

Aftermath Of The 1877 War

"With women's hearts breaking, children weeping and men silent, we moved over the divide and closed our eyes upon our once happy homes. We were wanderers on the prairie. For what? For white man's greed. The white man wanted the wealth our people possessed; he got it by the destruction of our people. We who yesterday were rich are beggars today, made so by the order of a Christian white chief. We have no country, no people, no home. We do not desire longer life, and we pray day and night that the Great Spirit will remove us."

Chief White Bird, October 22, 1877

"During the hot days we received notice that we were to be moved farther away from our own country. We were not asked if we were willing to go. We were ordered to get into the railroad-cars. Three of my people died on the way to Baxter Springs. It was worse to die there than to die fighting in the mountains."

Chief Joseph, July 1878--On the trip from Ft. Leavenworth to Quapaw, Oklahoma

"You know how you feel when you lose kindred and friends through sickness-death. You do not care if you die. With us it was worse. Strong men, well women, and little children killed and buried. They had not done wrong to be so killed. We had only asked to be left in our homes, the homes of our ancestors. Our going was with heavy hearts, broken spirits. But we would be free. Escaping the bondage sure with the surrendering. All lost, we walked silently into the wintry night."

Weatonmi, October 1877- On the walk to the Medicine Line (Canadian Border)

"Thus has terminated one of the most extraordinary Indian Wars of which there is any record. The Indians throughout displayed a courage and skill that elicited universal praise, they abstained from scalping, let captive women go free, did not commit indiscriminate murder of peaceful families, which is unusual, and fought with almost scientific skill, using advance and rear guards, skirmish lines, and field fortifications."

General William Tecumseh Sherman, General of the U.S. Army, 1877

"When we reached Wallula (eastern Washington state) the interpreter asked us, "Where do you want to go? Lapwai and be Christian, or Colville and just be yourself?"

Yellow Wolf, May 22, 1885