The fourth book of the journals of a significant western military history officer, aide-de-camp to General George Crook and witness to battles of the Great Sioux War. Volume 4 chronicles the political and managerial affairs in Crook’s Department of the Platte. A large portion centers on the continuing controversy concerning the forced relocation of the Ponca Indians from their ancient homeland along the Platte-Madison line to a new reservation in the Indian Territory. An equally large portion concerns Bourke’s ethnological work under official sanction from the army and the Bureau of Ethnology.

The Diaries of John Gregory Bourke Volume 2, John Gregory Bourke 2007-08 These volumes are a first person narrative of a soldier in the West during the Great Sioux War and the Cheyenne Outbreak as well as other important Indian battles.

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Sagebrush Soldier is an account of military life during the Indian Wars in the late nineteenth-century West. Private William Earl Smith describes daily camp life, battles, and the behavior of famous men-Ranald Mackenzie and George Crook-in public and private poses. His diary covers the war from the enlisted men’s viewpoint, as he worries about what will become of him when he will keep calm when bullied by the sergeant major, and how he will spend Christmas while he is at Fort Keogh, Montana Territory, including what is arguably his greatest success-the securing of Northern Cheyenne leader Little Wolf’s peaceful surrender. In telling Clark’s story, White Hat illuminates the history of the nineteenth-century American military and the Great Plains, including the Crane Basin Arikara battle, the Great Sioux War, and the capture of Crow and Shoshone. Nelson’s examination of Clark’s early years in the army offers a rare look at the experiences of a staff officer stationed on the frontier and expands our view of the army, as well as the United States’ westernward march.

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