



Bethabara Chapter
of Winston-Salem
North Carolina State Society
Sons of the American Revolution



The Bethabara Bugler

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Winston Salem SAR Chapter

The Bethabara Bugler is the Newsletter of the Bethabara Chapter of Winston-Salem. It is, under normal circumstances, published monthly (except during the months of June, July, and August when there will only be one summer edition). It will be distributed by email, usually at the first of the month. Articles, suggestions, and ideas are welcome – please send them to: Allen Mollere, 3721 Stancliff Road, Clemmons, NC 27012, or email: amollere@msn.com.

Bethabara Chapter, NCSSAR Meeting

As you are aware, no Bethabara Chapter SAR on-site meetings have been held recently due to continuing concerns over the Corona virus.

On December 10, 2020, the Bethabara Chapter did conduct a meeting via Zoom with thirteen Compatriots participating. A social via zoom started at 9:30 AM.

Minutes of December Membership Meeting

- Chapter President Ed Hosmer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- The invocation was delivered by Compatriot Fred Learned.
- Compatriot Orin Sadler led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America:**
“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
- Compatriot Joe Weaver led recitation of **The American Creed:**
“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.”
- Compatriot Allen Mollere led recitation of **The Official Pledge to the SAR:**
“We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifice, establish the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”
- Ed Hosmer reported the following:
 - Since last meeting he and Secretary Andy Kelly met with Jason Faulkner at this house. Jason was sworn in and presented with his SAR Membership Certificate. Compatriot Faulkner was also presented with the SAR Membership Certificate for his son, Dean Faulkner.
 - He and Andy Kelly met with Compatriot Larry McRae at his house and presented Larry with his SAR Military Service Recognition Certificate.
 - He and Andy Kelly met with Compatriot Allen Mollere at his house and he presented Allen with 6 Supplemental Certificates for his Patriots. While at Allen’s home, Ed also presented Andy with his SAR Military Service Recognition Certificate.
 - Ed planned to meet with Dan Parsons at his home following the meeting to present Dan with his 2 Supplement Patriot Certificates. All 2020 award certificates will then have been distributed.
 - Ed reviewed the Americanism report. The Chapter began the year with 40 members and ended the year with 49 members.
- Treasurer Gary Fraysier gave his Treasurers Report and reported that all dues have been received for 2021.
- Registrar Larry McRae reported he has one new member application in the works.
- SAR State President Fred Learned reminded everyone of the upcoming December 19th Wreaths Across America Ceremony. He mentioned that the SAR State Convention planned for April in

Winston-Salem will probably be a combination in person/Zoom meeting. He advised that the new SAR logo has been approved but not patented.

- Compatriots Larry McRae, Harlan Hawks, and Andy Kelly, who recently received their SAR Military Service Recognition Certificates, provided presentations on their military service experiences. Ed, as well as all Compatriots present on the Zoom meeting, thanked them for their service.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to hold the January 14, 2021 Chapter meeting via Zoom.
- Ed ended the meeting by giving an update from his wife Kathleen concerning the local COVID-19 situation. (Kathleen is an ER Physician at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.) All the members thanked Kathleen for her service to the community.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Recording Secretary

Andy Kelly

Zoom Participants



Swearing In



New Compatriot Jason Allen Faulkner (L) is sworn in and formally inducted as a SAR member by Chapter President Ed Hosmer.



Ed Hosner (R) presenting Compatriot Jason Allen Faulkner (L) the SAR certificate for his patriot John Hoyle.

Military Service Recognition Presentations



Ed Hosmer (L) presenting Compatriot Larry McRae his SAR Military Service Recognition Certificate.

My Military Service

(Submitted by Larry McRae)

An unsuccessful Freshman year of college led me to join the U.S. Army in early September of 1962, just a few months shy of my 19th birthday. From basic training, I was sent to the Army Language School (now Defense Language Institute West Coast Branch) at the Presidio of Monterey in California. After nine months of studying Russian, I was assigned to the Army Security Agency (“the agency” or “ASA”) and sent to National Security Agency headquarters at Ft. Meade, MD, for Special Operational Training. The training turned out to be a brief introduction to the black art of cryptography – breaking codes and ciphers. By early January of 1964, I was on my way to ASA’s 12th Field Station, located at Kuma Station, outside the small city of Chitose in southern Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan’s four major islands.

ASA was the army’s cognate of the National Security Agency. Some thousands of us were scattered all over the world, eavesdropping on the electronic signals of anyone who seemed likely to be a threat. Kuma Station’s main concern was the Soviet Union’s communications, and a glance at a map reveals the reason for that location: Hokkaido is just across the Sea of Japan from the coast of Siberia, the Russian Far East. At the time, because of terrain, weather, and sheer distance, nearly all Soviet communications were by radio. That went for lower-level Morse-code links from regiment to company and even for high-level communications such as the Ministry of Defense in Moscow to Headquarters

Far Eastern Military District in Khabarovsk, a hundred miles or so inland from the coast. Even commercial traffic, the equivalent of Western Union, was enciphered. We copied it all, on paper, and sent the traffic on to NSA. Higher level links used radio printer, an on-air adaptation of teletype, and that is what I worked with, often alone at night in a locked room (“behind the green door,” as the ops said) in a squat, concrete building with no windows, encircled by a high chain link fence with barbed-wire strands along the top. And that is about as much as I can legally or prudently say about what I did in the army.

But thinking about my military service led me into reflections about what I did and what happened to me in those three years. Start with my first day in the army. We were sworn in at the Induction Center in Jacksonville, FL, and put on a chartered bus to Fort Jackson, outside Columbia, SC, arriving somewhere around midnight. There was paperwork to fill out because the army had to have emergency information and wanted to get us our dog tags the next day, complete with religious preference and blood type. Somewhere around 2 or 3 am (Oh-three-hundred hours as we would learn to say), we were turned over to a PFC whose task was to teach us to make up a bunk bed in the army fashion. Demonstration and practice consumed an hour or more at which point our instructor looked at us and said something like, “Well, you men have your beds made up, but there’s no point in getting in them now. You’d just mess them up, and you got to get up in a couple hours anyway. There’s the floor if you want to sleep.” Most of us did, and we were awakened at 0600 to run “police call,” that is, walk across an area and to pick up trash. I’d never heard the term before, although we certainly became used to it.

The whole experience of basic training was disconcerting as we were thrust into a wholly new environment and new experiences. Perhaps most memorable was the company of all sorts of people, many of whom we would never have encountered in real life. The platoon sergeant was a muscular and remarkably capable black man, Sergeant Strain, quite a shock for a Southern boy. About half of my platoon was Puerto Rican National Guardsmen. They spoke English when it was advantageous but otherwise were “Spanish-speaking personnel” as the Field First Sergeant referred to them. Another large contingent was Alabama National Guardsmen, nearly as alien to me as the Puerto Ricans. Yet we had to learn to co-operate and to live together and at least to avoid fighting with people we didn’t understand. So, it went through much of my service. My best friend at the language school was Ron Froman, with whom I had a few adventures both in Monterey and later at Ft. Meade. Ron was a half-Indian college dropout from Oklahoma. I tried to look him up a few years back only to find that he’d died. At the time of his death, he was the Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians and CEO of their casino in Oklahoma. He had apparently managed to have the group recognized as a traditional tribe, mostly, one suspects, in the interest of getting a casino. Then there were New England blue bloods and a Princeton graduate named Hal Piper who found himself, many years later, a journalist fleeing the KGB for something he’d written for the *Baltimore Sun*. Many people of a sort I would never have met in civilian life and with whom I had to come to some sort of terms.

A couple of months after my nap on the floor, I found myself with an air ticket to Monterey, CA, and dropped unceremoniously at the entrance to the Columbia airport. I’d never been on an airplane or even

in an air terminal. In fact, Fort Jackson was the furthest I'd ever been from Lakeland, FL. But somehow I figured out how to get on the airplane and how to get to the Presidio. It was a useful experience when, 15 months later, a comrade and I found ourselves in Haneda Airport at 2 a.m. with the place deserted when all the passengers on our flight had departed. We had travel orders to 12th US Army Security Agency Field Station at Kuma Station but tickets only to Tokyo and no instructions at all for what to do on arrival.

Experiences of this sort were not universal in my generation of American males, but they were certainly common. Somehow we learned to overcome the disorientation of strange and unexpected situations and to function in those situations. Somehow we learned to get along with, and even respect, people completely unlike ourselves. I can't help thinking about this when I observe modern college freshmen going off to their first semester. Inevitably, they are in a large SUV or a minivan with the back packed with all the things they'll need: a miniature refrigerator, a microwave oven, an elaborate sound system, perhaps a TV set and certainly a wardrobe large enough to fill a closet. (We left Ft. Jackson with everything we owned stuffed into a GI-issue duffel bag. Not a particularly large duffel bag at that.) And of course, a cell phone with which they'll call Mom perhaps daily at first. Some universities these days invite the parents to stay a few days in the dorm during Freshman Orientation to help their child adjust to the rigors and uncertainty of college life. And their classmates are people genuinely like themselves. Although several university administrators are being paid quite handsomely to promote "diversity," it is a diversity literally skin-deep.

Whether the difference in youthful experience really accounts for the yawning chasm between the attitudes of my generation and those of today's younger Americans I can't really say. But it does make one wonder, particularly as we encounter educated people in their 40s and 50s who just don't seem to know how to do anything.

A final anecdote that will surprise no one who cares nor reveal anything important. I had one triumph as a low-level cryptographer. On a mid-trick (0001 to 0700 hours), scanning a piece of Soviet radio printer traffic, I found something I could decipher, and for a couple of minutes I was euphoric. The breach was caused by a machine malfunction in the Soviet commercial station in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii, and it allowed me to break out 20 or 30 words of plain text. (A few years back I met a woman from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii; apparently it is not the end of the world, but you can see it from there. The Kamchatskii Peninsula has something like 12 active volcanoes and not much visible means of support. It is the long appendage that droops down across from Alaska.) I was quite certain that I'd deciphered the message correctly but didn't recognize any of the words. Now, at the language school we'd acquired a lot of vocabulary: *samokhodnaya artileriskaya ustanovka* was very useful (it means "self-propelled gun") as was *provolochnaya zagrazhdeniya* (a "barbed wire entanglement.") For the words I'd deciphered I had to turn to Smirnitsky's Russian-English dictionary. The message was from the general store in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii to their warehouse in Khavarovsk; it was an order for pots and pans. I attached the translation to the traffic report and sent it on to NSA. And that was my contribution to winning the Cold War.



Above is the ASA shoulder patch. It's quite dramatic and often mistaken for an airborne patch, but it's just a hawk grabbing signals out of the air.



The ASA class buildings at the Army Language School circa 1963. The Presidio had been a horse cavalry post until 1940 or so, and our ASA class buildings were re-purposed cavalry barracks. They were the WWII frame barracks thrown up quickly and capable of burning to the ground within 2 or 3 minutes.



Ed Hosmer (L) presenting Compatriot Thomas Andrew (Andy) Kelly his SAR Military Service Recognition Certificate.



Military Service Recognition Certificate for Compatriot Thomas Andrew (Andy) Kelly

My Military Service

(Submitted by Thomas Andrew (Andy) Kelly)

I graduated from High School in Orange, Texas in 1964. Since the Vietnam War was in progress and men were being drafted, I joined Navy ROTC while attending the University of Notre Dame. During the summers of my college years, I did Midshipmen cruises on the USS Hornet (CVS-12) and USS Little Rock (CLG-4). I did six weeks Marine Corps training at Quantico, VA, and six weeks aviation training at NAS Corpus Christi, TX.

Upon graduation I became a Navy Supply Corps Officer and attended the six-month Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. From school I was assigned as Supply Officer of the destroyer USS Compton (DD-705) homeported in Boston, MA. Supply Corps Officers are the business managers in the Navy and on-board ship are responsible for paying the crew, feeding the crew, managing the ships stores and procuring needed repair parts. During my 2 years on board, the Compton sailed up and down the East Coast with a short deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After the Compton came two years of shore duty at the Navy Finance Office New Orleans.

With my NROTC obligation satisfied I was considering getting out of the Navy, but the Navy offered to send me to the University of Michigan for an M.B.A. The catch was I would owe the Navy four more years after graduation. It was too tempting, so I was off to Ann Arbor, MI and graduated in 1974. The next assignment was an afloat staff home ported in Sasebo, Japan. The staff scheduled the replenishment ships (AE, AO, AFS, AOE) to support combatants deployed to the Western Pacific. It was a very hectic time, particularly during the evacuation of Vietnam and fall of Saigon. The staff also moved to Subic Bay, Philippines during Andy's tenure.

Next came orders to be Purchasing Director of the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL. Since I had no procurement background they sent me to the Department of Defense Procurement School. The schooling served me well because when I decided to leave active duty I found a procurement job with Texas Instruments in Dallas, TX. I joined the reserves and was assigned as Logistic Officer of a Seabee battalion and then to a Seabee Regimental staff. I performed his weekend training with skilled construction servicemen and my annual two weeks active duty for training at the two major Seabee bases – Gulfport, MS and Port Hueneme, CA.

I then moved to Greenville, SC to take a job with Michelin Tire. There I affiliated with reserve units attached to the Naval Supply Center in Charleston, SC. My weekend training was usually in Charleston supporting the supply of repair parts to ships home ported along the East Coast. The annual two weeks active duty was done in Charleston or other East Coast Supply Centers.

Quite a variety of jobs, locations and experiences that led to military retirement in 1990 as a Captain (O-6) with ten years active duty and twelve years reserves. It all began because I was afraid I would be drafted out of college. I enjoyed it all!

The Compatriots Military Service Record Form can be found on the SAR website. Several members in the Chapter are more than willing to help you through the short process.

Supplemental Certificate Presentation



Ed Hosner (R) presenting six SAR Supplemental Certificates to Compatriot Allen Mollere for his Patriots Pierre Bertrand, Antoine Borne, Simon Leblanc, Antoine Montz, Joseph Simoneaux, and Baltazar Vicner,

Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina - January 17, 1781

(Compilation by Allen Mollere)

The Battle of Cowpens was a military engagement, as part of the campaign in the Carolinas during the American Revolutionary War, that was fought near the town of Cowpens, South Carolina. The participants included Continental Army forces under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan and British forces under Lt. Col. Sir Banastre Tarleton.

Background

After the British victories at Charleston, South Carolina in May 1780 and Camden in August 1780, then Major General Nathanael Greene, commander of the Continental Army's Southern campaign, decided to divide Patriot troops in the Carolinas to force the larger British contingent under

Gen. Charles Cornwallis to fight them on multiple fronts. (It was **also** easier to feed the beleaguered Patriots in smaller groups.) Morgan took 300 Continental riflemen and some 700 militiamen with the intention of attacking the British backcountry Fort Ninety-Six (located in present day Greenwood County, South Carolina).

In response, British Gen. Cornwallis dispatched Commander Banastre Tarleton with 1,100 Redcoats and Loyalists to catch Morgan, whom he feared might instigate a broad-based backcountry Patriot uprising. Morgan, who was nicknamed Old Waggoner because he served as a wagon driver during the French and Indian War, prepared for the encounter with Tarleton by intentionally backing his troops up to a river at Cowpens, a pastureland in present-day Spartanburg County and north of Ninety-Six.

Prelude

Continental Force

Brigadier General Daniel Morgan claimed in his official report to have had about 800 men at Cowpens although historians estimate that force somewhere between 800 to 1900. The actual American force at Cowpens, however, remains in dispute. Whatever the size of the force, it was composed of:

- A battalion of infantry under Lt. Col. John Eager Howard of Baltimore, with one company from Delaware ("Delaware Line"), one company from Virginia, and three companies from the famous stalwart "Maryland Line" regiment, each with a strength of sixty men. A combined estimate of 300 men.
- A company of Virginia state militia troops under Cpt. John Lawson, an estimated 75 men.
- A company of South Carolina state troops under Cpt. Joseph Pickens, an estimated 60 men.
- A small company of North Carolina state troops under Cpt. Henry Connelly, exact number of men unknown.
- A Virginia militia battalion under Frank Triplett, an estimated 160 men.
- Three companies of Virginia militia under Maj. David Campbell, an estimated 50 men.
- A battalion of North Carolina militia under Col. Joseph McDowell, an estimated 260 to 285 men.
- A brigade of four battalions of South Carolina militia under Col. Andrew Pickens, comprising a three-company battalion of the Spartan Regiment under Lt. Col. Benjamin Roebuck, a four-company battalion of the Spartan Regiment under Col. John Thomas, five companies of the Little River Regiment under Lt. Col. Joseph Hayes, and seven companies of the Fair Forest Regiment under Col. Thomas Brandon. This battalion's combined estimate between 120 to 250 men. If Roebuck's three companies numbered 120 and Brandon's seven companies numbered 250, then Thomas's four companies probably numbered about 160 and Hayes's five companies about 200, for an estimated total of 730 men.
- Three small companies of Georgia militia commanded by Maj. Cunningham numbered about 55 men.
- A detachment of the 1st and 3rd Continental Light Dragoons under Lt. Col. William Washington (who was a second cousin of Gen. George Washington) had an estimated force of 82 men.
- Detachments of state dragoons from North Carolina and Virginia, with an estimated 30 men.
- A detachment of South Carolina state dragoons, with a few mounted Georgians, commanded by Maj. James McCall, with an estimated 25 men.

- A company of newly raised volunteers from the local South Carolina militia commanded by Maj. Benjamin Jolly, with an estimated 45 men.

A summary estimate could be: 82 Continental light dragoons, 55 state dragoons, 45 militia dragoons, 300 Continental infantrymen, approximately 150 state infantry, and 1,255 to 1,280 infantry militia. An estimated 1,887 to 1,912 officers and men. Broken down by state, there were about 855 South Carolinians, 442 Virginians, 290 to 315 North Carolinians, 180 Marylanders, 60 Georgians, and 60 Delawareans.

Morgan's forces were strengthened by the core elements of relatively seasoned troops **as well as** his own brilliance in leadership. His Continental Army regulars and many of his militia were veterans plus Marylanders from the 1776 Battle of Brooklyn, and some Overmountain Men who had fought at the Battle of Musgrove Mill and the Battle of Kings Mountain.

British Force

Lt. Col. Tarleton's force included:

- The British Legion: 250 cavalry and 200 infantrymen.
- A troop of the 17th Light Dragoons numbering 50 men.
- A battery of the Royal Artillery numbering 24 men, with two 3-pounder cannons.
- 7th Regiment of Foot (Royal Fusiliers) numbering 177 men.
- Light infantry company of the 16th Regiment of Foot numbering 42 men.
- 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders) under Maj. Arthur MacArthur numbering 334 men.
- Light company of the Loyalist Prince of Wales's American Regiment numbering 31 men.
- A company of Loyalist guides numbering 50 men.

A combined force of over 1,150 officers and men and two cannons.

Broken down by troop classification: 300 cavalry, 553 Regulars, 24 artillerymen, and 281 militia. From these numbers, about half of Tarleton's force were Loyalist troops recruited in the colonies (531 out of 1,158). Tarleton's Regular troops from the Royal Artillery, 17th Light Dragoons, and the 7th, 16th, and 71st Regiments of Foot were reliable and seasoned soldiers. Tarleton's own Loyalist unit, the British Legion, had established a fierce reputation as formidable pursuers, being used to great effect at Waxhaws and Camden, however, they had an uncertain reputation when facing determined opposition.

The experienced British forces, and particularly their relatively young commander, were accustomed, especially in the Southern Theater, to easily routing "green" militia, and they could have underestimated this opposition.

Morgan's Plan for Upcoming Battle

Morgan turned the landscape of the Cowpens to his advantage: the varying reliability of his troops, his expectations of his opponent, and the time available before Tarleton's arrival. Morgan knew that untrained militiamen, which comprised a large portion of his force, were generally unreliable in a pitched battle, and in the past had routed at the first hint of defeat, abandoning the army Regulars. To eliminate that possibility, Morgan defied convention by placing his army between the Broad River and Pacolet River, thus making escape impossible if his army was routed. Selecting a low hill as the center of his position, Morgan placed his Continental infantry on the hill, deliberately leaving his flanks

exposed to the British. With a ravine on the right flank and a creek on the left flank, Morgan reasoned his forces were sufficiently protected against possible British flanking maneuvers once the battle began.

Morgan surmised that British Commander Tarleton would be highly confident and attack him head on, without pausing to devise a more subtle plan. Morgan therefore arranged his forces to encourage this presupposed impulse of his British opponent by establishing three lines of soldiers: one of sharpshooters, one of militia, and a main line of Continental Regulars and experienced militia. The first line was 150 select riflemen from North Carolina and Georgia and the second line consisted of 300 militiamen. The effect was his conspicuous placement of weak militia in the center-front to encourage Tarleton to attack there.

The skirmishers and militia would screen the veteran Continental Regulars, while inflicting damage as the British advanced. Morgan asked the militia to only fire two volleys, something they could achieve, and then **to** withdraw to the left and re-form in the rear, behind the third line, under the cover of Light Dragoons in reserve. The withdrawal of the militia was, in effect, a feigned retreat which would further embolden Tarleton. The third line, on the hill, was manned by Morgan's most seasoned troops: about 550 Continental Regulars comprising Brooklyn veterans: the famed Maryland Line and Delaware Line, supported by experienced militiamen from Georgia and Virginia. The third line could be expected to stand and hold against the British force. Morgan expected that the British advance uphill would be disorganized, weakened both physically and psychologically by the first two lines, before engaging the third. The third line would also withdraw a short distance to add to the appearance of a rout.

In developing his tactics at Cowpens, **one** historian wrote that Morgan may have been "the only general in the American Revolution, on either side, to produce a significant original tactical thought".

Tarleton's Approach for the Battle

On January 17, 1781, Tarleton roused his troops at 2:00 a.m. and continued his march to Cowpens. For five days prior to the battle at Cowpens, the British were subjected to stress that could only be alleviated by rest and proper diet. However, forty-eight hours before the battle the British ran out of food and had less than four hours' sleep. Additionally, Tarleton's brigade did a great deal of rapid marching across difficult terrain. (One might conclude the British force reached the battlefield exhausted and malnourished.) Tarleton sensed victory and nothing would persuade him to delay. His Tory scouts made him aware of the countryside Continental Army Brig. Gen. Morgan was fighting on and Tarleton was certain of success. He was convinced that Morgan's soldiers, mostly militiamen, seemed to be caught between mostly experienced British troops and a flooding river. As soon as he reached the battlefield, Tarleton formed a battle line, which consisted of Dragoons on his flanks, with his two Grasshopper Cannons in between the British Regulars and Loyalists.

Tarleton's plan was simple and direct. Most of his infantry, including that of the Legion, would be assembled in linear formation and move directly at Morgan. The right and left flanks of this line would be protected by Dragoon units. In reserve was the 250-man battalion of Scottish Highlanders (71st Regiment of Foot). Finally, Tarleton kept the 200-man cavalry contingent of his Legion ready to be unleashed when the Continentals broke and ran.

The Battle Begins

A few minutes before sunrise, Tarleton's vanguard emerged from the woods in front of the American position and he ordered his Dragoons to attack the first line of skirmishers, who opened fire and shot fifteen British Dragoons. American rifles, scorned by Britain's professional soldiers, proved devastatingly effective. When the Dragoons promptly retreated, Tarleton immediately ordered an infantry charge, without pausing to study the American deployment or to allow the rest of his infantry and his cavalry reserve to make it out of the woods. He attacked the skirmish line without pausing, deploying his main body and his two grasshopper cannons. The American skirmishers kept firing as they withdrew to join the second line manned by their irregular militia. The British attacked again, this time reaching the American militiamen, who, as previously ordered, poured two volleys into the British, especially targeting commanders. The British, with 40% of the casualties being officers, were astonished and confused however they reorganized and continued to advance. Tarleton ordered one of his officers to charge with some Dragoons into the "thought to be defeated" Americans. His men moved forward in regular formation, momentarily paused by the American militia musket fire, but continued to advance. Pickens's American militia appeared to "flee" as usual, around the American left to the rear as planned after getting off their second volley.

Assuming the withdrawal of the first two American lines to be a full-blown retreat, the British advanced headlong into the third and final line of disciplined Maryland and Delaware Regulars which awaited them on the hill. The 71st British Highlanders were ordered to flank the American right. The flanking movement was spotted and the Virginia militiamen manning the American right was ordered to turn and face the Scots. However, in the noise of battle the order was misunderstood and the American militiamen began to withdraw. At 7:45 a.m. the British had been fighting for nearly an hour and they were tired and disorganized, but they saw the Virginia militia withdrawing and believed the Americans were on the run. The British charged, breaking formation, and advanced in a chaotic mass. Morgan ordered a volley and his "fleeing" militia suddenly stopped their withdrawal and made an about-face. The Virginians fired into the British at a range of no more than thirty yards, with massive effect, causing the confused British to lurch to a halt. Col. John Eager Howard of the 2nd Maryland Regiment of the Continental Army shouted, "Charge bayonets!". (Howard was later awarded a silver medal by the Confederation Congress for his leadership in the battle.)

The Continental Army in the center, as ordered, mounted a bayonet charge. Tarleton's force, faced with a terrible surprise, began to collapse with some men surrendering on the spot while others turned and ran. Howard's men charged forward and seized the two British grasshopper cannons. Lt. Col. William Washington's cavalry came around from behind the opposite American left to hit the British on their right flank and rear. (Washington was later awarded a silver medal by the Confederation Congress for his leadership in the battle, executed under the direction of Thomas Jefferson.) Cpt. Joseph Pickens's American militia, having now reorganized, charged out from behind the hill, completing a 360-degree circle around the American position to hit the 71st Highlanders on the British left flank and rear. Howard ordered the Virginia militia, whose planned withdrawal had brought on the British ill-fated charge, to turn about and attack the Scots from the other direction.

The shock of the sudden charge, coupled with the reappearance of the American militiamen on the left flank where Tarleton's exhausted men expected to see their own cavalry, proved too much for the British. Nearly half of the British and Loyalist infantrymen fell to the ground, whether wounded or not, their will to fight was gone.

When Tarleton's right flank and center line collapsed, only a minority of the 71st Highlanders were putting up a fight against part of Col. Howard's line. Tarleton realized that the one unit he had left that was whole was his British Legion cavalry. He ordered them to charge, but they refused and fled the battlefield. The Highlanders, surrounded by militia and Continentals, surrendered. Desperate to save something, Tarleton found about forty cavalymen and with their aid he attempted to retrieve his two cannons that had been captured. Unsuccessful, he too retreated from the battlefield. Now 8:00 a.m., the battle had lasted approximately one hour. Tarleton was able to escape capture by forcing a local planter to serve as a guide.

Aftermath

The Americans inflicted heavy casualties on the British. Morgan's Continental Army took an estimated 629 to 712 British wounded or captured. Even worse for the British, their loss (especially the British Legion and the dragoons) constituted the cream of Cornwallis's army. Additionally, about 110 British soldiers were killed in action, and each of their artillerymen was either killed or incapacitated by wounds. Tarleton's force suffered an estimated 86 percent casualty rate, and his brigade had been wiped out as a fighting force. Col. Howard quoted Maj. McArthur of the 71st Highlanders, now a prisoner of the Americans, as saying that "he was an officer before Tarleton was born; that the best troops in the service were put under 'that boy' to be sacrificed." An American prisoner later said that when Tarleton reached Cornwallis and reported the disaster, Cornwallis placed his sword tip on the ground and leaned on it until the blade snapped.

Brigadier General Daniel Morgan's official report of 73 casualties may have only included his Continental troops. From surviving records, there is evidence that 128 Colonial soldiers were either killed or wounded at Cowpens. There is also an entry in the North Carolina State Records that show 68 Continental and 80 Militia casualties. *Maybe, the number of Morgan's casualties and the total strength of his force were about double what he officially reported?*

Tarleton's apparent recklessness in pushing his command so hard in pursuit of Morgan that they reached the battlefield in desperate need of rest and food. Also, until the Cowpens battle, every battle that he and his British Legion had fought in the South had been a relatively easy victory. He appears to have been so concerned with pursuing Morgan that he forgot that it was necessary for his men to be in a fit condition to fight a battle once they did catch Morgan. Cornwallis did, however, press Tarleton to take aggressive action.



The 13-striped, 13-starred American flag, with a single star in the center of a circling constellation, once believed to be flown during the battle, became known as the Cowpens flag.

Significance

Coming in the wake of the American debacle at Camden, Cowpens was a surprising victory and a turning point that changed the psychology of the entire war. As a “very unexpected and severe blow,” it was the first Patriot victory to demonstrate that they could outfight a similar British force without any other factors, such as surprise or geography, to assist them and provided an important morale boost. The Americans were **now** encouraged to fight further, and the Loyalists and British were demoralized. Tarleton's brigade was wiped out as an effective fighting force and coupled with the British defeat at King's Mountain in the northwest corner of South Carolina, this action slowed Lord Cornwallis's pursuit of the main southern Continental army in North Carolina. It gave Continental Gen. Nathanael Greene his chance to conduct a campaign of "dazzling shiftiness" that led Cornwallis by "an unbroken chain of consequences later that year, in November, to the catastrophe at Yorktown which finally separated America from the British crown".



Cowpens National Battlefield Monument,
Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Upcoming 2020 SAR Activities

Jan 14 Bethabara Chapter Zoom meeting. Socializing at 9:30 AM, meeting starts 10:00 AM

Note: All events and dates pending virus quarantine status.

Bethabara Chapter Website

<http://winstonsalemsar.org/>

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Wishing you a Happy and healthy New Year

