Sergeant Stephen Decatur

Biographical Information:

- rank: **sergeant**
  unit: **3rd Regiment, Colorado Cavalry**
  superior: **Colonel Shoup**
  posting: **Denver City, Colorado Terr.**

Historical Deposition:

- Following is a partial transcript of testimony given by Sgt. Decatur at hearings held by the U.S. Senate:

> "The next day after the battle I went over the battle-ground, in the capacity of clerk, for Lieutenant Colonel Bowen, and counted four hundred and fifty dead Indian warriors . . . As I was going out to get some of the lodge poles for wood, I saw some of the men, opening bundles or bales. I saw them take therefrom a number of white persons' scalps – men's, women's, and children's; some [photographs], ladies' wearing apparel and white children's and was part of a lady's toilet and one box of rouge, also a box containing a powder puff. I saw one scalp of a white woman in particular . . . I saw, comparatively speaking, a small number of women killed . . .
>
> There were a great many [rifle pits], I did not count the number; they were deep enough for men to lie down and conceal themselves, and load their guns in, some of them I should think deeper than three feet."

Testimony Summary:

- You counted 450 dead Indians.
- You saw soldiers opening Indian bundles which contained white scalps, and women's make-up.
- You saw many rifle pits in the Indian village.