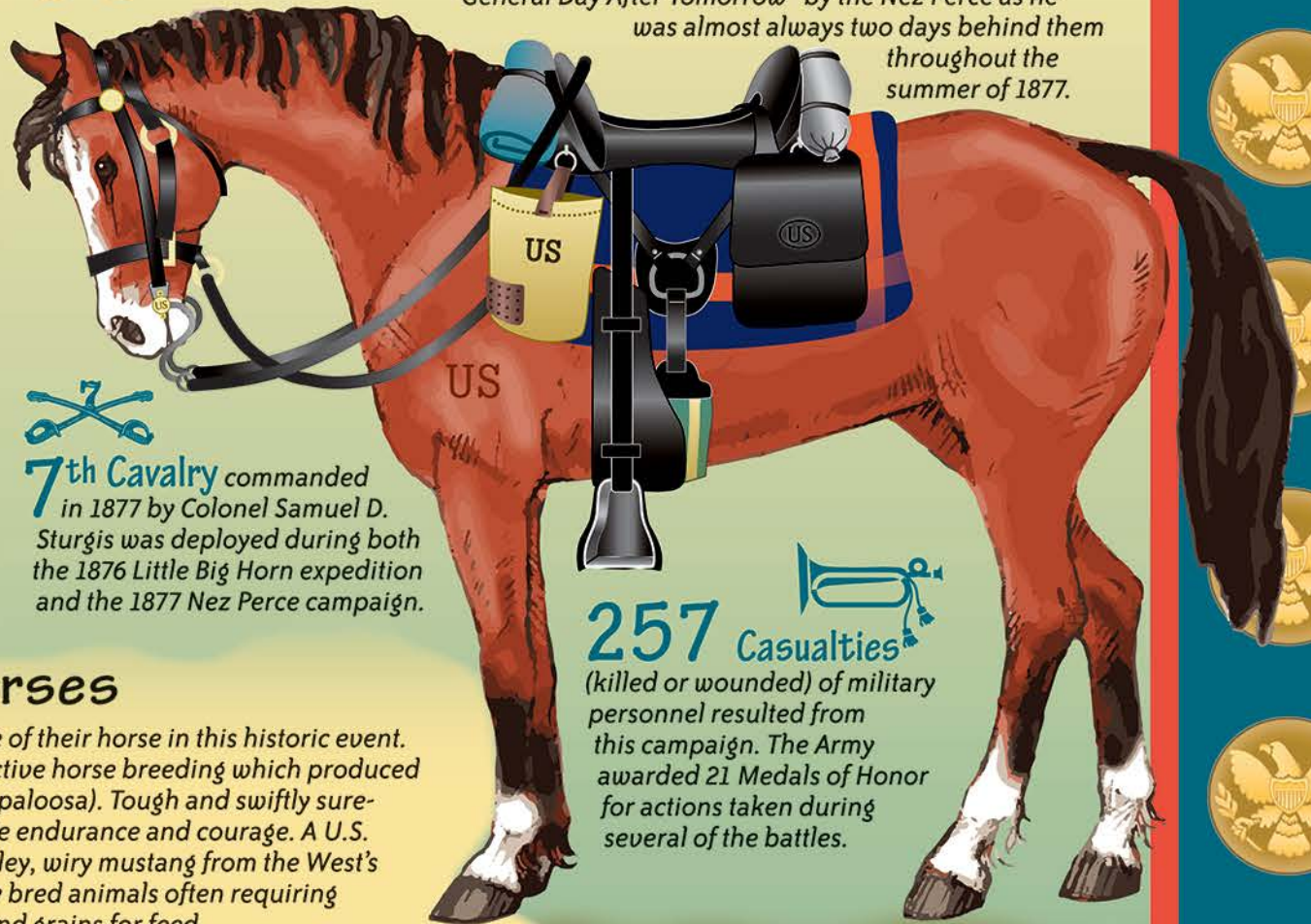
2000 Soldiers (est.), mostly 20 to 32 years of age, deployed for this 1877 campaign. Enlisted men often joined to escape poor economic conditions. Immigrants of diverse backgrounds found a home in the post-Civil War U.S. Army.



5 Months the U.S. Army spent in the field during the 1877 war. Cavalrymen carried the Model 1873 .45-caliber Springfield single-shot carbine.



19 Miles or more a day General O. O. Howard's men marched— his command made one forced march of 53 miles. General Howard was called "General Day After Tomorrow" by the Nez Perce as he was almost always two days behind them throughout the summer of 1877.



7th Cavalry commanded in 1877 by Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis was deployed during both the 1876 Little Big Horn expedition and the 1877 Nez Perce campaign.

257 Casualties (killed or wounded) of military personnel resulted from this campaign. The Army awarded 21 Medals of Honor for actions taken during several of the battles.

The Horses

Both warrior and soldier knew the value of their horse in this historic event. The Nez Perce were known for their selective horse breeding which produced their beloved spotted "Máamin" (Appaloosa). Tough and swiftly sure-footed, these horses had remarkable endurance and courage. A U.S. Cavalry trooper might be riding a wiley, wiry mustang from the West's wild herds, or stout domestically bred animals often requiring supplemental oats and grains for feed.