

Canby's Cross and the memorial monument erected by the Native Daughters of the Golden West and other patriotic organizations.

Military operations were immediately resumed, and on April 15 the advance on the Stronghold was again commenced by troops from Gillem's Camp on the west and from Hospital Rock on the east. Artillery brought into position shelled the Stronghold, which, although cut off from the lake, was not completely surrounded by soldiers. On April 17 the troops were prepared for a final assault when to their surprise they found the enemy had evacuated the position and left them to enter it unopposed.

For their own protection and to guard against a reoccupation of the Stronghold by the Indians the troops stationed here built additional fortifications at strategic points.

These outposts and the fortifications built by the Indians still exist much as they did at that time. Lichen and moss color the walls of the rocky trenches, and beyond, waving fields of grain and glimpses of Mount Shasta make it a tranquil and picturesque scene. Markers along a trail leading the visitor through the Stronghold, however, recall the violence of 1873. Well-preserved fortifications defending the narrow approach to the Stronghold and the network of natural trenches connecting important positions are ever-present reminders of the Indian war.

The Modoc Surrender

After abandoning their fortress, the Indians found cover in other parts of the lava beds and, while at large there, inflicted the most severe defeat suffered by the military during the entire Modoc campaign. On April 26, 1873, when only about 5 miles from the Stronghold, a reconnaissance party of some 80 men lost 24 killed and 18 wounded in a surprise

attack by the Modocs. Hunted by the troops and Warm Springs Indian scouts, the Modocs left the lava fields. Minor skirmishes that followed resulted in some loss to both sides, but the Modocs were gradually being reduced. Disagreeing among themselves, they split up into bands, some of which surrendered. The soldiers induced some of the captives to help ferret out their former allies, and finally, on June 4, Captain Jack was captured.

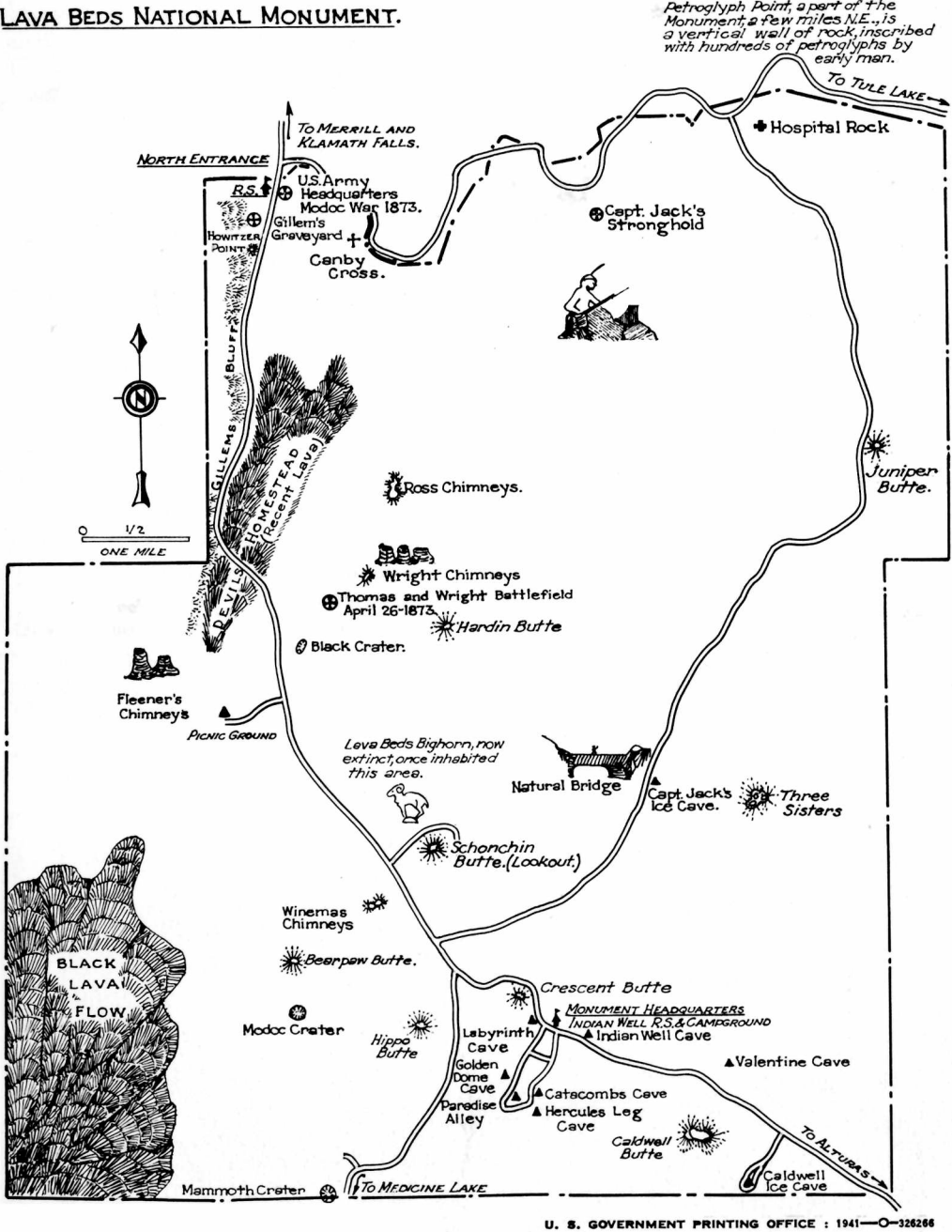
Six of the Modoc leaders, tried before a military tribunal at Fort Klamath, were found guilty of murdering the Peace Commissioners and were condemned to die. On October 3, 1873, Captain Jack and three of his followers were hanged. Two of the condemned Indians were saved from this extreme penalty by order of the President. The 157 Modoc captives remaining at Fort Klamath were sent to the Quapaw Reservation in Indian Territory. The Modocs under old Chief Schonchin who had continued peacefully on the Klamath Reservation throughout hostilities remained there.

Administration, Visitor Service, and Fees

Lava Beds National Monument, established by Presidential proclamation on November 21, 1925, and embracing 45,967 acres, is administered by the National Park Service. It is under the immediate direction of the Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park, Oreg., to whom all letters should be addressed. The acting custodian is located at Indian Well Ranger Station and can be reached by phone or mail service through Tule Lake, Calif.

The self-guiding trail through the Stronghold is well marked; free guide service is usually available upon request. The annual fee for automobile permit is 50 cents; an additional fee of 50 cents is charged for house trailers. Campgrounds are available.

LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.



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(CAPTAIN JACK'S STRONGHOLD) • California

Modoc Indians in typical outpost station

U. S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS PHOTO



Lava Beds NATIONAL MONUMENT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director*

The Modoc War and Its Relation to the Monument

LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT embraces lava fields, caves, spatter-cones or chimneys, cinder cones, and other evidences of volcanic activity in a region that became the principal theater of the Modoc War. Clever utilization of strategically located natural defensive positions by Captain Jack and his followers made this stronghold a temporary "Gibraltar" for the Modocs in their resistance to the advance of frontier settlement.

The Modoc War was one of the last stands of the Indians against the white race that was wresting the continent from the red man. The disproportionate casualties that the greatly outnumbered warriors could inflict upon superior military forces serve to emphasize the desperate character of the struggle which helped focus national attention upon conditions of the dispossessed race. The temporary suspension of the war in an effort to secure a peaceful surrender of the hostile Modocs, and the patience of the Government despite the perfidious assassination of the

Peace Commissioners, reveal that the Government was making a sincere effort to secure a peaceful solution of the struggle.

Events Leading to the Modoc War

The opening of the south road to Oregon in 1846 brought rapidly increasing contacts between the whites and the Indians of northeastern California and southern Oregon which led to friction, culminating in the Modoc War. Depredations upon emigrant trains early gained a bad reputation for the Indians of this region, particularly the Modocs. Retaliatory measures by the whites instilled in the red men a deep resentment against the intruding race. Nevertheless, in 1864 the Modocs joined the Klamaths in agreeing to a treaty whereby they were to abandon their former hunting grounds on Tule Lake and Lost River and move to the proposed Klamath Reservation. Five years passed before Captain Jack and his Modoc followers tried reservation life, which they soon found distasteful. Returning to their old homes, they defied peaceful efforts for their return to the reservation. Forebear-

ance on the part of officials who listened to the Indians' grievances increased their self-confidence, but settlers who coveted the ceded lands complained of the insolence of the Modocs in exacting "tributes" from them. When troops sent to bring the Modocs in, peaceably if possible but forcibly if necessary, surprised Captain Jack's Lost River Camp on November 29, 1872, the force proved too small. After a skirmish resulting in casualties to both sides, the Indians escaped. Before they reunited in the Lava Beds, 18 settlers had been massacred.

Captain Jack's Stronghold

The refuge where the Modocs sought to defend themselves was in the lava beds on the south shore of Tule Lake. Here, in what the Indians are said to have called "The Land of Burned Out Fires," they had an easily defensible fortress.

Extensive lava fields, honeycombed with deep fissures, gulches, and precipitous cliffs covered with sharp rocks, would impede organized military operations. In the midst of the lava fields overlooking the lake

and resting on its shore, volcanic activity had thrown up a system of narrow, deep, connecting trenches, breastworks, parapets, and sheltered caves which made this a commanding position and a natural stronghold. By piling up a few rocks at strategic points, the Modocs established themselves in what came to be regarded as a well-nigh impregnable fortress. Because of its use for this purpose by the Modocs from December 1872 until April 17, 1873, the site became known as "Captain Jack's Stronghold."

Attack on the Stronghold, January 17, 1873

The small number of Modocs whose force totaled about 175, of which only about one-third were classed as warriors, prompted a feeling that the hostiles would be subdued easily. Such optimism failed to reckon with the defensive advantages of the Stronghold and the determination of the Indians—a realization brought home by the fight on January 17. On that day a force of about 400, including Oregon and California volunteers and regular

troops, descended into the lava beds and advanced upon the Stronghold. After nightfall the troops found their position precarious. In the skirmishing the whites lost 11 killed and 21 wounded. The troops were withdrawn from the field of battle, and it was decided that considerable reinforcements and equipment would be needed to overcome the defensive advantage of the Indians' "Gibraltar."

Assassination of the Peace Commissioners and Capture of the Stronghold

Before another attack could be launched offensive military operations were suspended, while commissioners appointed by President Grant made patient efforts to secure a peaceful surrender of the hostiles. The Modocs insisted on retaining their freedom and refused to agree to return to live on a reservation. All hopes of a peaceful solution were blasted by Indian perfidy in attacking the Peace Commissioners on April 11, 1873, when Gen. E. R. S. Canby and the Rev. E. Thomas were killed at the place now marked by

Captain Jack, leader of the Modocs

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Soldiers in outpost station constructed by the advancing troops

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Gillem's Camp, the Army base camp on the edge of the Lava Beds

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Fortification in Lava Beds

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Canby's Cross—site of Canby's murder

KENNEL-ELLIS PHOTO

