

Dug Bar Crossing – May 31

En route to the Idaho reservation, the walwá-ma were forced to cross the Snake River while it was running fast and high. Using round bullboats they all survived the crossing but lost much of their wealth in cattle. As the horses pulling the boats began their terrifying swim across the river at Dug Bar, the walwá-ma left behind the mountains and canyons of their waláwa homeland.



Dug Bar at Low Water
Photo by Dave Jensen

Salmon River Raids – June 14

"To Chief Joseph's wife a baby was to come. It was because of this that Joseph, Ollokot, and a few men and two women crossed ... to the White Bird for beef. ... It was then, while they were gone, that war started. Many of our people had been killed by white men on our reservation. But at no time was anything done to punish them. The discovery of gold on our reservation [in 1860] brought thousands of white men. That was the beginning of our trouble. Those white killers were never bothered from living on our lands. They were still there. Still robbing and shooting or hanging Indians." — Yellow Wolf, Nez Perce War Veteran

An incident such as Yellow Wolf described left an innocent lamtáama band member named Tipyahlanah (Eagle Robe) dead in 1875. His son Wáalaytic, with the help of two young family members, Sáapsis 'ilp'ilp (Red Moccasin Tops) and Wetyétmes wehéyqt (Swan Necklace), was incited to seek revenge for his father's murder in the emotional last days before leaving their homeland. June 14th, the day the bands gathered at Tepahlewam had intended to cross into the reservation and settle as instructed, instead became remembered as the day of the Salmon River raids.

Although the walwá-ma were one band that did not participate in the raids, the resulting deaths of fifteen settlers were blamed on Joseph and were ultimately used as an excuse for not allowing the walwá-ma to return to the northwest.

Tired of Fighting – October 5
 Hinmató-wyalahqít (Chief Joseph) handed his gun to General Miles and spoke for himself and those Nez Perce who waited in the snow and cold.
"I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed; Looking Glass is dead, Tulhuulhulsuit is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say yes or no. He who led the young men is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets; the little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are – perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many of them I can find."
 — Hinmató-wyalahqít (Chief Joseph), 1877

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
June 17	July 16 - 28	July 29 - August 8	August 9 - 10	August 20	August 23 - 26	September 7 - 11	Sept. 31 - Oct. 5
Battle at White Bird Canyon	Lolo Pass	Peace in the Bitterroot Valley	Attack at Iskumkselalih Pah (Big Hole)	Camas Meadows Raid	Yellowstone Raids	Evasion at Clarks Fork Canyon	Siege at Bear Paw